

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2025 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL 21 N. AVONDALE PLAZA

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

Staff Present: Shannon Powell, Assistant City Manager
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney
Karina Reyna, City Clerk
Harry Hess, Chief of Police
Jerry Branch, Deputy Chief of Police
Ellen Powell, Creative, Marketing & Communications Director
Isabella Salazar, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Meeting Called to Order

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

Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Lyda Steadman made a motion to amend the meeting agenda by adding Item 1, providing for a vote on the Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Commissioner Graham Reiney motioned to adopt the meeting agenda as amended. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of appointment of a Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Elmore recommended appointing Graham Reiney as Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Michael Smith motioned to appoint Commissioner Graham Reiney as Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Lyda Steadman thanked attendees, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve, and looked forward to a good year serving Avondale Estates.

Commissioner Luis Suazo expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve, reflected on the many behind-the-scenes efforts by city staff and residents, thanked those responsible for holiday decorations and city improvements, and noted pride and excitement in living in Avondale Estates.

Commissioner Michael Smith praised the city's new branding and clean design, commended the marketing team for effective communication and information sharing, and thanked city staff for timely public outreach and responsiveness.

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney thanked the commissioners for the opportunity to serve as Mayor Pro Tem, expressed hope to make everyone proud, welcomed new Commissioners Steadman and Suazo, and thanked attendees for being present.

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Mayor Jonathan Elmore had nothing further to add.

City Manager Updates:

Complete Streets Project: Landscaping is underway; project is nearing completion. Targeting close to 100% completion by the end of the month. Some remaining items depend on coordination with DeKalb County, including connections and sidewalk surface work.

Dewey Brown Plaza: Work begins January 20. Includes removal of dead trees and overgrown bushes and new landscaping. Coordination ongoing with the Greenspace Committee.

Street Paving: Majestic Circle and Chatsworth Drive paving begins on Monday. This includes resurfacing and striping and neighbors have been notified.

Tree Planting: Utility markings placed to avoid underground conflicts. 16 new trees recently planted, with an additional 16 planned. Some trees were removed and replaced with approved varieties.

Galentine's Day Event: Scheduled for Friday, February 13. 21 women-owned businesses participating.

Other Projects: Lanier Gardens project nearing completion, with hardscape finished and landscaping underway.

Communications: Praised the communications team for print and digital newsletters. Residents and businesses were encouraged to sign up for email distribution.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney motioned to approve the following meeting minutes:

December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution to adopt the 2026 Avondale Estates Holiday Calendar

The Board reviewed the adoption of the City of Avondale Estates' official holiday calendar for 2026. There was no additional staff commentary provided.

Public comment:

1. Bonnie Chafin – 31 Berkeley Rd

Commissioner Lyda Steadman motioned to adopt the 2026 Avondale Estates Holiday Calendar. Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution to adopt the 2026 Board of Mayor and Commissioners Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed the adoption of the City of Avondale Estates' regular meeting calendar for 2026. A scheduling conflict was noted for the February 25th meeting due to training for two Commissioners. After discussion, it was agreed to move that meeting to

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February 24th. The resolution was adopted as published, with the exception of the February date adjustment. No further comments were raised.

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney motioned to adopt the 2026 Board of Mayor and Commissioner Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Consideration of a contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. for a July 4th Fireworks Display
The Board discussed the July 4th fireworks display and approved a \$30,000 contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. The show will run 18–20 minutes, feature vertical fireworks only, and include a rain date if requested within 24 hours. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the arrangements and noted the importance of fireworks to the community. The parade will proceed as planned. Mayor Elmore gave credit to Billy Ellick for suggesting the high school location, and future consideration of drone displays was also mentioned.

Mayor Pro Tem Graham Reiney motioned to enter a contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. for a July 4th fireworks display. Commissioner Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Public Comment

1. Julie Flemin – 40 Clarendon Ave
2. Bill Hover – 89 Berkeley Rd
3. Kathy Dupree – 1111 Banbury Cross
4. Kathy Kingsbury – 817 Stratford Rd
5. Bonnie Chafin – 31 Berkeley Rd
6. Jeff – 3222 Wynn Dr

Adjournment

Commissioner Lyda Steadman motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Luis Suazo seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED unanimously. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Karina Reyna, City Clerk