

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – February 21, 2017
Minutes

Call to Order

Council President Earl Bohn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Russell Kuehner, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Earl Bohn, Brad Cole, Ken Opiery, and Philip Brind'Amour by phone

Council Members Absent

Mayor Robert Jones

Others Present

Anne Sweeney, Solicitor
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman
Lisa Cronin, Secretary
Jim Rupert, Chief, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department
Norbert Micklos, Chief, Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

David Gobrecht who resides at 246 Alder Drive asked council if there was anything that could be done about a vehicle that has been abandoned for several years on the property of 241 Alder Drive. Mr. Gobrecht was concerned that there are possible animals living in it and has plants and weeds growing out of the vehicle. Chief Micklos said that he would have one of the police officers go and speak to the resident and council will ask the borough building inspector to take a look to see if there were any code violations.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 council meeting.

Financial Report - Report given by Ken Opiery and Richard White, Co Chairs

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. Kuehner; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the January 2017 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$17,177.08 from the general account.

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

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Kuehner; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the amended December, 2016, financials presented to council.

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the transfer of \$180,000.00 from the General Account to the Capital Reserve Fund.

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

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve a new three year contract with Cottrill Arbutina, Certified Public Accountants, for Ben Avon Borough's audit of financial statements, including Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) services at a cost of \$7225.00 for 2016, \$7,442.00 for 2017 and \$7665.00 for 2018. The state of Pennsylvania requires an audit our books every year. This year the audit will take place the week of March 27, 2017.

Public Works / Building and Property Report – *Report given by Ken Opipery, Chair*

Mr. Opipery reported to council that he was able to procure an overweight truck permit for the contractor performing the construction on the Emsworth Bridge who's trucks travel over Ben Avon streets. The number of trips will be less than expected and the contractor expects it to be approximately 50 trips back and forth. If anything happens to any of the streets, the contractor will have to make the repairs as part of our agreement. Mr. Opipery said a video had been taken showing the state of the roads before the work began, and one will be taken again after completion for comparison. A \$30,000.00 Performance Bond has been requested.

Mr. Opipery notified council that K. J. Johnson LTD. bid of \$41,344.00 was the lowest bid, so they were awarded the Fire Station Facade repair work. Work is to start around mid April. Rent revenue is used to offset the costs of this buildings repair(s). The borough has not needed to take out any loan(s) or have to impose any tax increase(s) to our residents for these projects. Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept lowest bid. A separate bid will be sent out for the roof repair later in the year. Public Works Foreman, Dale Regrut provided an aerial view of the fire station roof and what the borough will need to consider for the roof repair. See Exhibit A

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – *Report given by Michael Wrbas, Chair*

Mr. Wrbas made council aware that there is a property tax and wage tax relief up to 20% available to the borough's resident volunteer fire fighters. Mr. Wrbas plans to look further into it and get back to council.

Public Affairs – *No Report*

Mayor's Report – *No Report*

Police Chief's Report – *No Report*

Fire Chief's Report – *No Report*

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

Solicitor's Report – *Report Given by Anne Sweeney, Solicitor*

Executive Session:

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Cole; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to begin Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. for discussing legal issues. Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr.

Cole; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn from Executive Session and reconvene Regular Session at 7:40 p.m.

New Business

Old Business

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Resolution 2017-01~Tax Rate Millage of 4.36 for 2017.

Solicitor Anne Sweeney will communicate to the Joint Planning Commission Solicitor that Ben Avon will proceed in allowing honeybees to be raised on residents properties but will prohibit the raising of chickens.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Cronin,
Borough Secretary



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