



# Borough of Ben Avon

## Council Work Session

Minutes

October 5, 2021

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a working session on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, virtually 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, Kara Roggenkamp, David Stoeckle, Richard Wagner, Melanie Holcomb

Others Present: Terrie Patsch, Borough Secretary

### **PRESENTATION**

Patrick Connors, Executive Director, Quaker Valley COG

Mr. Connors took this opportunity to introduce himself as the new COG Executive Director and share some of the projects he is currently working on for the participating communities. He also demonstrated the OWL system which was used this evening to project and record the proceedings and he answered questions from Council about its applications.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

#### Administration

Mrs. Bett stated that the park reservation system has been a success, and the Administration Committee will review the process as well as considering reservation fees for 2022 as previously discussed.

Mrs. Bett reported the Fall Festival booth was a success and they received great community engagement.

Mayor Holcomb expressed a need for a line item in next year's budget for the production and distribution of the Borough newsletter.

Public Affairs/Communication – *no report given*

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – *no report given*

#### Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported the paving project is proceeding as scheduled. Mr. Regrut will perform some of the initial inspections. He stated the leaf collection will begin at the end of October as is customary. Notification to residents will be published in The Citizen, online on the website and on Facebook, as well as sent via Savvy Citizen.

#### QV COG

Mr. Connors reported the COG municipal participation is very high currently. He reminded Councilmembers of the Annual COG Dinner on October 20, and asked they visit the website for further details. Mr. Connors shared the gaming revenue sources grant deadline is October 22. The COG is wrapping up the pop-up glass events that were sponsored by the municipalities through 2021, and Mr. Connors reported working on a more permanent solution for 2022. In addition, he is working to coordinate a group tour of a recycling facility before the weather changes this year.

### Bicentennial Building Committee

Mr. Wagner shared a presentation of an initial design of the proposed new addition and renovations to the Borough Building. This design should provide a general understanding and scope of the work involved and the general costs.

### Climate Action Plan

Ms. Roggenkamp met with Catherine Houska (JPC) to review the draft plan and see how it is aligned with the Joint Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Roggenkamp states she will attend the Joint Planning Commission meeting next month.

## **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### Priorities for 2022

Ms. Bett reminded Council there is no work session in November due to the elections. With the budget discussions in mind, Ms. Bett planned to create a form for each Committee to complete with their thoughts on the 2022 budget necessities. Ms. Bett will discuss with Mr. Opiery for a timeline to submit requests and concerns on the 2022 funds.

### Working Sessions for 2022

Ms. Bett asked the Council their thoughts and opinions of reducing the number of work sessions in the coming year to perhaps every other month or quarterly. Mr. Wagner liked the "Topics for Discussion" format that they have been using throughout 2021.

### Halloween 2021

Ms. Holcomb reminded the Council that Trick or Treat will be on Sunday, October 31 in the Borough from 6 to 8 p.m. She will contact the Fire Department concerning the annual parade, which is a joint effort. Councilmembers were not in favor of the luncheon which they have sponsored in the past, due to COVID restrictions. Council will hand out treat bags again this year, and she is asking for Council members to assist with filling the bags.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Mr. Wagner

**Second:** Ms. Roggenkamp

**Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Terrie Patsch*

Borough Secretary