

CITY OF
Avondale
ESTATES

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA
AVONDALE ESTATES, GA 30002
<https://zoom.us/j/95050402841>

JANUARY 14, 2026, 5:30 PM

1. Meeting Called To Order
2. Adoption Of The Meeting Agenda
3. Commissioner Comments
4. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[BOMC 12.10.2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.PDF](#)
[BOMC 1.5.2025 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES.PDF](#)

5. Consideration Of A Resolution To Adopt The 2026 Avondale Estates Holiday Calendar

Documents:

[RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2026 BOMC HOLIDAY SCHEDULE.PDF](#)

6. Consideration Of A Resolution To Adopt The 2026 Board Of Mayor And Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Documents:

[RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2026 BOMC MEETING SCHEDULE.PDF](#)

7. Consideration Of A Contract With Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. For A July 4th Fireworks Display

Documents:

[FIREWORKS AGREEMENT WITH PYROTECNICO FOR JULY 4, 2026
FIREWORKS DISPLAY.PDF](#)

8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2025 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Lisa Shortell, Mayor Pro Tem
Graham Reiney, Commissioner
Michael Smith, Commissioner

Members Absent: Lionel Laratte, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Shannon Powell, Assistant City Manager
Karina Reyna, City Clerk
Harry Hess, Chief of Police
Jerry Branch, Deputy Chief of Police
Brittany Marmol, Director of Finance
Ellen Powell, Creative, Marketing & Communications Director
Marcel Jackson, Director of Public Works, Parks and Sanitation

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell motioned to adopt the meeting agenda. Commissioner Graham Reiney seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Michael Smith wished everyone a happy holiday season and invited the public to attend a Christmas performance by the Dan Marks Band at the Avon Theater on Saturday. The event was described as an all-ages show, with tickets available on the Avon Theater website and free admission for children. The performance was noted to begin at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:00 p.m., and residents were encouraged to support local music. He also thanked the outgoing board member Lisa Shortell and Lionel Laratte for years of service and dedication to the city.

Commissioner Graham Reiney reported on the City's composting program, noting that the final report showed 136,415 pounds of waste diverted from the landfill with participation from 544 households. The Commissioner expressed pride in the program and thanked City staff and the Clerk's office for administering it. He continued by thanking the city for a successful tree lighting event, noting strong attendance and a positive community atmosphere, and expressed appreciation for the lake tree display, including the effort involved and the use of solar power. Commissioner Reiney thanked Commissioner Laratte for eight years of service and reflected on the importance of standing by one's convictions. He also expressed appreciation Mayor Pro Tem Shortell for her eight years of service, leadership, and mentorship, particularly in preparing for meetings and fulfilling the role of commissioner. He stated he plans to continue commissioner chats and to involve City staff and other commissioners in future discussions.

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
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DECEMBER 10, 2025 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

Mayor Jonathan Elmore announced a Special Called Meeting on January 5, 2026, to recognize the outgoing board members and swear in the new commissioners. He continued by expressing appreciation to Lisa Shortell for her service to the City and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), noting her detailed meeting notes and efforts to strengthen coordination between the City and the DDA and also thanked City staff and volunteers for organizing a successful tree lighting and holiday celebration, describing it as a highlight of the year that fosters community pride. Additional thanks were extended to John Merritt and crew, along with Public Works staff, for constructing and installing the lake tree, noting its appearance and solar-powered design.

