

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – January 20, 2015
Minutes

Call to Order

Council President Earl Bohn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Julian Wynnyckyj, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Earl Bohn, Philip Brind'Amour (via telephone), Michael Bett, Ken Opiery

Council Members Absent - None

Others Present

Anne Sweeney, Solicitor
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman
Carmella Hallstein, Secretary
Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department
Adam Beck, Sergeant; Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

Mike Holzworth of 6830 Prospect Avenue addressed council about the amount and speed of traffic that goes up and down Ridge Avenue and on to Juniper Way. He stated that Juniper Way is an alley and cannot handle two-way traffic. Mr. Holzworth stated that the speed limit is not observed and the stop sign at the corner of Juniper and Ridge is disregarded the majority of the time. He stated that without a stop sign at Ridge and Prospect vehicles pick up a great deal of speed. Mr. Holzworth stated that he would like council to consider the traffic flow in that area and explore ways to limit the flow and slow down the speed of the traffic. Mr. Bohn noted that other councils had discussed this issue before. Mr. Wynnyckyj stated that the police could increase patrols in that area. Mr. Opiery stated that council could have the borough engineer look at the issue again, but added that you cannot use stop signs to regulate speed. Mr. Opiery stated that in order to have an enforceable stop sign you need a traffic study and engineering study and that there has to be a proven sight distance issue. He stated that a one-way traffic restriction was a possibility but it would still require a traffic study. Mr. Opiery and Mr. Wynnyckyj will talk to the borough engineer and ask him to review the issue.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 council meeting.

Financial Report - Report given by Ken Opiery, Co-Chair and Richard White, Co-Chair

Mr. White stated that the December 2014 financial statements were not available because the borough was still in the accrual process. He stated that the December 2014 and January 2015 financial statements would be presented at the February meeting.

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Wynnykyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the December 2014 add-on accounts payable report, the December 2014 accrued accounts payable reports and the January 2015 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$109,689.35 from the general account and a payment of \$64,164.00 from the capital improvement account.

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

Mr. White stated that Act 164 of 2014 is a new tax collector law. He stated that among other requirements it requires the tax collector to appoint a deputy tax collector and for council to approve the appointment. Mr. White stated that the deputy collector would assume tax collection duties in the event the current collector became incapacitated.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the appointment of Charles Z. Hallstein as the deputy real estate tax collector.

Mr. White stated that the borough received applications from Bob Shelton, Brad Cole and Matthew Clark for the open seat on the Zoning Hearing Board, adding that all of the applicants were well qualified. Mr. White recommended appointing Robert Shelton to fill the vacancy because he has prior zoning experience and is a registered architect.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Robert Shelton to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. White stated that he reached out to all three applicants and heard back from two of the three and that Brad Cole expressed interest in serving on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Brad Cole to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Mr. White introduced Isaac George of 6505 Brighton Road. Isaac stated that he is a Life Scout in Troop 321 and that he is working towards becoming an Eagle Scout. He said that he would be 18 years old on April 9, 2015 and that his Eagle Scout project must be completed one week before he turns 18. Isaac stated that Mr. White had told him that Ben Avon must place no dumping decals on the stormwater catch basins throughout the borough in accordance with MS4 Permit requirements. Isaac asked if he could perform this service for his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Regrut will coordinate the project.

Public Works / Building and Property Report – *Report given by Julian Wynnykyj, Chair and Ken Pipery*

Public Safety / Code Enforcement Report – *Report given by Michael Wrbas, Chair*

Public Affairs Report – *No Report*

Mayor's 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

Resolution 2015-01

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Resolution 2015-01, which confirms the millage rate of 4.38 mills for collection of ad valorem real estate taxes for year 2015 as set by Ordinance 770.

Old Business - *None*

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary