

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – January 17, 2012
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, Earl Bohn, Lloyd Corder, Richard White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

Council Members Absent

None

Others Present

Chuck Means, Solicitor

Ed McGee, Engineer

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Carmella Hallstein, Borough Secretary

Mike Dufresne, Emergency Management Coordinator

Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Norbert Micklos, Chief; Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

Ted Popovich of 6606 Virginia Avenue addressed council about air quality. He stated that he is a certified air emissions evaluator. Mr. Popovich stated that Shenango, Inc. has been cited multiple times for air pollution violations. He stated that The Neville Island Good Neighbor Committee wrote to Steve Guzy the plant manager to request a meeting. The meeting will be held at the Shenango plant on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Popovich stated that the Neville Island Good Neighbor Committee is requesting that a representative from each community attend the meeting. Mr. Bett stated that he would attend the meeting. Mr. Popovich distributed and reviewed a letter sent to Senator Scarnati and Senator Pileggi from the Marcellus Shale Coalition and the Associated Petroleum Industries of PA. Mr. Popovich stated that communities do not want the State to control local zoning and urged council members to contact to their State Representatives.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2011 and January 3, 2012 council meetings.

Mr. Bohn abstained.

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

Financial Report - Report given by Brian Tokar, Chair

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the accrued December 2011 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$93,163.91 from the general fund account.

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the January 2012 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$80,884.48 from the general fund account.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – Report given by Lloyd Corder, Chair

Administration Report – Report given by Richard White, Chair

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

Public Safety / Strategic Projects Report – Report given by Michael Bett, Chair

Fire / Public Affairs – Report given by Earl Bohn, Chair

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

Mrs. Weiss stated that the Park Avenue row houses were sold at Sheriff Sale to S & T Bank. She stated that the bank was trying to sell the 19 parcels for \$660,000.00 but lowered the price to \$310,000.00, which has generated some interest in the properties. Mrs. Weiss stated that she discussed this issue with Dr. Corder and Mayor Jones and that one of the concerns they have is if the properties are re-done as is, there are 19 units, which creates a problem with density. She recommended that council explore the possibility of tax abatements if the purchaser is interested in demolishing the existing units and erecting new units in accordance with current borough codes. Mrs. Weiss stated that the borough would have to work with the school district and get them to agree to abate the taxes for a certain amount of time. She stated that tax abatements might make it more attractive to a purchaser to demolish the structures and build something that would create less density. Mrs. Weiss stated that she would like to let the broker for the property know that the borough is interested in low-density new construction that meets code and is willing to work with the school district to explore the possibility of tax abatements.

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. Bett; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve exploring tax abatement discussions with the Avonworth School District regarding the Park Avenue properties provided that the developer would demolish the existing units and rebuild in accordance with current borough codes.

Mayor's Report – Report given by Bob Jones, Mayor

Emergency Management Report – Report given by Mike Dufresne, EMC

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

Fire Chief's Report – Report given by Jim Rupert, Chief; BAVFD

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission – No Report

Solicitor's Report – Report given by Chuck Means, Solicitor

New Business

Conference Line Speakerphone

Mr. Galbraith stated that there is a telephone line in the council room that could be used for a conference phone. He stated that a used telephone could be purchased on-line for about \$25.00 plus \$15.00 shipping. Dr. Corder stated that a lot of council members have been traveling and this would give council a high quality speakerphone that could be used when council members are out of town. Dr. Corder stated that there is a free service that can be used for conference calls by using an 800-telephone number.

Old Business

Ordinance 752

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Ordinance 752, which adopts the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Ben Avon, with the reference to Public Works Director in Section 18-112 and Section 25-202 amended to read Public Works Foreman.

Mr. White acknowledged the efforts of former council member Judy Konitsney who was the driving force behind the ordinance codification.

Resolution 2012-01

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Resolution 2012-01, which establishes fees for the filing of applications, permits and licenses.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary