

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – November 18, 2014
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Julian Wynnyckyj, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Earl Bohn, Philip Brind'Amour, Michael Bett, Ken Opiery

Council Members Absent - None

Others Present

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

Public Participation

Albert Faller of 6718 Shaffer Place addressed council about the Park Avenue / Shaffer Place reconstruction project. Mr. Faller stated that he wanted to know why the borough paved two driveways across the street from him and not his. Mr. Opiery stated that the borough is not in the business of paving private driveways. He stated that where the borough has a responsibility is when it changes something that impacts private property. Mr. Opiery stated that the slope on the left side of the street was changed and it was the borough's obligation to make sure where the street met the driveways was a flat surface. He stated that in order to accomplish that the borough had to pave the two driveways in question. Mr. Opiery stated that the borough did not change the slope of the street on the side where Mr. Faller lives and it did not change the relationship of Mr. Faller's driveway to the street.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2014 council meeting.

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

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the October 2014 financial reports as presented.

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the November 2014 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$22,813.30 from the general account.

Administration Report – No Report

Public Works / Building and Property Report – Report given by Julian Wynnnyckyj, Chair

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

Mr. Wrbas presented the Mayor's report; see Exhibit A. He stated that the Mayor was concerned about the safety of the public works employees collecting leaves on the boulevard and proposed that council write an ordinance to require all residents whose driveways boarder the boulevard to rake their leaves to the sides of their driveways. Mr. Regrut stated that he appreciated the Mayor's concern but he would not be able to get his equipment into most of the driveways.

Public Affairs Report – No Report

Mayor's Report – No Report

Police Chief's Report – No Report

Fire Chief's Report – Report given by Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission Report – No Report

Solicitor's Report

Ms. Sweeney requested an Executive Session to discuss lease of borough property.

New Business

2015 Budget

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise the 2015 Budget as presented.

Ordinance No. 770

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Bett; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise Ordinance No. 770, levying an *ad valorem* real estate tax for the fiscal year 2015.

Old Business - None

Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss lease of borough property.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn from Executive Session and reconvene Regular Session at 7:50 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wynnnyckyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmella Hallstein
Borough Secretary



7101 Church Avenue
Ben Avon Pa. 15202

Telephone: 412-766-7704
Facsimile: 412-766-7311

Robert B. Jones

Mayor

Borough of Ben Avon

I apologize for not being able to make this meeting I am in Chicago trying to keep my business afloat.

However there is an issue that I feel this council needs to address; so in my absence I am submitting my monthly report in writing.

There is an ordinance needed:

I have spoken with Dale about this on more than one occasion and we are both very concerned. Our Public Works Department employees are at risk when they are picking up leaves on route 65. Dale has asked folks to cooperate but some are just refusing. Therefore we need to step in and support them.

You all are aware of the speeds traveled on this highway, and the number of fatalities it has claimed. From the unnecessary deaths of paperboys; a garbage truck worker was cut in half; to a multitude of vehicle accidents, many of which were fatal; this highway has asserted itself as a very dangerous road. I was once told there were more people killed between the McKeesrocks Bridge and the Emsworth Dam than any other comparable length of highway in this state?

To expect our boroughs workers to expose themselves to this danger when it could be avoided is just wrong. Therefore I would propose that one of our council members write an ordinance that "All residents whose driveways boarder Route 65 or Ohio River Blvd. are required to rake their leaves to the sides of their driveways instead of to the boarders of the boulevard." Please give this ordinance some teeth so we can enforce it!

This way Dale and crew can pull their truck and leaf machine off of the highway into a safe driveway to collect leaves where they will not be exposed to a blindsided collision. {Of secondary and lesser importance it will relieve our police car to perform more important duties.}

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Jones
Mayor