

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania, 15202
Regular Meeting of Council
December 14, 2010
Minutes

Council Members Present

Rob Galbraith, Dan Herchenroether, Judy Konitsney, Lloyd Corder, Richard White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

Council Members Absent

None

Others Present

Bob Jones, Mayor

Megan Ott, Solicitor

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Carmella Hallstein, Borough Secretary

Gary Buckman, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Adam Beck, Sergeant; Ohio Township Police Department

Call to Order

Council President Lloyd Corder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Participation

Shane Scigliano of 206 Ridge Avenue stated that on Thursday evening he started to notice smoke from a wood burner that is being used by Paff Construction. He stated that the smoke covered the hollow on Brighton Road, came up the hill and filled several homes on Ridge Avenue, adding that he woke up coughing and thought his house was on fire. Mr. Scigliano stated that more than anything else this situation is a health concern.

Tom Paff, owner of Paff Contractors located at 6800 Brighton Road stated that the equipment in question is a new wood burner that provides heat for his buildings. He stated that the burner was initially installed incorrectly. Mr. Paff stated that the burner works off a power converter that pushes air through it, adding that the fire is smothered if there is not enough air. Mr. Paff stated that they ended up choking the unit, which caused all of the smoke. He stated that the unit is now working properly and that he has video tape of the unit working at full capacity showing that there is barely any smoke. Mr. Paff apologized for the initial problems caused by the burner. He stated that the unit has been inspected by the Allegheny County Health Department and by the borough's code enforcement officer, adding that everything is up to code. Mr. Paff stated that his company is environmentally conscious and LEED certified. He stated that nothing is being burned in the unit that could emit toxins into the air.

Michael Wrbas of 7138 Belle Riviere Court stated that he has been a resident of the borough for 22 years and is interested in filling the vacant council seat. He stated that he has 41 years of banking experience and is currently an Assistant Vice-President at First Niagara Bank in Bellevue. Mr. Wrbas stated that he is also a retired officer with the United States Air Force Reserve, adding that he retired with the Rank of Major.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Konitsney; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 council meeting.

Engineer's Report - *report given by Rob Galbraith*

Financial Report – *report given by Judy Konitsney, Chair*

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the November 2010 financial reports as presented.

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the December 2010 accounts payable reports as presented.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report

No Report

Administration Report

No Report

Public Works / Building and Property Report

No Report

Public Safety Report

No Report

Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement Report

No Report

Public Affairs Report – *report given by Richard White, Chair*

Mayor's Report

No Report

Police Chief's Report – *report given by Adam Beck, Sergeant; Ohio Township Police Department*

Solicitor's Report – *report given by Megan Ott, Solicitor*

Fire Chief's Report – *report given by Gary Buckman, Fire Chief*

Emergency Operations Plan - *report given by Mike Dufresne, Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator*

New Business

2011 Council Meeting Schedule

Council will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the borough municipal building during the calendar year 2011 with the exception of the month of December. The December meeting will be held the second Tuesday of December.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Herchenroether; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise the 2011 council meeting schedule.

Avonworth Municipal Authority Appointments

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Herchenroether; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to reappoint Rachel Wisniewski, Sandra Collins, Claire Wilwohl, Richard White and Bob Whalen to the Advisory Council of the Avonworth Municipal Authority for one year terms beginning January 31, 2011 and ending January 30, 2012.

2011 Solicitor Appointment

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to reappoint the firm of Goehring, Rutter & Boehm as the Ben Avon Borough Solicitor for 2011.

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission Appointment

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. Herchenroether; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Jeff King to the Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission for a term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2013.

Avonworth Eagles 5K Run / Walk

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the 5K walk / run sponsored by the Avonworth Eagles on April 16, 2011 provided that Ben Avon Borough is named as an additional insured on the insurance policy covering the event.

Old Business

2011 Budget

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the 2011 budget as presented.

Ordinance 750

Motion: Mr. Herchenroether; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Ordinance 750, which levies an ad valorem real estate tax and fixes the tax rate for the fiscal year 2011.

Dan Herchenroether

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Konitsney; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to thank Dan Herchenroether for his years of service to the borough.

Adjournment

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmella Hallstein
Borough Secretary