

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania, 15202
Regular Meeting of Council - August 16, 2011
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Rob Galbraith, Michael Bett, Judy Konitsney, Lloyd Corder, Richard White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

Council Members Absent

None

Others Present

Bob Jones, Mayor

Elizabeth Sattler, Esquire

Ed McGee, Engineer

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Carmella Hallstein, Borough Secretary

Gary Buckman, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Adam Beck, Sergeant; Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

Hal Deily of 155 Spruce Street addressed council about the Spruce Street wall project. Mr. Deily stated that the hole in the Spruce Run retaining wall is about fifty percent larger than before. He stated that one section of the creek is almost totally shut off from debris. Mr. Deily stated that he would help any way he could to find a long-term solution to this problem.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Weiss stated that she did not recall hearing multiple objections, as recorded on page three of the minutes, when Dr. Corder attempted to adjourn the July 19 council meeting. Mr. White stated that there were objections when Dr. Corder attempted to adjourn the meeting, adding that Mrs. Weiss then made a motion to adjourn the council meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2011 council meeting. Mrs. Weiss opposed the motion

Engineer's Report - Report given by Ed McGee, Engineer

Motion: Mr. Galbraith; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the bid from Pampana Landscaping and Construction, Inc. for \$125,765.00 for the Lower Spruce Run Debris Removal and Retaining Wall Replacement Project.

Financial Report - Report given by Judy Konitsney, Chair

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the July 2011 financial reports as presented.

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the August 2011 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$22,894.49 from the general fund account.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – No Report

Administration Report – No Report

Public Works / Building and Property Report – Report given by Rob Galbraith, Chair

Public Safety Report – No Report

Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement Report - Report given by Sue Weiss, Chair

Public Affairs Report – No Report

Mayor’s Report – No Report

Emergency Management Report – No Report

Police Chief’s Report – No Report

Fire Chief’s Report – Report submitted by Gary Buckman, Chief; BAVFD

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission – Report given by Catherine Houska, Secretary

Solicitor’s Report – No Report

New Business

Addendum to Avon Club Lease Agreement

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve an Addendum to the Commercial Lease by and between the Borough of Ben Avon and the Avon Club Foundation, which extends the terms of the lease for a period of one year commencing September 1, 2011 and ending on August 31, 2011.

Rock Salt Agreement

Motion: Mr. Galbraith; Second: Mr. White Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the bid of \$55.83 per ton for rock salt from Cargill, Inc. as submitted to the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance for a term commencing immediately and ending June 30, 2012.

Department of Energy Sun Shot Grant

Ms. Sattler reviewed a letter that Mr. Means had submitted to council. Mr. Means’ letter stated that he reviewed the proposed grant program to create a streamlined process for zoning permitting and inspection of solar energy systems. His letter stated that existing provisions of the Joint Zoning Ordinance already address permitting of solar energy systems and he did not see how the borough’s participation in the grant program could result in a more streamlined process.

Mr. Means's letter also stated that the current zoning ordinance sets no specific height or size limit on a solar panel structure. His letter stated that this could be a concern and suggested getting input from the Zoning Officer and the Joint Planning Commission. A discussion followed and council decided not to participate in the grant program. Mrs. Weiss stated that she would inform Bellevue and Avalon that Ben Avon is not interested in participating in the grant program because we already have a streamlined permitting process in place. Mrs. Weiss stated that she would also advise Bellevue, Avalon, and the Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission that the boroughs may need to modify the Joint Zoning Ordinance regarding front of house placement, set back requirements and height requirements for solar panels.

Raccoon Baiting – Oral Rabies Vaccine

Mr. Galbraith stated that the Allegheny County Health Department would be conducting an oral raccoon rabies baiting project in August and September. The baits (vaccine packets) will be dropped from airplanes or helicopters or by local teams on foot or in vehicles.

Avon Club Holiday House Tour

Dr. Corder stated that the Avon Club is sponsoring a Holiday House Tour in Ben Avon on Saturday, December 3, 2011.

Old Business Ordinance 751

Ms. Sattler advised council not to act on Ordinance 751. She stated that there is a concern that the ordinance Keystone Collections asked the municipalities to adopt may conflict with State law. Ms. Sattler stated that there is an opinion that perhaps Act 32 is all that is necessary and municipalities will not need to adopt a special ordinance. Action on Ordinance 751 was tabled.

Adjournment

Motion: Dr. Corder; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmella Hallstein
Borough Secretary