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell reflected on her final meeting, noting it had been an incredible honor to serve the people of Avondale Estates for the past eight years. They expressed gratitude for the opportunity to see plans and goals fulfilled and acknowledged the contributions of residents, friends, fellow board members, and families who supported their service. Mayor Pro Tem Shortell thanked current and past Board of Mayor and Commissioners members, highlighting the value of differing perspectives and collaborative decision-making. Appreciation was extended to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board, including members and staff, for their role in advancing the city's downtown. Special recognition was given to city staff across all departments including Public Works, Police, Court, City Clerk, Legal, Finance, Marketing and Communications, Capital Projects, Planning and Permitting, and the Assistant City Manager, for their expertise, dedication, and support. Mayor Pro Tem Shortell also thanked the City Manager for leadership and guidance in building an effective city hall team. She concluded by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve, wishing everyone happy holidays, and noting they would continue to contribute to the city in a different capacity

City Manager Patrick Bryant expressed deep appreciation for Commissioner Shortell, noting their admiration for her dedication, knowledge, and efforts to understand city operations, residents' priorities, and best practices in governance. He stated that the community is fortunate to have had Lisa serve as a commissioner for eight years and as a long-time resident and expressed gratitude for her personal mentorship and friendship. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Graham Reiney motioned to approve the following meeting minutes:
December 3, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2025 Work Session Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of an Ordinance to adopt the 2026 Operating Budget and the 2026-2027 Capital Program
City Manager Patrick Bryant presented an update on the City's capital program, noting that the included spreadsheet reflects the assignment of TAD funds by the DDA to serve as the City's grant match for the GDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant, which will

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fund the seven interior blocks of the shared street concept in the downtown area. It was noted that the impact on the stormwater components of Franklin Street, Washington, and Pine projects will be determined as project design progresses, and the capital program will be amended as updated costs and fund allocations become available. Board members expressed support for the budget and appreciation for the inclusion of the recently completed Classification and Compensation Plan. Clarification was provided that the 4% step increase in the plan can be adjusted in future years based on economic conditions and Board discretion.

Public Comment:

1. Stacie Bearden – 47 Clarendon Ave
2. Lyda Steadman – 3118 Majestic Cir
3. Paul Dorroh – 820 Stratford Road
4. Dave Deiters – 2 Clarendon Ave

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell motioned to adopt the 2026 Operating Budget and the 2026-2027 Capital Program. Commissioner Graham Reiney seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of designation of a contractor and approval of City Manager to enter into contract for the refurbishment of the Dewey Brown Plaza

City Manager Patrick Bryant presented bids for the refurbishment of Dewey Brown Plaza from two vendors: Groundtech (\$120,954.90 including contingency) and IP (\$136,906.66). IP performed phase one of the plaza work as part of the previous 278 project, while Ground Tech, though not involved in the prior work, has completed other city capital projects, including Fletcher Park, and is a trusted contractor.

Board members discussed the cost difference, with Groundtech being the lower bid, and considered factors such as prior project experience, continuity of work, and the importance of ensuring both plazas match in quality and appearance. While some acknowledged the potential value of hiring IP for continuity, the consensus was that Ground Tech could perform the work equally well at a lower cost.

Commissioner Graham Reiney motioned to enter into contract with Groundtech for \$120,954 and to allow the Mayor to execute the agreement. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution to appoint three members to the Historic Preservation Commission
The Board agreed to make its selections anonymously for each board. Members recorded their choices in writing, after which staff collected and tallied the votes. Staff then read aloud the results, announcing the selected individual for each board.

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell motioned to appoint Jennifer Norris, Joe Weishaar, and reappoint Bill Hover to the Historic Preservation Commission. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
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CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

Consideration of a Resolution to appoint four members to the Downtown Development Authority
Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell recused herself from discussion and voting on the matter due to her status as a candidate under consideration.

Commissioner Graham Reiney made a motion to appoint Morgan Perkins to an economic position and to reappoint Jennifer Joyner to an economic position. The motion also reappointed Dave Deiters and Lisa Shortell as resident representatives to the Downtown Development Authority. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Jonathan Elmore, Commissioner Graham Reiney, Commissioner Michael Smith

Nays: None

Recuse: Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell

Consideration of a Resolution to appoint two members to the Planning Architecture and Zoning Board
Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell motioned to appoint Sheri Locke and reappointed Kirk Benson to the Planning Architecture and Zoning Board. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of a renewal contract with Josie O. Stevens for prosecuting attorney services
The Board considered the annual appointment of a prosecuting attorney to provide services to the Municipal Court. It was noted that Josie Stevens has served in this role for approximately 28 years and has consistently provided exceptional service. The City Manager confirmed that the contract reflects no material changes and is a required annual appointment.

