

**Borough of Ben Avon**  
**7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202**  
**Regular Meeting of Council – December 12, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Council Vice-President, Richard White, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Council Members Present**

Russell Kuehner, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, and Phil Brind'Amour

**Council Members Absent**

Earl Bohn, Brad Cole, and Ken Opipery

**Others Present**

Robert Jones, Mayor

Anne Sweeney, Esq., Solicitor

Lisa Cronin, Secretary

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

James Rupert, Chief, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Norbert Micklos, Chief, Ohio Township Police Department

**Public Participation**

Doug Silk at 7224 Church Avenue wanted to thank the members of the current council and the mayor for making it a safe and happy place. As President of the Board of the Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company, he expressed his appreciation for the many ways council has supported the fire company this year, and in the years past.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Mr. Kuehner; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2017, council meeting amended for a typographical error.

**Financial Report - Report given by Richard White**

Motion: Mr. Brind'Amour; Second: Mr. Wrbas: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the financials presented to council.

North Boroughs Fire Works Committee has requested a donation from Ben Avon Borough for their July 4, 2018 Fire Works event and there is a line item in the budget for a \$1,000.00 contribution and can be contributed if the 2018 new budget is approved under tonight's New Business.

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the November 2017, accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$37,786.61 from the general account.

**Administration Report** –*Report given by Richard White*

An Administrative Directive was issued by Mr. White that beginning December 31, 2017, council members, Earl Bohn and Ken Opipery, will have authorization to sign checks on behalf the Borough of Ben Avon.

**Public Works / Building and Property Report** – *No Report*

**Public Safety/Code Enforcement** – *No Report*

**Public Affairs** – *No Report*

**Mayor's Report** – *Report given by Bob Jones*

At the November council meeting, council received a written request for a handicap parking space on Church Ave. After review, the request was denied. Please see Attachment A.

**Police Chief's Report** – *No Report*

**Fire Chief's Report** – *No Report*

**Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission Report** – *No Report*

**Solicitor's Report** – *No Report*

**New Business**

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise the Reorganizational Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Mr. Richard White to the Avonworth Municipal Authority Advisory Council voting appointment for a term of five (5) years beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Brind'Amour; Second: Mr. Kuehner: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Resolution No. 2017-09 – Consent Order Agreement with the Allegheny Health Department.

**Old Business**

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to amend the 2018 Budget due to an insurance premium decrease on the boroughs road coverage.

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve and implement the amended 2018 Operating Budget.

Motion: Mr. Brind'Amour; Second: Mr. Wrbas: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to Adopt Ordinance No. 782, as advertised, levying an Ad Valorem Real Estate tax and fixing the tax rate for the fiscal year 2018.

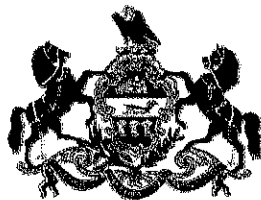
**Adjournment**

Mr. White adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Cronin,*

*Borough Secretary*



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Ben Avon Pa. 15202

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*Robert B. Jones*

*Mayor*

*Borough of Ben Avon*

## **Mayors Report December 12<sup>th</sup> 2017**

I was asked at our last meeting to vet a request for a handicapped parking space on Church Avenue. Rather than make a snap decision at our council meeting that would permanently affect parking in an already stressed environment I wanted to properly evaluate the situation before making that decision.

I have done due diligence in evaluating the request by Mrs. Vranick for a handicap parking space at 7217 Church Ave.

I called five Orthopedic Doctors offices; three Chiropractic offices; I visited the location; placed phone calls to the landlord, called Mrs. Vranick; and the following observations were made.

Upon visiting the location, I observed a narrow driveway (rather poorly kept) leading to a parking area behind the building. There were several "personal" parking stalls and spaces, (There were five stalls of concrete block, four of which were blocked by debris and inaccessible). Looking at the renters parking lot; the lot itself is in effect much closer to the 7217 apartment than the street where she wished to have the handicap parking space.

All the doctors; physicians assistants; and chiropractors suggested that walking was a part of the rehabilitation process and after they have healed the patients should develop near normal walking functions, (unless there was some adverse extenuating circumstance.) After talking with the medical experts, I placed a call to Mrs. Vranick, to ascertain if there were any extenuating circumstances. In our discussion I asked why she didn't park in the back of the building. It appears her daughter has the apartment in the front on Church Avenue which connects and Mrs. Vranick's screen door is hard to open at the rear.

I explained to Mrs. Vranick that she is a "renter" which does not guarantee she will be at this location permanently, but our sign would. If this request were granted it would create a permanent handicap parking space in an already crowded street that is currently overstressed with the need for resident parking. I suggested that she request her landlord to fix her screen door; clean the debris from the parking spaces in their lot so she may

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park there; put up a handicap space on his property, or put up a personal parking sign in his lot reserved for her.

I made the decision to deny her request for a handicap parking area on Church Avenue. I am not cold hearted and unsympathetic to this woman's medical issue, however it is our job as council to represent the majority of our residents, to properly weigh and balance our decisions, and govern with wisdom rather than emotions. I think that after Mrs. Vranick recovers from her initial surgery she will understand my decision, and will not have need of a special parking space on Church Avenue.

After eight years and as this will be my last meeting as Mayor I would like to take this opportunity to offer some thanks. Thank you, Lisa, for all the help you have given all of us; I thank my fellow council members for their dedicated service. Phil for interjecting some levity in our community correspondence; Mic thanks your efforts, your public service has set an example to be emulated; Ken I suspect you will carry on with your usual dogged determination to save our taxpayers money; Russell and RJ where does one begin to thank you two for the hundreds and hundreds of hours spent in our office, taking so much time out of your personal lives to serve this community, there is only one word capable of describing that, ----- "Outstanding!" Chief Rupert, thank you and all the volunteer firemen who risk their lives to keep our homes safe. Chief Micklos, it has been truly an honor to have been affiliated with a Police Department that has set the bar for every law enforcement agency in this state. And Dale, what can anyone say about your flawless execution of your duties as Director of Public works. Residents from surrounding communities compliment Ben Avon on how well our streets are maintained. It just doesn't get any better than that! Thank you all for giving of yourselves. I'll close my report by wishing you all my best, and a Merry Christmas.

Respectively submitted,



Robert B. Jones  
Mayor  
Borough of Ben Avon