

August 4, 2020
Working Session Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of Ben Avon Borough Council was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Council President Jennifer Bett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Bett, Henry Casale, Megan Dolan, Kara Roggenkamp, David Stoeckle, Richard Wagner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Report - report given by Jennifer Bett

Deb Kadlecik submitted her resignation on Thursday, July 23, 2020 and it was accepted by the Administration committee. The position of Borough Secretary has been reposted. Prior candidate resumes will be considered in addition to new resumes that have been received. To date one new phone interview has been conducted.

Public Affairs/Communications Committee – report given by Jennifer Bett

Commonly used forms and general information have been updated on the Benavon.com website. Meeting minutes are current.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – report given by David Stoeckle

Short-term rentals were discussed during a virtual meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2020 with some concerned residents regarding an AirBnB at 207 Dalzell Ave. Residents were updated on the borough's code enforcement efforts.

Discussed issuing another failure to inspect citation to the property owner of 207 Dalzell Ave. President Bett attended the most recent Joint Planning Commission meeting and a discussion of sending a cease and desist letter to the owner of 207 Dalzell was brought up. There seems to be some concern regarding the legality of this move. A meeting will be scheduled with the JPC and Ben Avon solicitors to come to a general enforcement consensus. In addition, Council should consider reassessing violation fees and enhancing the noise ordinance.

Public Works - report given by Ken Opiery

The Public Works Committee, Dale Regrut and Council President Jennifer Bett met on July 27, 2020 to review current open items and upcoming tasks/projects.

Upcoming projects include needing to inspect designated sewer lines prior to the end of the calendar year. The leaf collector was purchased.

During this meeting a street sweeping program was also discussed but would require additional municipal buy-ins to cover costs of labor and equipment. This is a longer term vision.

Also discussed hiring a third Ben Avon Public Works Employee but is being tabled until Borough Secretary position is filled.

QV COG Report – report given by Rick Wagner

Every year the QVCOG holds a fund-raising dinner in October. This year the dinner will be virtual. Attendance will be free but the QVCOG will be asking municipalities to make a donation to cover the cost of prize give-aways.

Joint Planning Commission Report – report given by Jennifer Bett

The JPC is considering revamping the liquor ordinance. Ben Avon Council needs to review existing liquor ordinance and determine how we would like the ordinance to proceed on our behalf. Currently any liquor request would be by exceptional use request.

Ben Avon is looking for a third JPC volunteer commissioner.

OLD BUSINESS

Retrofit street lights with LED

Retrofitting Ben Avon street lights with LED is a way to reduce energy, our carbon footprint, and cost. Council Member Roggenkamp submitted a proposal showing the most financially effective retrofit would be the lights along Ohio River Boulevard. Within the residential area, a big concern is the harshness of the “white” light effect. A “warm white” would be preferred with better color, light temperature and distribution. These effects are not available by Duquesne Light at this time. The recommendation is to hold off for another year and see if the technology improves before proceeding with this program.

Diversity and Inclusion – Report given by Kara Roggenkamp

Discussed values Council want to see in the D&I statement, including giving value to minority-owned businesses. The Committee will continue to investigate further and discuss with Solicitor Sweeney.

Local Climate Action Program/CONNECT – Report given by Richard Wagner

CONNECT offers a regional greenhouse gas initiative which would offer Ben Avon the option to be included in a larger effort and to take advantage of grant opportunities; however, we would not have a designated student working on an individualized plan as we would with the LCAP. Council Member Wager will pursue more information on CONNECT and Council Member Roggenkamp will investigate LCAP. More information will be provided at the August 18 meeting as available.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: David Stoeckle; Second: Henry Casale; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Borough Secretary Pro Tems

David Stoeckle &
Jennifer Bett