

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.

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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.

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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.