

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Pre-Council Work Meeting – November 6, 2018
Minutes

Call to Order

President, Jennifer Bett, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Jennifer Bett, Ken Opiery, Michele Boyd, Henry Casale, David Stoeckle

Council Members Absent

Earl Bohn, Megan Dolan

Others Present

Melanie Holcomb, Mayor

Terrie Patsch, Ben Avon Borough Secretary

Public Participation – *There was no public participation*

Administration Report – *Report given by Michele Boyd*

Ms. Boyd discussed the finalization of plans to replace the copier in the Borough office and update the phone and internet systems. Council members were in agreement with the changes and the cost savings to residents.

Ms. Boyd further reported that Earl Bohn was in contact with Connolly Steele to finalize an agreement for the 2019/2020 fiscal years for accounting and payroll services.

Mr. Bohn submitted a report via email of a request by the Fire Chief Jim Rupert to install a wall in the Fire Hall to reduce fumes and noise from the equipment when other meetings and events are taking place. Mr. Bohn was not in favor of the request at this time as there are there priorities to the structure that need to be addressed. Mayor Melanie Holcomb offered to get additional information as to the details of this request and present it for review.

Finance Report – *Report given by Ken Opiery*

Mr. Opiery is looking to confirm insurance figures for the 2019 budget by this coming Friday, November 9, 2018. Council will vote on advertisement of the budget in the November council meeting, and the vote to pass the 2019 budget with any minor adjustments will occur at the December council meeting.

Public Affairs / Communications Report – *Report given by President Jennifer Bett*

Jennifer Bett reported she was contacted by the Hometown Press concerning production of welcome packets for new Ben Avon residents. Ms. Holcomb offered to follow-up on information pertaining to the service and report back to council.

Ms. Bett also reported that Savvy Citizen information cards were distributed at the Halloween Parade in October, and plans to distribute at the Deck the Hall event in November to encourage residents to register for the free notification service.

Ms. Bett stated that updates to the website are ongoing.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement Report – *No report given*

Public Works Report – *Report given by Ken Opiery*

Mr. Opiery reported that a punch-list was provided to the road contractor to address a variety of repairs remaining on the 2018 road project. The most urgent concern was ponding near the intersection of Brighton Road and Belle Reviere Ct. All repairs will be completed as weather permits. Mr. Opiery also submitted a list of 2019 scheduled road work to the water company for their planning purposes.

Quaker Valley COG Report

Ms. Holcomb reported there was no meeting in the month of October, the next QV COG meeting is scheduled November 28 at 7:00 p.m.

New Business

EMC Coordinator

Jennifer Bett reported she received official notification from the state that she is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough.

Deck the Borough Hall

Mayor Melanie Holcomb reported the annual Deck the Borough Hall event is planned for Saturday, November 24, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. As in past celebrations, a horse and carriage are reserved and there will be a craft activity. The theme for this year is “Light”.

Annual Holiday Party

Ken Opiery reported the annual Holiday party for council, firefighters and staff will be on December 15, at the Borough Fire Hall. The event is planned in conjunction with the Fire Department’s Santa ride, and starts immediately following.

2019 Tentative Meeting Schedule

Jennifer Bett distributed a copy of the tentative schedule for the 2019 council meetings. The January work meeting would be cancelled as it falls on January 1, and the holidays in November and December this year would not necessitate moving the last two meetings next year as in the past. Council will review and comment in December for advertisement of the 2019 schedule.

DCNR Workshop

Ms. Bett reported she would attend a workshop in the coming weeks for information concerning the grant process. Ms. Holcomb expressed an interested in attending as well.

Old Business

JPC Ordinances

Ms. Bett discussed the hold that was again placed on the short term rental ordinances delaying their passage until further notice.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch, Ben Avon Borough Secretary