The Board approved the item by a majority vote.

Public Comment

1. Bill Hover - 89 Berkeley Rd
2. Paul Dorroh – 820 Stratford Rd
3. Jan Hover – 89 Berkeley Rd
4. Patti Gregg – 3155 Stratford Green
5. Julie Fleming – 40 Clarendon Ave
6. Stacie Bearden – 47 Clarendon Ave

Adjournment

Commissioner Michael Smith motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Graham Reiney seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Graham Reiney, Commissioner
Michael Smith, Commissioner
Lyda Steadman, Commissioner
Luis Suazo, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Shannon Powell, Assistant City Manager
Karina Reyna, City Clerk
Harry Hess, Chief of Police
Jerry Branch, Deputy Chief of Police
Brittany Marmol, Director of Finance
Ellen Powell, Creative, Marketing & Communications Director

Meeting Called to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Graham Reiney motioned to adopt the meeting agenda. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Recognition on Years of Service for Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Shortell and Commissioner Lionel Laratte
Appreciation was expressed to Commissioners Lionel Laratte and Lisa Shortell for their eight years of service, leadership, and lasting impact on the City of Avondale Estates. Commissioner Reiney, Commissioner Smith, Mayor Elmore and City Manager Bryant noted that the city's recent progress reflects their dedication, vision, and the difficult decisions they made, often with little compensation and significant personal sacrifice. The Board presented certificates of appreciation and framed local artwork as parting gifts. Gratitude was also extended to their families for supporting their service.

Swearing In of New Commissioners Lyda Steadman and Luis Suazo
The newly elected commissioners were formally sworn in. Each commissioner took the oath of office, affirming that they would faithfully and impartially serve as Commissioner of the City of Avondale Estates, Georgia. Upon completion of the oath, the commissioners were congratulated, and the proceedings concluded with pictures of the new board.

Adjournment
Commissioner Lyda Steadman motioned to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously. The Special Called Meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

Karina Reyna, City Clerk

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES**

**RESOLUTION NO. _____
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES ESTABLISHING THE
OFFICIAL HOLIDAY CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026**

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Commissioners of the City recognize the importance of designating official holidays to ensure clear communications; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Commissioners find that it is necessary to provide a Holiday schedule for the orderly, planned, and legal provision of City services;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, this 14th day of January 2026, that the Board of Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Avondale Estates designates the following dates as official holidays for 2026:

1. Thursday, January 1, 2026 - New Years Day
2. Monday, January 19, 2026 – Martin Luther King Day
3. Monday, February 16, 2026 – Presidents Day
4. Monday, May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day
5. Friday, June 19, 2026 – Juneteenth
6. Friday, July 3, 2026 – Independence Day
7. Monday, September 7, 2026 – Labor Day
8. Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – Veterans Day
9. Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2026– Thanksgiving Day
10. Thursday, December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve
11. Friday, December 25, 2026 – Christmas Day

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA**

Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karina Reyna, City Clerk

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES**

**RESOLUTION NO. _____
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES ESTABLISHING THE
REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026**

WHEREAS, Regular meetings provide an essential forum for conducting the public business of the City, ensuring transparency, and fostering community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Commissioners shall be held twice per month on the second and fourth Wednesdays; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Commissioners customarily schedules two annual retreat sessions to support long-term planning and organizational development, which for 2026 shall be held in May and October; and

WHEREAS, holidays may necessitate changes in that schedule; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, those instances include:

- **November 4** (rescheduled from November 11)
- **November 18** (rescheduled from November 25)
- **December 9** (only one meeting in December);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 14th day of January 2026, that the City of Avondale Estates Board of Mayor and Commissioners adopts the regular meeting schedule for the 2026 calendar year as follows:

January 14, January 28, February 11, February 25, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, Retreat - May 21, May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, August 12, August 26, September 9, September 23, October 14, Retreat – October 22, October 28, November 4, November 18, and December 9.

