

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Pre-Council Meeting – May 1, 2018
Minutes

Call to Order

President, Jennifer Bett, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Jennifer Bett, Earl Bohn @ 7:16 p.m., Michele Boyd, Henry Casale, and David Stoeckle

Council Members Absent

Megan Dolan

Ken Opiery

Others Present

Melanie Holcomb, Mayor

Financial

- Questions came up regarding money in the budget of office furniture replacement and business cards in addition to the borough letterhead situation. What is availability and limit of municipal credit card – to be discussed at regular Council meeting.

Administration

- New hire for Borough Secretary will start on Monday, May 14, 2018. New office hours are still to be determined. Council will ask if she can attend the Regular Council meeting that evening. Current Borough Secretary will stay on to help train and assist the new secretary and has agreed to serve on an “as-needed” basis going forward (i.e. vacation fill-in, busy period, etc).
- The borough received good marks from auditors Cottrill, Arbutina & Associates on “Unqualified Audit” for 2017. Chair of Administration, Earl Bohn, will share more at May’s Regular Council meeting.
- Regarding Right-of-Way / Utility, Henry Casale will contact Dan Cohen, Attorney, to determine if it’s worth investigating right-of-way contingencies.
- Discussed digitizing borough letterhead and acquiring business cards. Will follow up with Borough Secretary and add to May council meeting agenda.

Public Affairs / Communications

- New website is taking shape and will be up and running soon. Create a newsletter to the community - items to include: Introducing new borough secretary, promote new hours, thanking current secretary and bookkeeper. Updates on street repairs/repaving. Other suggestions welcome.
- Discussed Savvy Citizen vs current program of Swift 911. Discussion of promoting “extraordinary events” vs. all local/community events. Mayor talked to Police Chief about revisiting Swift 911 and Savvy Citizen. Swift 911 is funded by OT Police and used to be “voice” only but now includes text and email options. It can be available for

borough use as well as public safety. Online registration option should be available on new website.

- Public Works to report traffic concerns to committee as soon as it is known so that it may be disseminated to the community.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement

- Discussion on how to handle properties that have ordinance code violations. What rights/ if any, do we have as a municipality to intervene and at what point does the code enforcement officer get involved?
- Council to ask Solicitor about status and availability of the county program where neighbor(s) can purchase a neglected/run down property.
- Discussion regarding the suspended Ohio Township Police Officer brought up questions such as the authority of Ben Avon to determine what officer can and cannot patrol our streets.
- Shenango Demolition update: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 is tentative scheduled implosion date. There is traffic/police concerns as well as human concerns.

Public Works

- Sewer update to be given at May meeting as well as confirmed planning of upcoming road paving
- Waste Management needs to collect trash in Avon Park,
- Kilbuck Code enforcement RE property adjacent to park; Earl to look into.
- Request from resident to repaint bike lane street signage
- Concern over asphalt breakaway around Church Ave. sewer at Ridge.

Quaker Valley COG

- Bylaw revisions were emailed out and deadline for comments to draft due May 19.
- QVCOG is researching claim from PennDOT that sewers along Route 65 are the responsibility of municipalities, not PennDOT.
- DCED is assisting with ways to court new businesses into QVCOT communities.

New Business

- Council in discussion to contribute to Chief Micklos' honorary scholarship fund. Discussion will take place at May meeting to donate directly to Fund via The Pittsburgh Foundation.
- Memorial Day Parade: Borough has already budgeted and contributed to this event on behalf of Ben Avon Borough. Dale previously confirmed Brighton Road would be passable.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bett,
President, Ben Avon Council