



Borough of Ben Avon

Council Work Session

Minutes

December 7, 2021

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue. President Jennifer Bett presided and opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Council Members Absent: Kara Roggenkamp

Others Present: Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Solicitor Anne Sweeney, and Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Katelyn Shearer, Brighton Rd.

Ms. Shearer stated she was very surprised and angry with Council's action to subcontract the Borough fire service to Emsworth. She felt there was not warning to the residents, and the only information she received was through the official press release. Ms. Bett stated that Council members worked over a year to resolve ongoing issues and establish a working service agreement and lease with the Ben Avon VFC representatives and were unsuccessful. Mr. Wagner pointed out that much of the discussion involved contracts and leases which are reserved for Executive Session. Mayor Holcomb also pointed out that the decision is a very important part of what Council does and after a year of discussion, it was felt that remaining with the current service was not in the best interest of the safety of the Borough.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Report

Mr. Wagner stated that the residents will need updated of the change to weekly recycling for 2022.

Public Safety & Code Enforcement – *no report given*

Public Works

Mr. Pipery reported the leaf box is off the truck, and the loader has been dismantled as leaf collection is complete for 2021. Unfortunately, there are still reports of residents raking leaves to the streets, and Mr. Pipery has talked to Ohio Township Police to have them address violators and have them notified to bag their debris. Residents need to be aware that the leaves clog the stormwater system. He reminded residents that one pass of collecting leaves on the 22 miles of Borough streets takes more than one day to accomplish, therefore once the truck passes a street that last week of November, they are not able to circle back.

Quaker Valley COG

Mr. Wagner reported a meeting is upcoming this week, but nothing further at this time.

Centennial Building Committee

Mr. Wagner stated he will have an update at the upcoming Council meeting. He will be meeting with someone on Wednesday, December 8 to discuss details of an ADA passenger lift for the Borough Hall.

Climate Action Plan

Mrs. Bett reported for Mrs. Roggenkamp that the energy audit will take place at the Borough properties on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2022 Work Session Schedule and Topics

Mrs. Bett led the discussion with council of their thoughts on holding the work session meetings either quarterly or bi-monthly. Those present decided to hold the meetings every other month, beginning with the reorganization meeting in January. Mr. Wagner agreed that designating a topic to discuss for each work session remains a good idea, and Mayor Holcomb suggested council members send a list of topics they would like to address. A tentative schedule of dates will be emailed to council for their review and suggestions.

2022 Committee Structure

Mr. Wagner asked Council to consider the standing committees for the coming year and how they would like to structure them going forward into 2022. Mrs. Bett asked the solicitor, Anne Sweeney, if there were any committees that were required, and she stated she would at least retain the current committees. She stated Council was at liberty to add more if necessary. Mr. Wagner asked that Council bring their committee suggestions to the next meeting for discussion as well as a list of key accomplishments they would like to note from 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *There was no Executive Session*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Wagner; **Second:** Mr. Opiery; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary