

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – July 16, 2013
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

Bob Jones, Mayor

Chuck Means, Solicitor

Ed McGee, Engineer

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Carmella Hallstein, Secretary

Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Norbert Micklos, Chief; Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

Several Berringer Place residents attended the council meeting. The residents asked council to take action to help relieve parking problems on Berringer. Kathleen Kortas of 257 Berringer Place represented the residents and read a prepared statement (see Exhibit A).

Motion: Mr. Bohn; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to restore the parking lines on Berringer Place and restore the no-parking sign at the intersection of Short Street and Berringer Place.

Steven Hnatow of 403 Ridge Avenue addressed council about repeated break-ins and vandalism at his apartment and to his vehicle. Mr. Hnatow stated that he has filed several police reports. Chief Micklos stated that the police have addressed this issue every time Mr. Hnatow reports an incident. Chief Micklos stated that Mr. Hnatow installed a motion-activated camera but there were no pictures on the reader card when he brought it to the police station. The police will continue to monitor the situation.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Bohn; Motion carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013 council meeting. Mr. Bett abstained.

Engineer's Report – Report given by Ed McGee

Financial Report - *Report given by Brian Tokar, Chair*

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the June 2013 financial reports as presented.

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the July 2013 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$32,540.07 from the general account.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – *Report given by Lloyd Corder, Chair*

Administration Report – *Report given by Richard White, Chair*

Public Works / Building and Property Report – *No Report*

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

Fire / Public Affairs Report – *No Report*

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

Mayor's Report – *No Report*

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 – *No Report*

New Business

None

Old Business

Ordinance No. 763

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Ordinance No. 763, which amends the Ben Avon Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Part 1, Transient Retail Business, to revise solicitation time limits.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary

Berringer Place Residents
Remarks to Ben Avon Borough Council
Regarding
Parking Control & Enforcement
7 p.m.
Tuesday
July 16, 2013

- My names is Kathleen Kortas and I live at 257 Berringer Place.
- The residents of Berringer Place respectfully ask Ben Avon Borough Council to take action to help relieve parking problems on our street. We ask Council to take three specific actions.
 - First, direct the Public Works Department to restore the parking lines that the borough painted on the pavement some years ago. The lines clearly define individual parking spaces. They were very helpful in making best use of the limited parking space on our street. They have worn away. We ask that you restore them.
 - Second, restore the no-parking sign that once stood at the intersection of Short Street and Berringer Place. The sign was very helpful in discouraging parking at that corner. When cars are parked there, drivers on Berringer have difficulty making way for other on-coming vehicles because Berringer is too narrow for on-coming cars to pass each other.
 - Third, direct our police to enforce no-parking rules on Berringer and Short. Of course, we defer to the mayor and the police chief to use their good judgment in enforcing parking rules. If you wanted a suggestion, we would recommend that first-time offenders get a warning instead of a ticket.
- We recognize that the streets in Ben Avon Borough were designed and built before every household had a motorcar ... and long before the typical household had two, three and sometimes four cars. As a result, many residents of Ben Avon contend with parking shortages.
- One the other hand, Berringer is exceptional in several ways.
 - First, Berringer Place is a blunt dead end with absolutely no room for a driver to turn a vehicle around. As a rule ... drivers must back their cars out once they get in there.
 - Second, Berringer Place is narrow, measuring only 20 feet wide. Dalzell Avenue, for example, is 24 feet wide. Even McCurdy Place, another dead-end street, is 24 feet wide. Four feet makes a big difference considering that a Ford Explorer is seven feet wide and a Toyota Corolla is six feet wide.
 - Third, the building lots on Berringer Place are typically 40 feet wide, among the narrowest in the borough, therefore our housing density and parking density are among the highest in the borough.

- **We are aware** that certain members of Ben Avon Council opposed our request. To you we respectfully ask these questions:
 - **One** ... the parking problems on Berringer Place represent a **public safety concern**. The problem has not improved since the parking lines were painted by the borough years ago. If anything, the problem is worse. **So ... why was it appropriate to have parking lines in the past, but not now?**
 - **Two** ... Council has seen fit to approve and to maintain brightly painted **parking lines for the entire length of the 7100 block of Church Avenue**. If the purpose of the lines on Church is to make best use of limited parking space there, then **why does the same reasoning not apply to Berringer?**
 - **Three** ... if you oppose our request because of the **expense**, then let's put this in proper perspective. Parking problems on Berringer affect 30 households and about 70 to 100 residents. Council could help lessen our problem with a **\$150 worth of yellow paint and a \$25 no-parking sign**. That's not a lot of money compared to the **\$10,000 you spend every year for a Bookmobile** that is used by only a dozen Ben Avon residents per week.
- In conclusion, our request is reasonable. We have a public safety problem. Experience shows that parking lines and no-parking restrictions help to lessen this problem. The help we ask for is not expensive. And the overwhelming majority of tax-payers on Berringer Place favor this request and have signed a petition asking you to grant this request.

Thank you for hearing us.

We the residents of Berringer Place in Ben Avon would like the parking lines on our street repainted.

Thank you

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1. William J. Koetas	257 Berringer Pl.	William J. Koetas
2. Susan G. Gerdes	252 Berringer Pl.	Susan G. Gerdes
3. Alexander Fontana	261 Berringer Pl.	Alexander Fontana
4. Katherine Fontana	261 Berringer Pl.	Katherine Fontana
5. Charles D. Gerdes	252 Berringer Pl.	Charles D. Gerdes
6. Albert Mafad	253 Berringer Pl.	Albert Mafad
7. Aunt Mafad	253 Berringer Place	Aunt Mafad
8. Kathleen Koetas	257 Berringer Place	Kathleen Koetas
9. James G. Hiteger	257 Berringer Pl.	James G. Hiteger
10. Peace Corp	242 Berringer Pl.	Patricia C. Pacy
11. Peace Corp	261 " "	Patricia C. Pacy
12. Peace Corp	263	Patricia C. Pacy
13. Anita J. Domalik	237 Berringer Place	Anita J. Domalik
14. Nicole Stacle	237 Berringer Pl.	Nicole Stacle
15. Cliff Poland	237 Berringer Pl.	Cliff Poland

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
16. Edward Rivero	237 1/2 Berringer Pl., Pittsburgh PA 15202	Edward Rivero
17. Sua Spagnolite	227 Berringer place	Sua Spagnolite
18. Jessica Farnedes	241 Alder Dr. 15207	Jessica Farnedes
19. Tal Manj	211 Berringer Pl.	Tal Manj
20. Lori Manley	211 Berringer Pl.	Lori Manley
21. Brad Manney	211 Berringer Pl.	Brad Manney
22. Debbie Blackburn	6600 Brighton Rd	Debbie Blackburn
23. LOIS WINELAND	221 BERRINGTON RD	Lois Wineland
24. ARTHUR WINELAND	221 BERRINGER PL	Arthur Wineland
25. CARLA BISHOP	234 BERRINGER PL	
26. Lisa Hopkins	732 Berringer Pl.	
27. Robin Berfield	230 Berringer Pl.	
28. Susan St. Brown	276 Berringer Pl	
29. Catherine Dozor	256 Berringer Pl	
30. Mihalica Jozor	254 Berringer Pl	
31.		
32.		