

**Borough of Ben Avon**  
**7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202**  
**Regular Meeting of Council – January 17, 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 Opipery, 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**

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 council meeting. Mr. Brind'Amour abstained.

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

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the December 2016 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$19,931.24 from the general account.

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

Mr. White reported that according to Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, the Borough of Ben Avon is celebrating its “Quasquicentennial” (125th) anniversary this year. Regarding the annual invoice for the 2017 Dues from Quaker Valley COG for \$3,400.00, which has doubled since last year, Mr. White recommended that the borough not process this while we research other options.

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

Mr. Opipery updated council members on the upcoming Emsworth Bridge Project beginning Monday, February 13, 2017 to be conducted by The Port Authority of Allegheny County. Signage of the upcoming closure will be posted two weeks in advance. The bridge will be closed to all traffic including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The project is to take about one year to complete with the completion date set to be January 30, 2018. The hours of work will be

Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cole asked if the contactor had a performance bonus or early end bonus to complete the project earlier. The bridge will be undergoing a major reconstruction with all but the arch coming down. Mr. Opiery informed council that all the concrete, steel, etc. will need to go somewhere and because half of the bridge is accessible by Ben Avon and the other half by Emsworth, he wants residents to understand that approximately half of the debris will be hauled away through the borough. He is aware that there will be wear and tear on the borough roads and sewers, and issues may arise, but that it is important and it needs to be done. The route chosen as having the least impact will be Church Avenue to Forrest Avenue to Brighton Road to Route 65 and back. Mr. Bohn asked about the impact and safety of the school children and parents. Mr. Opiery recommended that the borough will want to hold the contactor accountable for any and all damages directly related to the truck traffic and suggested that there be documentation, using video evidence, of the current state of the roads and sewers and have a corresponding bond. Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve a permit for overweight trucks waiving the fee for overweight trucks, and accepting other conditions as recommended by Gateway Engineering.

Regarding 2017 Capital improvements, Mr. Opiery indicated that some of the road work might need to wait until 2018 and stated that we need to be flexible.

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

**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. White; Second: Mr. Cole; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to begin Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for discussing legal issues. Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Cole; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn from Executive Session and reconvene Regular Session at 8:15 p.m.

**New Business**

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve final payment of \$1,500.00 to Pampena Landscaping and Construction.

**Tri Borough Ordinances:**

Council deferred any decisions until they can receive more information including determining if there are properties in the zoned area that meet the requirements. Solicitor Anne Sweeney will contact the Solicitor for the Joint Planning Committee about rewording some language in the proposed ordinances.

**Council Packets:**

Council agreed to eliminate the delivery of packets and receive information by email.

**Auto Pay Debit:**

Per the recommendation of Mr. Richard White, council agreed to have some of the borough's utilities and insurance bills set up for auto pay.

**Old Business**

**Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Cole; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Cronin,*

*Borough Secretary*