

**Borough of Ben Avon**  
**7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202**  
**Regular Meeting of Council – September 18, 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

Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Norbert Micklos, Chief; Ohio Township Police Department

**Public Participation**

David Hershey of 450 Dickson Avenue stated that he frequently walks in the borough and has become frustrated with the condition of the sidewalks and overgrown bushes and he presented a list of nineteen properties that have sidewalks that do not meet the requirements of the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code. He stated that the list is not all encompassing and is definitely not complete, but is a random sampling of code issues. Mr. Hershey also presented pictures of sidewalks that are in disrepair. He stated that he thought something should be done to improve the sidewalks in the borough. Mrs. Weiss stated that council might want to do something borough-wide to let residents know that the sidewalks are their responsibility as opposed to issuing random citations. She stated that she would like to notify residents in advance about plans for a borough-wide sidewalk inspection program so that they are prepared. Mrs. Weiss stated that she would ask Building Inspection Underwriters to inspect the properties that have overgrown bushes. Mr. Bohn and Mrs. Weiss will prepare a notice for distribution to residents regarding a borough-wide sidewalk inspection program.

Patrick Connolly of 216 Dickson Avenue stated that the Troop Committee has approved his Eagle Scout project and that he is waiting on approval from the Pittsburgh Eagle Scout Coordinator. Patrick stated that he has to postpone the actual work on the project until spring. He stated that he would use the winter months to solicit donations, plan work sessions, and arrange for volunteers to help with the project.

Andrew Klosterman of 6920 Sturgeon Street stated that at last month's council meeting he asked council if anything could be done about the power reliability in Ben Avon. He stated that it was suggested at that meeting that he contact Duquesne Light Company. Mr. Klosterman stated that

he has tried to contact Duquesne Light twice through their web form and has had no response. Mr. Rupert stated that Emsworth Borough had similar complaints about outages and that Duquesne Light installed new poles, wires and transformers in the borough. Mr. Bohn will contact Paul Getz, Emsworth Council President, to discuss the matter. Mr. Klosterman stated that at the July council meeting he addressed the issue of traffic encroaching across the lanes on Perrysville Avenue by Juniper Way. He stated that a traffic monitor was supposed to be installed but he had not seen one yet and asked if there were any plans towards remediation of the situation. Mr. McGee stated that the traffic monitor should be installed within the next few weeks. Mr. Galbraith stated that the borough would have to review the data from the monitor before deciding what the next step should be.

Ted Popovich of 6606 Virginia Avenue stated that he was here to develop awareness of the Clean Rivers Campaign. Mr. Popovich stated that he is an engineer by training and that he is horrified over the fact that we are still using Roman Empire technology for handling wastewater. Mr. Popovich stated that if you use a green type of solution, in other words keep the water in the communities through a variety of things, it would help create jobs and we would have something that would work a lot better.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2012 Council Meeting.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Bett; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the transcript of the August 21, 2012 Conditional Use Public Hearing.

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

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to ratify the previous advertisement for the Dickson Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project.

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the bid from Hometown Rooter Plumbing for \$34,022.50 for the Dickson Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project, contingent on Mr. McGee checking the mathematical calculations on the bid and checking the company's references and contingent on Hometown Rooter Plumbing providing a 3-year maintenance bond or equivalent.

Motion: Mr. Galbraith; Second: Mr. Bohn; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$18,499.99 for crack sealing in 2012.

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

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

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. Bohn; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the September 2012 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$132,906.26 from the general account and \$18,760.00 from the parks and recreation grant account.

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – No Report**

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

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to terminate the contract with Berkheimer Tax Administrator for the collection of OPT/LST, to appointment

Keystone Collections Group as the collector of current and delinquent OPT/LST and to authorize Mr. White to execute the necessary documents.

**Resolution 2012-13**

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Bohn; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Resolution 2012-13, which declares the borough's intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008.

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. Bohn; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to authorize Mr. White to drive the borough pickup truck to the free paper shredding event sponsored by Representative Dan Deasy at Crafton Park on Saturday, September 22, 2012, for the purpose of disposing borough records.

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

**Public Safety / Strategic Projects Report** – *No Report*

**Fire / Public Affairs Report** – *No Report*

**Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement Report** – *Report given by Sue Weiss, Chair*  
Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise a public hearing to be held on October 16, 2012 at 7 p.m. and to advertise an ordinance for the purpose of determining whether or not the properties purchased by AWK Development on Park Avenue are blighted.

**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**

**TreeVitalize Program**

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to ratify the submission of a request form to TreeVitalize for ten trees for Avon Park.

Mr. White requested that the TreeVitalize Program be put on the agenda for the October council meeting.

**Old Business**

Mr. White reported that the RFP (request for proposals) for legal services related to the pension fund was advertised in The Citizen on Friday, September 14, 2012. Mr. White stated that the proposals are due by October 2, 2012, after which he will ask council to make a decision.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carmella Hallstein*

Borough Secretary