

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – October 16, 2012
Minutes

Call to Order

Council Vice President Sue Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Rob Galbraith, Michael Bett, Richard White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

Lloyd Corder entered council chambers at 7:15 p.m.

Council Members Absent

Earl Bohn

Others Present

Bob Jones, Mayor

Chuck Means, Solicitor

Ed McGee, Engineer

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Jim Rupert, Chief, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Norbert Micklos, Chief, Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

Andrew Klosterman of 6920 Sturgeon Street addressed council again about power outages in Ben Avon and about vehicles traveling up Perrysville Avenue that cross over the double yellow line into the opposite lane of traffic. Mr. McGee stated that a traffic monitor has been installed on Perrysville Avenue. Mr. Klosterman stated that Mr. Bohn contacted Duquesne Light Company about the electric service in Ben Avon. He stated that Mr. Bohn was asked to keep records about the frequency of the outages and to forward that information to Duquesne Light Company along with the addresses of the properties experiencing the outages.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2012 Council Meeting.

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

Motion: Mr. Galbraith; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the bid from Pampena Landscape and Construction, Inc. for \$28,125.00 for the Dickson Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project.

Motion: Dr. Corder; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve payment of the Bipco and McElroy Paving Company, Inc. invoices for \$18,250.00 and \$17,634.00 respectively for Avon Park Improvements.

Financial Report - Report given by Brian Tokar, Chair

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the September 2012 financial reports as presented.

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the October 2012 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$63,835.62 from the general account.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – No Report

Administration Report – Report given by Richard White, Chair

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by voice vote to accept the proposal from Campbell, Durant, Beatty, Palombo and Miller, P.C. to provide legal services for the pension fund contingent on primary counsel, Mr. Brian Gabriel, addressing Ben Avon council at least once before next October. Mr. Bett opposed the motion.

Mr. White made a motion to amend Mrs. Weiss' motion that would remove the contingency clause that requires an appearance by Mr. Gabriel before next October. There was no second to the motion and the motion died.

Motion passed five - one, as originally stated by Mrs. Weiss.

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

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

Fire / Public Affairs Report – No Report

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

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise a public hearing and public meeting to be held on October 29, 2012 at 7 p.m. for the purpose of determining whether properties on Park Avenue that have been purchased by AWK Development are blighted and to take action on a proposed real estate tax abatement.

Mayor's Report – Report given by Bob Jones, Mayor – See Exhibit A

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Bett; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize entering into appropriate arrangements with the Ohio Township Police Department to utilize Swiftreach for emergency notifications subject to approval by the solicitor.

Dr. Corder stated that the borough's Halloween parade would be on Saturday, October 27 at noon. The parade will start at the corner of Church and Dickson Avenues and end at the fire station. Hot dogs and beverages will be served at the conclusion of the parade and each participant will receive a treat bag.

Emergency Management Report – No Report

Police Chief's Report – No Report

Fire Chief's Report – No Report

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission Report – No Report

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

New Business

Ordinance No. 757

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Bett; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve advertising Ordinance No. 757, which amends the Ben Avon Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Part 1, transient retail business, to impose additional permit application requirements and to provide for additional rules of conduct that will allow residents to elect not to receive licensed solicitation at their homes and businesses.

2013 Bookmobile Service

Mr. Bett made a motion to approve bookmobile service for 2013 at a cost of \$10,500.00 for one hour of service per week. There was no second and the motion was withdrawn to allow more time to get information.

Halloween

Trick or Treat will be on Wednesday, October 31 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Old Business

Conditional Use Hearing Opinion

Mr. White stated that all of the conditions and the basis for the approval of the conditional use for the Friary property were compiled into a document, which needs signed by each council member. Mr. Means added that Conditional Use Hearing Opinion did not require a vote.

TreeVitalize Program

Dr. Corder stated that the program was discussed at the September council meeting. He stated that he edited the comments made by council and revised the tree request form, adding that the language stating that the borough would cut the sidewalks and plant the trees has been removed.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary



Church Avenue
Ben Avon Pa. 15202

Telephone: 412-766-7704
Facsimile: 412-766-7311

Robert B. Jones

Mayor

Borough of Ben Avon

Mayoral Report

Ben Avon Council Meeting

10-16-2012

The Emergency Management team has been working on our Emergency Notification system. We originally contracted with One Call Now. Since contracting with them, that business entity; as happens so frequently in today's economy; divested themselves into a new communications network called "Code Red" after a thorough evaluation of the changes between the two companies our Emergency Management team investigated some other carriers. In doing we found a company that offered more options that better fit our needs at a better cost. It is being used by Moon Township for several years and they gave a glowing report. The team met to discuss this; during the meetings it was unanimously decided that we should convert our contract over to this new company "Swiftreach" as soon as our old contract ran out. This was discussed by and with the other municipalities and they all agreed to the change. All of our contracts run out at the end of this month except Emsworth because they signed up late, and they are expected to convert when theirs runs out. Mike was so impressed with Swiftreach that he is recommending that the Western Pa. Red Cross adopt it.

I therefore recommend Council adopt a resolution for the approval of changing our supplier to Swiftreach from Code Red and approve the funding as our preferred supplier going forward. Chief Micklos and the Ohio Township Police Department will continue to be the billing administrators with the provision that our Emergency Management Team will consult with the Chief and further refine system controls; operation; structure and access parameters which are currently undefined.

As you are aware Chief Micklos offered to be the administrator for the billing on the One Call Now contract. He is convinced that the Swiftreach program is the best way to go and has offered to pay for the first year's contract. Chief; correct me if I misunderstood our conversation? So Next year at this time we will start paying less than \$1.00 per household in Ben Avon for a more efficient more flexible system.

Respectively submitted,

Robert B. Jones

Mayor

Borough of Ben Avon