



## Borough of Ben Avon

### BEN AVON BOROUGH Council Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a regular voting session on Tuesday, November 17, 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**

Council Members Present: Jennifer Bett, Henry Casale, Megan Dolan, Ken Opipery, Kara Roggenkamp, David Stoeckle, Rick Wagner

#### Others Present:

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Solicitor Anne Sweeney, OTP Chief Joe Hanny, Christen Cieslak (JPC), Mary Smith (JPC), Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Hannah Zell, 7308 Terrace Avenue

Ms. Zell asked about the status of her request to have garbage cans installed along Church Avenue.

#### **ZONING HEARING BOARD NOMINATION**

Mrs. Bett introduced a candidate for the Zoning Hearing Board in the wake of Peter Herchenrother's term ending on December 31, 2020.

Motion: Mr. Wagner; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion carried to approve the appointment of Emilie Delo to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021.

#### **BOROUGH REPORTS**

##### Mayor's Report – *Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb*

- There was another film crew in the borough this week, and only one minor parking incident, which was addressed immediately.
- Two handicapped parking spaces have been approved and are pending installation by the Public Works Department at their first opportunity.

##### Police Report – *Chief Joe Hanny*

Chief Hanny reported a quiet month in the Borough with 52 calls this month as shown on the attached report. (See ATTACHMENT A) As there have been a number of car thefts in the neighboring communities, Chief Hanny once again reminds all residents to remove valuables from their vehicles and lock their car doors.



## Borough of Ben Avon

Mayor Holcomb stated that some concern was expressed that during the food truck events being in the Borough and serving during the darker evening hours, perhaps the trucks can be moved to a better lit area of the street.

Mayor Holcomb also noted appreciation for OTP setting up the speed monitor on Dickson Avenue. Chief Hanny will forward the data as soon as it is available.

Ben Avon Fire Department Report – *No report given*

Solicitor's Report – *No report given*

Joint Planning Commission – *Report given by Christen Cieslak*

- Avalon is in the process of approving a Starbucks where the Rusty Dory property was located.
- Ben Avon should have received a letter from Tom Hrynda concerning the request for \$500 fee for file storage software.
- Resource sharing agreement – the JPC is awaiting a passed resolution from Ben Avon although Ben Avon has asked to pass on their turn in the rotation. This revised version will allow for the opportunity to cede.

Resolution 2020-06 – Setting the JPC Solicitor/Engineer

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Ms. Roggenkamp; Motion Carried to pass Resolution 2020-06 establishing the rotation of solicitor and engineer between the three represented boroughs pending Ben Avon Solicitor review and approval.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Sean Grogan, 6901 Church Avenue

Mr. Grogan had a request for new crosswalk marking at the intersection of Ridge and Church in an attempt to slow oncoming traffic from the Avalon side.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mrs. Dolan; Motion carried to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2020 council meeting as presented.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion Carried to approve the Revenue and Expenditures report for October, 2020 as presented.

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion Carried to approve the bills listed on the Accounts Payable statement in the amount of \$19,018.82.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration

Mr. Wagner reported he is working with Borough Secretary to review and revise the current fee schedule for approval early in 2021. In addition, Mr. Wagner would like to see an increase in



## Borough of Ben Avon

the forms available online for resident's easy access. Once the new schedule is complete, Mayor Holcomb requested it be reviewed by Solicitor Anne Sweeney prior to adoption.

### Public Safety/Code Enforcement

Mr. Stoeckle stated the most recent report on code enforcement and building permits can be found in the report from Harshman LLC included in the packets.

Mr. Stoeckle also reported the Fire Department had contacted the structural engineer to continue with their plans to renovate the fire department door.

### Public Affairs and Communication

Mrs. Bett reported increased cases of COVID in Allegheny County resulting in additional restrictions. Recent stats: 322 tested, 23 confirmed cases.

With these new guidelines in mind, all those entering a Borough property will be required to wear a mask.

Ben Avon Borough continues to operate remotely by calling 412-766-7704 or sending email to [benavon@benavon.com](mailto:benavon@benavon.com).

The latest information may be found at [www.benavon.com](http://www.benavon.com). Savvy Citizen, Facebook and the Ben Avon website continue to serve as the primary information resources. Questions can be found on the website or one can contact a council member.

### Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported leaf collection continues and the new leaf machine is working quite well. Although the dry weather has been great for collection, it does cause a large amount of dust. This has caused minor disruption in service while the filter is cleaned. Dale did reinstate several men employed in the past for leaves and they are working now.

Mr. Opiery also stated that he and Dale Regrut will be conducting interviews in the next 4 to 5 days for the second full-time laborer position.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - re Public Works Leaf Collection

Mary Cook, 7111 Ohio River Boulevard

Ms. Cook attended the meeting to present her case to have leaf removal for several households from the easement on her property. This location allows for the truck to be completely off the highway and have room to turn and re-enter Route 65 without backing into traffic.

Ms. Roggenkamp reviewed the information she compiled on the repair vs replacement options for the backhoe used in the Public Works Department. The current backhoe will require a \$10,000 repair and \$5-8,000 in repairs the next few years. The CO-STAR's program offered an option to purchase a new backhoe at a significant savings and a generous trade-in value on the old machine.



## Borough of Ben Abon

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Ms. Roggenkamp; Motion Carried to approve moving forward with the purchase of a new backhoe for the Public Works Department.

### Quaker Valley COG

Mr. Wagner reported:

- The solid waste and recycling RFP is under review.
- The COG is looking for a long-term solution to the problem of items that are hard to recycle, i.e. glass.
- Monthly COG meeting with delegates is tomorrow night.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 2021 Proposed Budget

Mr. Pipery presented the proposed 2021 budget for council review. He reported the borough continues to face challenges in regard to staffing and the difficulty getting and keeping qualified and consistent part-time help. With that in mind, changes have been made to establish full-time employment with benefits to retain quality employees. The largest increases in the 2021 budget reflect these changes, which will result in a tax increase for the first time in over 25 years.

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mrs. Roggenkamp; Motion Carried to advertise the proposed 2021 budget as presented to council.

#### 2021 Meeting Schedule

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mrs. Dolan; Motion Carried to approve and advertise the 2021 meeting schedule as presented.

#### Request from Anchor & Anvil

Mr. Wagner reported a request from Mr. Theobald concerning marking of parking spaces in front of the coffee shop and perhaps consideration of additional outdoor seating. Further investigation and discussion will be held with Mr. Regrut as to the options available.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Ordinance 2020-05 – Diversity and Inclusion

Motion: Ms. Roggenkamp; Second: Ms. Dolan; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Ordinance 2020-05 on Diversity and Inclusion.

#### Ordinance 2020-06 – JPC Solicitor & Engineer

Motion: Mr. Wagner; Second: Mr. Pipery; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to pass the ordinance establishing the rotation of the solicitor and engineer positions on the Joint Planning Commission.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Mr. Wagner; Second: Mr. Pipery; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



# Borough of Ben Abon

Terrie Patsch  
Borough Secretary