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA**

Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karina Reyna, City Clerk

PYROTECNICO FIREWORKS, INC.

This Fireworks Display Agreement (“Agreement”) entered into this on **December 29, 2025** by and between PYROTECNICO FIREWORKS, INC. (“Pyrotecnico”) and **City of Avondale Estates, GA** (CUSTOMER).

Pyrotecnico, for and in consideration of the terms hereinafter mentioned, agrees to furnish to the CUSTOMER _Fireworks Display(s) and related services (“Fireworks Display”), including the services of Pyrotecnico’s on-site representative to take charge of and perform the Fireworks Display under the supervision and direction of the CUSTOMER. The Firework Display to be given on **July 4, 2026** (the “Display Date”), weather permitting.

The offer contained in this Agreement is only valid if it is signed and returned to Pyrotecnico by **February 1, 2026** (“Expiration Date”). Pricing and availability are only guaranteed as long as Pyrotecnico receives the signed Agreement by the Expiration Date. Customer agrees to pay Pyrotecnico the sum of **\$30,000.00 (*includes \$600.00 permit/fire watch fees)** (the “Contract Price”). Pyrotecnico will invoice CUSTOMER a deposit of **\$15,300.00** due **March 1, 2026** and the final balance shall be due **Net 10** from the Display Date. A service fee of 1 ½% per month shall be added if the account is not paid in full within 30 days of the Display Date. CUSTOMER agrees to pay any and all collection costs, including reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs incurred by Pyrotecnico for any amount due under this Agreement. The Contract Price is based on the regulations and laws in effect at the time of execution of this Agreement. If any change in law (including, but not limited to, new or increased tariffs, duties, taxes, import restrictions, or other governmental regulations) materially increases the cost of the Fireworks Display, Pyrotecnico shall have the right to adjust the Contract Price to reflect such increased costs. Pyrotecnico shall provide CUSTOMER with written notice of any such adjustment, including reasonable documentation supporting the increased costs. CUSTOMER shall have five (5) days from receipt of such notice to accept the revised Contract Price. If CUSTOMER does not accept the revised Contract Price within this period, Pyrotecnico may, at its sole discretion, suspend performance of the Fireworks Display until the parties negotiate, in good faith, reasonable adjustments to the Contract Price or or revise the Fireworks Display to account for the increased costs. Nothing in this provision shall obligate Pyrotecnico to absorb any increased costs resulting from changes in law, tariffs, or other governmental actions beyond its control.

Pyrotecnico and CUSTOMER agree that should inclement weather prevent the performance of the Fireworks Display on the Display Date, the parties shall agree to a mutually convenient alternate date, within three (3) months of the Display Date. If the show is rescheduled prior to Pyrotecnico’s truck leaving the facility, CUSTOMER shall remit to Pyrotecnico an additional **\$4,410.00 + any applicable additional permit fees** for additional expenses in presenting the Fireworks Display on an alternate date. If the show is rescheduled after Pyrotecnico’s truck leaves the facility, CUSTOMER shall remit to Pyrotecnico an additional **\$11,760.00 + any applicable additional permit fees** for additional expenses incurred. The determination to cancel the show because of inclement or unsafe weather conditions shall rest within the sole discretion of Pyrotecnico. In the event the CUSTOMER does not choose to reschedule another date or cannot agree to a mutually convenient date, Pyrotecnico shall be entitled to **\$15,300.00.**

Pyrotecnico agrees to furnish all necessary fireworks display materials and personnel for fireworks display in accordance with the program approved by the parties. Quantities and varieties of products in the program are approximate. After final design, exact specifications will be supplied upon request. Should this display require any Union, permit, or fire department related costs; their fees are not included in the Contract Price.

