

Borough of Ben Avon
Regular Meeting of Council July 19th, 2011
Minutes

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to Order at 7:03pm by Mr. Corder, Council President

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Robert Galbraith; Michael Bett, Judith Konitsney, Lloyd Corder, Richard White, Brian Tokar, Suzanne Weiss

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Robert Jones, Mayor

Edward McGee, Borough Engineer

Charles Means, Solicitor

Chief Norbert Micklos, Ohio Township Police Department

Chief Gary Buckman, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company

Council recognized Allegheny County Councilperson Matt Drozd (District 1)

Public Participation

Paula Templeton of 6927 Prospect Avenue, Ben Avon presented to Council a petition containing the signatures of 45 Ben Avon residents against a proposed mural on the Dazell Avenue Side of the Ben Avon Fire Station. Mrs. Templeton stated that she had presented 118 signatures against the proposed mural at the June 21st, 2011 Council meeting; 163 signatures in total.

Ted Popovich of 6606 Virginia Avenue, Ben Avon presented to Council his testimony to the Allegheny County Board of Health regarding Air Toxic Guidelines and Regulations. He asked his testimony be read into the record. His full presentation attached as "Exhibit A."

Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes: Mrs. Weiss; **Second:** Mr. Bett

Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the regular Council Meeting held on June 21st, 2011.

Engineer's Report – *Report given by Edward McGee, Borough Engineer*

Financial Reports – *Report Given by Judith Konitsney, Chair*

Motion to approve the June 2011 Financial Report: Mrs. Konitsney; **Second:** Mr. White
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the June 2011 Financial Report.

Motion to approve the Accounts Payable Report: Mrs. Konitsney; **Second:** Mr. White
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the July 2011 Accounts Payable Report.

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-10: Mrs. Konitsney; **Second:** Mr. Galbraith
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Richard White as the Ben Avon delegate and Brian Tokar as the alternate delegate to the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee.

Committee Reports

Intergovernmental Cooperation – *No Report*

Administration – *No Report*

Public Works – *Report given by Robert Galbraith, Chair*

Public Safety – *No Report*

Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement – *Report given by Suzanne Weiss, Chair*

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

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-09: Mr. White; **Second:** Mrs. Konitsney
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Resolution 2011-09, honoring Officer Jonathan Fairfield of the Ohio Township Police Department for his years of service to the community.

Borough Reports

Mayor's Report – *No Report*

Police Chief's Report – *Report given by Chief Norbert Micklos, Ohio Township Police*

Fire Chief's Report – *Report given by Chief Gary Buckman, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Co.*

Solicitor's Report – *Report given by Charles Means, Borough Solicitor*

New Business

Resolution 2011-07 (CDBG YR 38)

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-07: Mrs. Weiss; **Second:** Mrs. Konitsney
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Resolution 2011-07, requesting a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$34,000 for the demolition of condemned properties.

Resolution 2011-08 (CDBG YR 38)

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-08: Mrs. Weiss; **Second:** Mrs. Konitsney
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Resolution 2011-08, relating to the Borough's CDBG YR 38 grant request.

Ordinance 751

Motion to advertize Ordinance 751: Mr. White; **Second:** Mr. Tokar
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to advertize Ordinance 751, an ordinance appointing Keystone Collections Group as the Earned Income Tax Collector for Ben Avon, effective January 1st, 2012.

Executive Session

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session: Mrs. Weiss; **Second:** Mr. Bett
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:00pm for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation and contractual matters.

Motion to adjourn into Regular Session: Mr. Galbraith; **Second:** Mrs. Weiss
Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn from Executive Session into Regular Session at 8:58pm.

Other Business

Motion to continue the lease agreement between the Borough and Hadley Enterprises LLC for a period of one year: Mrs. Weiss; **Second:** Mr. Galbraith;
Motion Carried by voice vote. Mrs. Konitsney and Mr. White opposed the motion.

Adjournment

Mr. Corder, as President of Council, attempted to adjourn the meeting. Multiple objections were heard.

Motion to adjourn: Mrs. Weiss; **Second: Mr. White;**

Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. White

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Member of Council

My name is Ted Popovich, I live at 6606 Virginia Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202. I have an engineering degree, a masters in human resources, and have worked for over 30 years with various manufacturing companies. I entered the workforce with Westinghouse Electric International (New York City) and retired from Corning Optical Fiber (Corning, NY). Now, I am environmentally active as a member of the Neville Island Good Neighbor Committee and as a board member of GASP

I actually live in Ben Avon. a 0.4 square mile borough with about 2000 people located 6 miles down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh. There are tree-lined sidewalks...people walking their dogs, pushing baby buggies or just strolling. Residents still take special pride in decorating lawn edges with colorful flowers and keeping trim well painted.

Unfortunately, Ben Avon along with adjacent municipalities are on the downwind side of polluting industries located on Neville Island. On many days one can see and/or smell those industrial pollutants. In our little "hot spot", the Post-Gazette "Mapping Mortality" series noted that each individual disease category-- heart and respiratory disease and lung cancer -- is above the adjusted national average and the total three-disease mortality risk rate is higher (18% in Avalon) as well.

On May 4, 2011, there were 70 of us concerned citizens who attended an ACHD Air Toxics Committee public hearing at the Avalon Borough Building. (Avalon Borough is adjacent to Ben Avon.) Many of us voiced our concerns about higher concentrations of pollutants and the resulting health impacts. We urged tougher air pollution regulations for both new and existing sources of pollution. Packets of transcribed testimony from that meeting are here for you to take and review.

Currently, we are circulating a letter that will encourage the board to pass a new Air Toxic Guidelines for Allegheny County. We are getting more and more organizations, community groups and businesses signed on each day. We want to let you know that there is more support on this issue to come.

I will finish with a quotation from Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring, "future generations are unlikely to condone our lack of support for the integrity of the natural world that supports all life."