

BOROUGH OF BEN AVON

Work Session Minutes

September 1, 2020

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in Work Session on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue for the purpose of transacting General Business. President Jennifer Bett presided and opened the meeting at 7:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Those present:

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

Others present:

Mayor Melanie Holcomb
Terrie Patsch, Borough Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee

Mrs. Bett reported the Avon Club announced there will be no Fall Festival this year, however club members are hoping to have an activity to engage the community in a safe manner during the pandemic. Mrs. Bett will discuss the annual Halloween Parade with representatives at the Fire Department to get their thoughts on celebrating at this time with public safety in mind. In addition, Mrs. Bett is meeting with county representatives later this month and will ask for their guidance on celebrating Trick or Treat in the community.

Mrs. Bett also stated that several council members will be reviewing the policies for renting the borough hall for events, as well as updating forms and requirements for rentals.

Council President Bett asked if council members would please take a moment to review the final draft of Resolution 2020-05 on Diversity and Inclusion to open a discussion and vote at the next council meeting on September 15.

Mr. Wagner reported he will be meeting with Jean-Sebastien Valois concerning plans for updating Avon Park with money donated by the pipeline company. Mr. Wagner stated Mrs. Roggenkamp may also participate in the meeting and planning session.

Public Safety & Code Enforcement

Mr. Stoeckle informed council members that a bench warrant was issued for the owner of the Airbnb property on Dalzell Avenue due their lack of cooperation in obtaining a required property inspection. Mrs. Holcomb reported that after speaking with the code enforcement officer today, contact was made by the homeowner, and an inspection will be scheduled.

Public Works

Mr. Opipery reported that West View Water is not abiding by the street opening ordinance when doing repairs in the borough, and Gateway Engineers have issued a formal letter to the company. The Solicitor is following the situation as well, which requires complete restoration of the roadway.

QV COG – no report given as there was no August meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Agenda Items

EMS Lease

Mrs. Bett reminded council that the lease for Northwest EMS will expire in June of next year. Review of the current lease should begin prior to the end of this year and will be made available to council members following this meeting.

Fire Department Lease

Mrs. Bett and Mr. Opiery discussed the need for a formal lease with the Fire Department housed in the building at 7219 Church Avenue. Mr. Opiery offered to spearhead the effort and work with Solicitor Anne Sweeney's assistance.

Traffic Concerns

Mr. Opiery asked Mayor Holcomb to alert Ohio Township Police Chief Joe Hanny to be cognizant of the recent reports of a backhoe speeding on Church Avenue as well as an uptick in tri-axle trucks unauthorized to be on borough roads.

CARES Act Funds

Mr. Opiery reported that Ben Avon has applied to recoup funds related to COVID. Police expenses are an eligible expense for the grant funds, and he submitted one quarter of the borough's annual fee for consideration. The reimbursement is available up to \$40,000, and Mr. Opiery received confirmation from the County that the application was submitted and in process.

OLD BUSINESS

Trash Can Collection

Mrs. Bett stated that she made additional calls for quotes on trash collection, however she needed to revise the email she sent out with her information and resend it to council members for their review.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Dolan; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch

Borough Secretary