CUSTOMER will timely secure and provide the following: (a) Sufficient area for the display, including a minimum spectator set back distance of **150 FEET** at all points from the discharge area, as reflected in the attached site plan, and that this discharge area shall not have any unauthorized personnel or vehicles; (b) Funds for all permits, licenses, and approvals as required by local, state and federal laws for the Fireworks Display; (c) Protection of the display area by roping-off or similar facility; (d) Adequate personnel protection to prevent spectators from entering display area; (e) Directly secure, confirm, and pay for 24-hour security of the set-up and discharge areas at the Display Site, if required, beginning upon the arrival of Pyrotecnico’s fireworks product through the completion of the Fireworks Display; (f) Search of the fallout area at first light following a nighttime display; and (g) Provide credit as “Fireworks by Pyrotecnico” in all advertising and marketing materials.

Pyrotecnico will maintain general liability, property damage, transportation and workers compensation insurance. All those entities/individuals who are listed on the certificate of insurance, provided by Pyrotecnico, will be deemed to be an additional insured on such policy. This insurance coverage specifically does not include coverage for any independent acts of negligence of any additional insured.

CUSTOMER shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Pyrotecnico and its shareholders, directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives and insurers from any and all demands, claims, causes of action, judgments or liability (including the costs of suit and reasonable attorneys’ fees) arising from damage to or destruction of property (including both real and personal) or bodily or personal injuries (including death), whether arising from tort, contract or otherwise, that occur directly or indirectly from (a) the negligence or willful misconduct of CUSTOMER or its employees, agents, contractors or representatives, (b) the failure of CUSTOMER to comply with its obligations under this Agreement, or (c) any claims or actions arising out of Pyrotecnico's use of the show site. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties for this show and any prior agreements are terminated. This Agreement may only be amended, revised or terminated in writing, executed by the Party against which enforcement is asserted. The parties hereto do mutually and severally guarantee terms, conditions, and obligations under this Agreement to be binding upon the parties, themselves, their successors and assigns.

SIGNATURES TO FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE

PYROTECNICO :

CUSTOMER:

By (*sign*): _____

By (*sign*)_: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Address: 299 Willson Road

Address: _____

New Castle PA 16101

Phone: (724) 652-9555

Phone: _____

Email: contracts@pyrotecnico.com

Email: : _____

CONTACT/INSURANCE INFORMATION FORM

You must return this form with your signed Agreement for the Certificate of Insurance to be issued, and for the permit application to be completed and submitted. If information isn't applicable, please state such by indicating "N/A".

Legal Entity Contracting Pyrotecnico: _____

Primary Point of Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Billing Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Accounts Payable Contact: _____

Accounts Payable Email: _____

Display Date(s): _____ Display Start Time(s): _____

Rain Date(s): _____

Day-of-Display Contact Name: _____

Day-of-Display Mobile Phone Number: _____

Day-of-Display Email: _____

Display Site Location(s) and Address(es): _____

If Pyrotecnico has produced a show at this site, has the geography changed (i.e, new structures, new terrain, etc.)? If yes, please describe:

If Applicable - Additionally Insured Entities (The "Customer Name" shall automatically be listed as an Additional Insured):

**Avondale Estates
Display Site Plan**

VENUE NAME
DeKalb County
School of Arts
Avondale Ga

REVISED DATE: 12.29.2026

NOTES:
Site plan is drawn to an
approximate scale using
NFPA 1123, NFPA 1126 or
NFPA 160 as applicable.



- **Firing Site**
 - **Audience**

- **Safety Fallout Zone** - **150' Radius** **1.5" Maximum Device Per Pyrotecnico 100' Per Inch Policy**