

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – October 18, 2016
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

On behalf of the Ben Avon Borough Council, Council Vice President Richard White extended sympathy to the borough's bookkeeper, Sarah Snively, on the death of her son in law, Mike Schroyer. We are keeping her and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

Council Members Present

Russell Kuehner, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Mayor Robert Jones, Philip Brind'Amour, Brad Cole

Council Members Absent

Earl Bohn, Ken Opiery

Others Present

Anne Sweeney, Solicitor
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman
Lisa Cronin, Secretary
Norbert Micklos; Chief, Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Brind'Amour; Second: Mr. Cole; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2016 Regular Meeting of Council.

Financial Report - Report given by Richard White

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the October 2016 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$131,970.07 from the general account. Due to the death in Sarah's family, the Statements of Revenue & Expense were not completed in time so they are not available. They will be submitted to you in your packets next month. Please note on page 3 of the Accounts Payable report under other expenses the first item Fire Relief Reimbursement check was made out to the Commonwealth of PA. That was an error. Mr. Kuehner indicated that that check has been voided. The Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Relief Association is the correct payable to and it was made out to them and signed. Mr. White wanted to be clear that we are not paying it to the State, but we are paying it to the Ben Avon Fire Company.

Administration Report – Report given by Richard White, Chair

The 2017 draft operating budget will be coming out next month so if there is anything out of the ordinary or unusual or that you would like included that wouldn't make it in otherwise, please let

me know. The Police Service, Verizon Cable Franchise Agreement and the Anchor & Anvil (coffee shop) contracts are ending in 2017. Mayor Jones and Mr. Wrbas will work together on the Police Service contract. Mr. Cole and Mr. Kuehner will work together on Verizon's and Mr. Brind'Amour will work on Anchor & Anvil's contract. The borough's annual "Deck the Borough Hall" will be held on Saturday, November 26, 2016. The Mayor said his wife would be willing to coordinate this event again this year. Mr. Wrbas said his wife offered to help. We will keep everyone posted on that. The annual borough Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 17th. Invitations with details will be out in the coming weeks.

Public Works / Building and Property Report – Report given by Dale Regrut

Mr. Regrut informed council that the installation of the guide rail for Merton Road is now completed. Mr. Opiery had Mr. Regrut attend a MS4 training program so the borough will be compliant with the new required regulations by October of 2017. Mr. Regrut indicated that there would be some expenses associated with this compliance. The slide at Avon Park has a crack and the Public Works Department has taped it off so no one gets hurt. He is looking into having the slide repaired or replaced.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – Report given by Michael Wrbas

The front yard grass on the property located at 6934 Church Avenue had been cut by the owner, Indiana First Bank and Mr. Wrbas thanked the borough solicitor, Anne Sweeney, for working to get that done. Regarding the letters to the residents on their sidewalks, Mr. Wrbas is waiting for Mr. Bohn to present a draft letter. Mr. White feels that the boroughs current Sidewalk Ordinance is ambiguous. Mr. White is not saying that those whos sidewalks are clearly hazardous shouldn't be ear marked, but that he feels it is important to have an Ordinance in place that leaves no room for interpretation. He is not trying to be selective but does feel our ordinance needs to be revised so that it is explicit and specific. The Mayor suggested that council review other borough's codes and wording.

Public Affairs – No Report given

Mayor's Report – Report given by Robert Jones

The Mayor recommended that council look into allocating funds in the 2017 budget to purchase a Radar Speed Limit Tracker Sign for the boroughs use. He has received calls asking him to use these in the borough to slow down motorists. Currently the borough works with the Ohio Township police department to use theirs on our streets. Chief Micklos indicated that ¼ of the time these devices help motorist reduce their speed. Some council members expressed concern that all this would end up being is a "mobile flashing speed limit sign" and that a cost of \$5,000.00 for two solar devices might not be money well spent. Chief Micklos suggested that maybe his department and the borough could work together to purchase these at a reduced price and would look into it.

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. Cole; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept and renew the copier contract for 2017.

Old Business - None

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cronin,

Borough Secretary