

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – December 10, 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

Michael Bett, Earl Bohn (via telephone), Lloyd Corder, Richard White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

Council Members Absent

Rob Galbraith

Others Present

Bob Jones, Mayor

Chuck Means, Solicitor

Ed McGee, Engineer

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Carmella Hallstein, Secretary

Joe Hanny, Detective; Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2013 council meeting.

Engineer's Report – Report given by Ed McGee

Financial Report - Report given by Brian Tokar, Chair

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

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the December 2013 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$20,897.87 from the general account.

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. Bett; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt the 2014 Budget as presented.

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Ordinance 765, which levies an ad valorem real estate tax and fixes the tax rate for the fiscal year 2014.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – Report given by Lloyd Corder, Chair

See Exhibit A

Administration Report – Report given by Richard White, Chair

Council will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the borough municipal building during the calendar year 2014.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise the 2014 Council meeting schedule.

Council will hold a reorganization meeting on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the borough municipal building.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise the reorganization meeting.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to reappoint Sandra Collins, Claire Wilwohl, Richard L. White, Bob Whalen and Terry Hartnett to the Avonworth Municipal Authority Advisory Council for one-year terms beginning January 31, 2014 and ending January 30, 2015.

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 – No Report

Mayor's Report – No Report

Emergency Management Report – No Report

Police Chief's Report – Report given by Detective Joe Hanny

Fire Chief's Report – No Report

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission Report – No Report

Solicitor's Report – No Report

New Business

Shade Tree Commission

Motion: Dr. Corder; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by voice vote to appoint Ephraim Zimmerman, Julian Wynnycky and Rob Galbraith to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Bohn abstained.

Departing Council Members

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to thank Lloyd Corder, Brian Tokar and Rob Galbraith for their years of service to the borough.

Old Business

None

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary

Lloyd Corder, Ph.D., Council President
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Farewell Message

Nearly 200 meetings ago, I was given the unique and profound privilege to serve the residents of our municipality. I had a simple philosophy: Ben Avon is a great place to live and raise a family. Focus on things that keep this place nice or make it better.

Reflecting what you and some of your other colleagues helped accomplish during this period is humbling:

- For 16 years, we didn't raise taxes.
- Although it was rough ride when we started out, we are now in excellent financial shape—we have no debt and we have money in the bank.
- We successfully closed our own police department and contracted this service to neighboring municipalities.
- We transformed Avon Park from a tired, worn out facility into a beautiful, well-used park becoming of our community—with the help of over a quarter million dollars in grants and countless volunteer hours.
- We installed historic street lights, rebuilt our sewer infrastructure, paved streets, installed decorative fencing, rebuilt retaining walls and restored the Borough Hall, inside and out.
- We bought a new fire hall, truck and other equipment—and we were fortunate to attract an ambulance service and coffee shop as ongoing tenants. We gained more revenue than we lost by subcontracting these fire services to neighboring communities. We used some of the money for a capital equipment program that will now be used to purchase a ladder truck.
- We built a new Borough garage to house all of our street equipment that is used to provide so many of the services our residents have come to expect and enjoy.
- We got rid of 19 dilapidated row houses on Park Avenue and put in six single family homes.
- We got the Friary back on the tax rolls and it is showing promises of being one neighborhood's premier businesses.
- We restructured and helped set a long-term course of success for Avonworth Community Park.
- We planted dozens of trees to help protect our infrastructure.
- We started a website, upgraded it and used it to help improve our communications.
- And, it is no slight thing, but we started some great, low-cost traditions like the Halloween Parade, Deck the Borough Halls and 4th of July Fireworks celebrations.

I would be remiss in saying that these things were accomplished by Council alone. We had a lot of help from our street crew, administrative staff, professional advisors, fire department, police department and dozens of dedicated volunteers. For this, I am truly grateful.

So, by any objective measure, I leave this Borough better than I found it. Thank you for helping me continue to make Ben Avon a great place to live and raise a family.