

BEN AVON BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2020
MINUTES

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a regular voting session on Tuesday, December 15, 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.

IN ATTENDANCE

Jennifer Bett, Henry Casale, Megan Dolan, Ken Opiery, Kara Roggenkamp, David Stoeckle, Rick Wagner

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Solicitor Anne Sweeney, Chief Joe Hanny, Chief Tom Maletick, Catherine Houska (JPC), Chris Cieslak (JPC), Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *there was no public participation*

BOROUGH REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hughes-Holcomb reported she met with several council members, community organization representatives and residents to formulate plans to celebrate the centennial of the Borough Hall.

Mayor Holcomb also thanked Chief Hanny for submitting data from the speed assessment on Dickson Avenue. As verified by the data, the majority of drivers are not exceeding the speed limit.

Police Report

Chief Hanny reported 42 calls last month. He also stated:

- Several cars in the borough have been tampered with and items removed from them. He asked that the Borough remind the residents to remove their valuables and lock their cars.
- A car left running at the minimart was taken while the owner was in the store. The police were able to quickly track the vehicle and return it to its owner.

Fire Department Report

Chief Maletick reported that Santa will be visiting the Borough on Friday, December 18 via the Ben Avon Fire Truck. Santa's visit will commence at 6:30 p.m. and he will not be stopping along the route in keeping with social distancing practices.

Chief Maletick also stated he will continue on as Chief for 2021, and the new Assistant Chief is John Otstot.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Anne Sweeney stated she continues to work on several ongoing issues for the Borough. With a recent change in employment, Ms. Sweeney asked council to consider changing the legal firm she will now be representing from Brimmeier to Colter & May.

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by voice vote to change the solicitor's firm from Brimmeier to Colter & May.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 council meeting as presented.

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Ms. Roggenkamp; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020 council work session as presented to council.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Statements

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by voice vote to accept the revenue and expense statement as presented for the month of November, 2020.

Accounts Payable

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the payment of invoices as presented in the amount of \$111,398.87 for the month of November.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee

Mr. Wagner reported a kick-off meeting was scheduled for the Borough Building Centennial celebration. The meeting was held using the Zoom platform with 17 attendees including those from the Avonworth Historical Society, Avon Club, QV COG and community representatives. Topics discussed centered on goals for building updates and determining the best course of action to achieve those goals.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Bett stated there were no new developments in the Communications Committee this month, however, the following data was shared:

- Allegheny county reported 1,024 new cases and 10 more deaths in the past 24 hours.
- Ben Avon Borough reported 51 total cases of 405 tested, and no deaths.

PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Stoeckle stated Council members should have received a copy of the monthly report from Harshman, LLC in their packet from the Borough office. There were no further comments or discussion.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Opiery reported Public Works is prepared for the pending snowstorm predicted for Wednesday and Thursday of this week. He also stated most all residents have been abiding by the notification of the end of leaf collection season and placing what leaves they now are collecting out with their trash.

Mrs. Roggenkamp shared an update on the local climate action plan presented to council several months ago. The work by the intern will continue into next semester.

QV COG

Mr. Wagner stated the next COG meeting for delegates will be held tomorrow, December 16, and will include an update by the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee as well as the next phase of the 65 Corridor study.

EMS REPORT

Mrs. Bett reported the quarterly meeting with Allegheny County was held last week and a 2020 update will be forthcoming. In March, a training for local government officials will be scheduled and information will be sent out when available. In addition, Mrs. Bett reported the county is preparing for the snow event this week.

NEW BUSINESS

Avon Club Addendum

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the lease addendum provided to the Avon Club for the upstairs hall rental.

OLD BUSINESS

2021 Budget

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the 2021 budget as submitted and duly advertised in the local newspaper.

Ordinance 790 - 2021 Tax Rate

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Ordinance 790, setting the methodology for establishing the 2021 tax rate based on the budget requirements and final assessed property values provided by Allegheny County in January.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Wagner; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary