

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – November 12, 2017
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Russell Kuehner, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Earl Bohn, Phil Brind'Amour, Brad Cole, and Ken Opipery

Council Members Absent

Others Present

Robert Jones, Mayor
Anne Sweeney, Esq., Solicitor
Lisa Cronin, Secretary
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman
James Rupert, Chief, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department
Norbert Micklos, Chief, Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

Michele Boyd at 7110 Ohio River Blvd. provided council with a letter regarding the property maintenance code violation notice they received from the Code Enforcement Officer. See Exhibit A

Council President Earl Bohn stated that this was on the Agenda under New Business and asked that in consideration of Mrs. Boyd's time, if council would address at the beginning of the meeting. Council agreed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Cole; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017, council meeting.

Financial Report - Report given by Richard White

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Kuehner; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the financials presented to council.

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the October, 2017, accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$18,003.85 from the general account.

Administration Report – Report given by Richard White

See "New Business"

Public Works / Building and Property Report – Report given by Ken Opipery, Chair

Due to difficulty finding seasonal part time help, there has been a lag in leaf removal service. The Public Works department is doing the best they can. There is an ALCOSAN meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2017, that Mr. Opipery and Mr. Regrut will be attending to discuss the Sewer Regionalization and Shared Sewers Project.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – No Report

Public Affairs – No Report

Mayor's Report – Report given by Bob Jones

The Ohio Township Board of Supervisors approved the Police Contract with the Borough of Ben Avon for four (4) years starting November 2017 through November 2021.

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. White: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the Police contract between the Borough of Ben Avon and the Ohio Township Police Department.

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

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wrbas: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to direct the Code Enforcement Officer to pull the code violation and dismiss the Violation notices for 7110 Ohio River Blvd. and 6700 Church Ave. due to erroneous written paperwork in the appeal process.

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wrbas: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Resolution No. 2017-08, authorizing participation in Allegheny County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Application No. MRB021 for the installation of Handicap Ramps at all intersections on Walnut Ave.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise the 2018 Budget.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise the Intent to Adopt Ordinance No. 782, levying an Ad Valorem Real Estate tax and fixing the tax rate for the fiscal year 2018.

Motion: Mr. Cole; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise Regular Council meeting dates for 2018.

Mayor Robert Jones will follow up on the requested Handicap Sign at 7217 Church Avenue and report back to council with his recommendation.

Council President Earl Bohn addressed council regarding the vacant property at 7216 McCurdy Place and asked council and the Solicitor for recommendations and/or options. Options consider are to hire a landscape company to clean up the property, pay for it, and put a lien on the property. There was also discussion about asking residents on McCurdy Place if they wanted to come together and buy the property. Solicitor Anne Sweeney said the adjoining property owners could apply for assistance from the Allegheny Country Vacant Property Recovery Program. Mr.

Bohn asked her to follow up on that. Ms. Sweeney did not know if the borough would need to enact an ordinance to participate and would look into it to see if this property qualifies. In the meantime, Mr. Bohn asked the Borough Secretary to contact an Exterminator to examine the property for reported sightings of rodents.

Old Business

The four (4) year Police Contract was approved by Ohio Township Board of Supervisors and approved by borough council.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second; Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m., but Mr. White rescinded the motion and called for an Executive Session.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mr. White; Second; Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Motion: Mr. White; Second; Mr. Cole; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn from Executive Session and reconvene Regular Session at 8:05 p.m.

Re-Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Cole; Second; Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cronin,
Borough Secretary