

BEN AVON BOROUGH
Council Meeting
January 19, 2021
Minutes

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a regular voting session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 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 Opiery, Kara Roggenkamp, David Stoeckle, Rick Wagner

Others Present:

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Solicitor Anne Sweeney, Ohio Township Police Chief Joe Hanny, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Co. Chief Tom Maletick, Christen Cieslak (JPC), Kristin Hahn Bennett (ACORD), Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *there was no public participation*

BOROUGH REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hughes-Holcomb reported she is proceeding with action items for the borough hall Centennial Committee and hopes to complete the tasks this week.

Ohio Township Police

Chief Hanny reported a quiet month with 50 calls in the borough and nothing major – most calls were snow and medical assistance related. *See Attachment A*

Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company – *no report given*

See Attachment B

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Anne Sweeney reported she is working with Harshman CE Group on several outstanding citations and feels a resolution is in sight.

Joint Planning Commission

Ms. Cieslak reported an invitation was sent out to council members for the 2021 meetings, including the January meeting which will include the election of officers. She noted that a handful of ordinances were up for review including the bicycle ordinance, signage and fencing ordinances.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes for the December 15, 2020 council meeting.

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes for the January 5, 2021 council work session.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Statement of Revenue & Expense

Mr. Opiery deferred approval of the 2020 finances in the interest of accruing items still pending in the system and outstanding.

Accounts Payable

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second Mr. Casale; Motion Carried to approve payment of invoices presented on the accounts payable report in the amount of \$69,018.95.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration

Mr. Wagner reported a second meeting was held to discuss the proposed celebration of the Borough hall. Participants broke into groups for discussion and further action. He stated the next meeting for the entire group will be early in February, and he will provide updates to council following that meeting.

Public Affairs/Communication

Mrs. Bett updated council that as of January 19, 2021:

- Allegheny County reported an addition 434 COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours; no deaths
- Ben Avon reported 83 confirmed cases to date; no deaths

Public Safety/Code Enforcement

Mr. Stoeckle stated work has been underway to revise some penalties and rates for rental inspections.

Fire Department Update

Mr. Stoeckle reported that BA Fire Chief Tom Maletick found a used 2002 ladder truck that would satisfy the NAFP requirements and could last years/decades at a cost of \$149,000. Chief Maletick said the FD would provide \$75,000 of saved funds from the borough and \$75,000 would go on a state loan at 2% interest. In the interim, FD asked that the Borough provide a bridge loan in that amount until the paperwork is complete. Once approved, the money would be returned to the borough funds. The FD further requested that the borough absorb the expense of the renovations to the fire hall to accommodate the new truck in an amount of just under \$30,000. Mr. Rupert offered to forward the copies of the last bridge loan provided by the borough to the FD for a similar equipment purchase. Mr. Stoeckle stated he will forward the provided drawings for the renovations to the borough engineer and building inspector for their input and guidance. Solicitor Anne Sweeney will assist with clarifying the loan process prior to any final decisions being made. Chief Maletick stated that a 15% down payment would be due the broker to hold the truck, and there is a 90 day warranty on the drive train.

Public Works – no report given

Quaker Valley COG

Mr. Wagner reported work continues on the recycling and waste committee with a survey on recycling. Hard-to-Recycle events and Recycling Centers are up for consideration as part of the new proposal. He also reported that Sewickley asked to re-enter the COG.

NEW BUSINESS

ACORD Park

Mayor Holcomb asked Kristin Bennett, Avonworth Municipal Authority, if there were any updates for the Park and their plans for Spring 2021. Ms. Bennett reported that they are currently operating on Winter hours and have furloughed the park manager for several months. Plans continue for opening the pool over the summer, and there is a wedding scheduled in March.

OLD BUSINESS

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Ms. Roggenkamp stated that following the passage of the Diversity & Inclusion resolution in November, a council committee was to be formed. She has had no response from council members to date, however she asks those that have an interest to serve on the committee to please contact her.

Climate Action Plan

Ms. Roggenkamp reported that work on the climate action plan continues and the intern continues to gather data for the report. She asked any council members interested in serving on this committee to contact her.

Traffic Signal Damage

Mr. Pipery reported a recent invoice from Traffic Systems in the amount of \$6,583.00 presented to the borough was paid and an invoice will be forwarded to West View Water's subcontractor for reimbursement. The contractor damaged the light while working in the area.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary