

BOROUGH OF BEN AVON
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Council Meeting – January 21, 2020
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
Megan Dolan
Ken Opiery
Kara Roggenkamp
David Stoeckle
Rick Wagner

Council Members Absent

Others Present

Anne Sweeney, Solicitor
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman
Chief Joe Hanny, Ohio Township Police
Chief Tom Maletick, BA Volunteer Fire Department

Public Participation – *There was no public participation*

Mayor's Report – *No Report given*

Police Chief's Report – *Report given by Chief Hanny*

See Attachment A

Chief Hanny reported a quiet month with 47 calls including 4 traffic citations.

Fire Chief's Report – *Report given by Chief Tom Maletick*

See Attachment B

Chief Maletick reported a quiet month for the Fire Department with 13 calls in December and 4 in January thus far. Chief reminded council of the meeting at the Fire Department on Wednesday, January 22 concerning recruitment and retention of volunteers.

Northwest EMS – *Reports supplied by George Dudash*
See Attachment C

Solicitor's Report – *No report*

Approval of Minutes

December 10, 2019 Council Meeting

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 council meeting.

January 6, 2020 Council Reorganization Meeting

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mrs. Dolan; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 council reorganization meeting.

Financial Report – *Report given by Ken Pipery*

Statement of Accounts

Mr. Pipery presented the statement of accounts for review purposes only as expenses for December will be posted through mid-to-late January. Once the expenses for 2019 are complete, or the cut-off period has been reached, the final statements will be presented to council for their approval.

Accounts Payable

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$276,964.32 for December, 2019.

Administration Report – *Report given by Jennifer Bett*

Mrs. Bett reported that the Borough Secretary is waiting on response from Northwest Savings Bank confirming the new signatures are in place on the various Borough accounts.

Mrs. Bett also reported that the Administration Committee is looking to set up monthly meetings. At this time, it is being suggested that availability for all parties will be the deciding factor, and all parties seem to favor the last Tuesday of the month.

Public Affairs / Communications Report – *No report given*

Public Safety/Code Enforcement Report – *Report given by David Stoeckle*

Mr. Stoeckle reported that the rental property inspection list has been updated and the Borough Secretary mailed the initial round of letters requesting property owner's compliance with the rental ordinance. Once an application has been returned with payment, Harshman LLC can be notified to schedule for inspection.

Public Works Report – *No Report given*

Quaker Valley COG Report – *Report given by Rick Wagner*

Mr. Wagner reported his attendance at the most recent QV COG meeting of delegates and returned with a survey from the COG requesting council members share areas of interest for each municipality. Mr. Wagner plans an informal meeting with the QV COG Director in the next few weeks.

New Business

Mileage Rate

See Attachment D

Mr. Opiery reviewed with all council members the procedure in place to propose and then approve the tax rate for the new year. As with years' past, in December Borough Council approved the Tax Rate Ordinance to set the method for composing the rate. Once the 2020 Property Values are issued by Allegheny County in mid-January, the final calculations can be made.

Motion: Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Ms. Roggenkamp; **Motion carried** by unanimous voice vote to adopt Resolution 2020-02, establishing the 2020 Tax Rate of 4.27%.

Council Work Sessions

Mrs. Bett proposed a change in the composition of the monthly work sessions to include a focused topic of discussion. The month of February would be dedicated to the topic of insurance coverages held by the Borough. Mr. Jeff Howard of Howard Insurance will attend in February and give a summary of policies and answer council member's questions.

Resolution 2020-01 Use of Telecommunication Devices for Participation by Borough Council Members in Council Meetings

Motion: Mr. Wagner; **Second:** Mr. Casale; **Motion carried** by unanimous voice vote to adopt with modifications discussed Resolution 2020-01, allowing the use of telecommunication devices for participation by Borough council members in council meetings. The modifications will establish the number of times one can call in and the circumstances involved.

Connect Card

Mrs. Bett reported that representatives from Representative Kulik's office will be at the Borough hall on Friday, January 24, from 9:30 until 11:30 to help seniors 65 and older obtain a ID ConnectCard for public transportation.

Old Business – *No old business*

Public Participation

Hannah Zell, 7308 Terrace Avenue

Ms. Zell attended the meeting to ask for consideration of a public trash can outside the Borough Hall.

Mr. Bill Kortas, 247 Berringer Place

Mr. Kortas asked for an update concerning the property next to his at 261 Berringer. Mr. Stoeckle said there was no new information at this time, and a violation notice has been filed.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the council meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch

Borough Secretary