



# Borough of Ben Avon

## Council Work Session

### Minutes

March 1, 2022

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue. President Richard Wagner presided and opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Council Members Present: Jennifer Bett, Russell Kuehner, Ken Opiery, Kara Roggenkamp, Jim Thornton, Richard Wagner, Tavia Washington

Others Present: Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Solicitor Daniel Conlon, and Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – *there was no public participation*

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Administration Report

Ms. Bett reported the first request for 2022 park pavilion rental was recently received. Mayor Holcomb also stated she received an inquiry from the same resident in regard to having a food truck serving their guests. She stated there was no reason that the food truck would not be allowed. Solicitor Conlon will send a sample food truck ordinance to council for their review.

Ms. Bett asked Public Works the status of her request to replace the locks at the Borough building and issue new keys. She would like to go forward with the plans to replace the locks.

#### Public Affairs

Ms. Bett stated Ms. Roggenkamp had a working sample of newsletter for the next edition and asked that all Committee members submit their articles as soon as possible. Mr. Wagner asked if there would be an insert in the newsletter outlining the shared public service providers and their contributions to the community. Mr. Opiery stated he would like to include some educational information concerning stormwater management. Mr. Opiery and Mr. Kuehner also composed a brief note concerning the financial outlook for the Borough and the decrease in milage rate for 2022.

### Finance

Mr. Opiery noted that in the coming weeks steps will be taken to perform the annual transfer of money from the General checking account to the Capital Reserve account in preparation for upcoming capital projects.

### Public Safety

Mr. Wagner reported the Public Safety Committee met last month with Harshman and the Borough Secretary is working with the company to update records. He also asked that the Communications Committee remember to continue to promote locking vehicles in the Borough as there have been thefts reported.

### Public Works

Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Opiery to confirm the need for tables and general clean up in the building housing the upcoming primary elections. Mr. Opiery responded he will work with Public Works to confirm the tables, however some may need to be replaced. Mr. Wagner also asked if the employees of the coffee shop could park in a designated area behind the building and if the unused spots across from the coffee shop could be made available for additional customer and resident parking. Mr. Opiery noted that while the situation may be temporary, he did not see a problem with granting both requests.

### Community of Governments

Mr. Wagner stated that he agreed to be part of the 65 Corridor Committee following the recent study that was done. Ms. Washington reported that the glass recycling center will open March 12, and the COG will cover the first three months expenses.

### Sustainability

Ms. Roggenkamp reported the Committee met this weekend. Mr. Thornton stated that an idea was developed to perhaps have a workshop featuring an arborist to share with folks the care of trees throughout the Borough.

## **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### Gaming Grant

Mr. Wagner reported that work continues on the designs for the changes to the Borough building, and Ms. Cieslak is assisting with these.

### Park Project

Mr. Wagner stated the survey is still on the website and will remain there for the time being. He stated there is also a local Boy Scout looking to do a project, and Mayor Hughes-Holcomb asked if it could be tied into an Earth Day event.

### North Borough's Community Day Support

Mr. Wagner asked Council if they were willing to again support the fireworks display, and all agreed to resume the Borough's donation.

Speed Control in the Borough

Mr. Thornton inquired if there was anything that could be done to curtail speeding on the Borough streets. He asked if there could be some form of electronic surveillance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *To discuss potential litigation*

**Motion:** Mr. Thornton; **Second:** Mr. Kuehner; **Motion Carried** to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

**Motion:** Ms. Bett; **Second:** Mr. Thornton; **Motion Carried** to adjourn Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Mr. Thornton; **Second:** Ms. Washington; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch  
Borough Secretary