

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – October 21, 2014
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

Earl Bohn (via telephone), Julian Wynnyckyj, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Michael Bett, Ken Opiery

Council Members Absent

Philip Brind'Amour

Others Present

Robert Jones, Mayor
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 - None

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Motion carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 council meeting. Mr. Bohn abstained.

Financial Report - Report given by Ken Opiery, Co-Chair

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

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the October 2014 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$78,880.94 from the general account.

Administration Report – Report given by Richard White, Chair

The borough's Halloween parade will be on Saturday, October 25 at noon. The parade will begin at the corner of Church and Dickson Avenues and end at the fire station. Hot dogs, candy and beverages will be served at the fire station. Trick or Treat will be on Friday, October 31 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

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

Public Safety / Code Enforcement Report – No Report

Public Affairs Report – *No Report*

Mayor’s Report – *Report given by Robert Jones, Mayor*

Police Chief’s Report – *Report given by Norbert Micklos, Chief; Ohio Township Police Dept.*

Fire Chief’s Report – *No Report*

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

Solicitor’s Report- *No Report*

New Business

Resolution No. 2014-02

Motion: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Resolution 2014-02, which approves Multi-Municipal Applications for an update to the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan of 2004 entitled “A Common Vision.”

Resolution No. 2014-03

Motion: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Second: Mr. Bett; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Resolution 2014-03, which authorizes participation in Allegheny County’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & Home Investment Partnerships Programs for fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Old Business

Mr. Pipery, Jr. stated that there has been some concern about the weight restriction on the Emsworth Bridge and how it relates to Ben Avon. He stated that the weight restriction, which was imposed over four years ago, prevents buses and fire trucks from using the bridge. Mr. Pipery stated that the buses can no longer follow the normal Center / Church Avenue route and have been rerouted through Ben Avon on several narrow side streets that have very tight turning radiuses at the intersections. He stated that the detour is taking a toll on Ben Avon’s streets in terms of infrastructure but more importantly, it is not safe. Mr. Pipery stated that he has talked to the Port Authority several times but there really is not a good alternate route. He stated that the current estimated cost of the repairs is 4-5 million dollars and that no repairs have been scheduled. Mr. Pipery stated that without repairs, the bridge will only get worse and you have to figure at some point in time all traffic will be stopped. He stated that the Port Authority has a lot of bridges on their balance sheet that have to be prioritized. Mr. Pipery stated that the bridges are regional assets that service more than just the buses. He stated that the Port Authority is charged with providing public transportation not maintaining bridges. Mr. Pipery presented a draft letter to County and State officials requesting that they take over the bridges or at the very least help to fund the repairs. Mr. Bett stated that Emsworth might also want to send a letter to County and State officials. Mr. Pipery stated that he would send a letter to County and State officials and contact Emsworth officials to request they do the same.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Carmella Hallstein
Borough Secretary