

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
December 3, 2019 Council Work Session
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Jennifer Bett, Henry Casale, Michele Boyd, David Stoeckle

Council Members Absent

Ken Opiery, Megan Dolan, Earl Bohn

Others Present

Melanie Holcomb, Mayor
Terrie Patsch, Borough Secretary

Public Participation

William Kortas, 257 Berringer Place

Mr. Kortas expressed ongoing concern about a neighboring property which was abandoned following a fire several years ago and its effect on his property value.

Administration Report –*Report given by Michele Boyd*

Mrs. Boyd shared a letter submitted by Mr. Bohn to the CEO of Airbnb concerning a problem short-term rental property in Ben Avon. Mr. Bohn stated the property owner's unwillingness to adhere to local ordinances and continuing use of Borough resources to respond has prompted many complaints from neighbors. Mayor Holcomb added that residents and other council members can go to the Airbnb website and log a complaint or concern about a specific location to ensure the company is aware of the issues surrounding some of the advertised Airbnb properties.

Mrs. Bett noted that she sent recommendations along to Mr. Opiery concerning several of the budget line items for 2020. She requested a slight increase in the bookmobile budget and asked to include allowances for building security improvements and professional development.

Mr. Casale noted that the new PA statute enables municipalities to pass a resolution when retaining the same tax rate as previous years rather than the process the Borough now follows.

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

Ms. Bett reported the email migration to Microsoft 360 will take place during the council meeting next Tuesday, December 10, and Mike Connolly will email council members to let them know of any further instructions regarding the change.

Public Works Report – *No Report given*

Public Safety Report – *Report given by David Stoeckle*

Mr. Stoeckle reported that the Borough Secretary is working to establish a baseline database for rental inspections in the wake of inaccurate and incomplete final records from outgoing code enforcement company, Building Inspection Underwriters.

Quaker Valley COG Report – *No Report Given*

New Business

Kilbuck Fire Service Contract

Mrs. Bett reported that the signed contract was delivered to the Borough office for her signature to continue service to Kilbuck for the next five years. Mrs. Bett had a few questions concerning the contract prior to signing and will contact the Borough solicitor for clarification.

Borough Light-Up Festivities

Mayor Holcomb announced that the Borough Light Up festivities will commence on Saturday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the evening Avon Club House Tour. Santa will be in attendance and all in the community are welcome to participate.

Service Recognition

Mrs. Bett announced that at the December council meeting she will recognize several residents who have served the community for many years and will be stepping down from their volunteer positions at the end of the year.

Old Business

Kilbuck Avon Park Funds

Mrs. Bett reported that she is still working to meet with officials from Kilbuck Township to secure funds donated by Buckeye Pipeline to Kilbuck and were slated to make improvements to the community park.

Avon Club Lease

Mrs. Bett reported that the Avon Club Lease Addendum will be processed with the understanding that any and all appliance improvements that have been discussed be approved by Borough officials prior to taking place.

Adjournment

President Jennifer Bett adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch

Ben Avon Borough Secretary

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 12.3.19 COUNCIL MEETING

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	STREET ADDRESS
William J. Kortas	412-816-6287
	257 BERRINGER PLACE

