



Borough of Ben Avon

Council Work Session

April 5, 2022

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue. President Richard Wagner presided and opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Council Members Absent: Russell Kuehner

Others Present: Solicitor Daniel Conlon, and Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *There was no public participation*

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administration Committee

Mrs. Bett reported that the Administration Committee is currently considering dates and plans for several upcoming holidays. She plans to coordinate with Mayor Holcomb to discuss the details for Memorial Day and select a date for Deck the Borough Hall in December.

Mrs. Bett reported that a new wi-fi password will be enacted soon and will be in place the coming month. She reminded council to turn in their Statement of Financial Interest to the Borough office.

Public Affairs

Mrs. Bett reported that cat complaints by a resident have been received in the Borough office, and the Committee is working on improved communications with all residents on adhering to the Domestic Pet Ordinance. In addition, Mrs. Bett is working with the printing company to confirm a cost quote for the newsletter before sending it over for print and distribution. Ms. Bett will post the online version once the Bulletin has gone to print.

Finance Committee

Mr. Opipery shared a spreadsheet documenting the Capital Reserve funds for the Borough. His sheet reflected tracking and forecasting past spending on major projects. The funds in this account are used to maintain and repair storm and sanitary sewers and pay for each year's road

project. With careful planning, the Borough can fund these projects without incurring debt and saving the Borough loan interest. In 2022 Mr. Opiery plans on a transfer of over \$500,000 to the Capital account enabling a retaining wall repair on Brighton Road, the planned paving of Borough streets and repairs to the building at 7221 Church Avenue.

Public Safety

Mr. Wagner reported that the recently hired code technician from Harshman that was working in Ben Avon has resigned. His duties are being assumed by a co-worker for the time being. The Borough Secretary will follow-up on outstanding items.

Mr. Wagner also reported that of the two vehicles owned by the Borough, the pumper had been of interest to Kennedy Township. He stated that they made an offer of \$40,000, and with Council's approval, would like to assure them that the sale can take place. Solicitor Conlon requested a purchase agreement be drawn up and the sale added to the agenda for the April voting meeting.

Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported that Public Works staff are working to clean the warehouse building in preparation for the upcoming elections. He stated that some tables are there, but chairs will need to be purchased.

Community of Governments

Mr. Wagner stated that the delegate's meeting will be later this month. He reported going to the new glass recycling location in Sewickley, and from appearances it seems to be very active. He and Ms. Washington have asked to be added to the Rt. 65 Corridor Committee. Ms. Washington reported that at today's meeting, the members were breaking up into smaller groups that can go out to the municipalities to meet and exchange ideas.

Sustainability

Ms. Roggenkamp reported that there has not been anything of note on this Committee as she has been focused on the newsletter. She reported a recent conversation concerning the energy assessments, and her need to reply with feedback. She stated that having information in the newsletter will enable more outreach to the residents.

Special Projects

Centennial Building Project

Mr. Wagner reported a designer will tour the Borough building tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. to observe the windows and roof of the building. It is a requirement for the grant that the historic nature of the building be preserved.

Park Project

Mr. Wagner stated that the survey currently on the Ben Avon website will remain until after the newsletter has been distributed to the residents. The link was also shared with Kilbuck Township for distribution to their residents for comments.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

May Council Meeting Conflict

Mrs. Bett reported that a conflict for the May council meeting and the primary election on the same night. Council agreed to keep the meeting on the date advertised.

2022 Events

Mrs. Bett is going to table the discussion until she has an opportunity to speak with Mayor Holcomb.

Polling needs for May's Election

Mrs. Bett conferred with Mr. Regrut on the situation at the polling location and feels that between what is there and what is offered by Allegheny County, there should be no problem. Mr. Pipery stated that there are plans for Mr. Regrut to purchase chairs from Sam's Club for use next month.

Emergency Operations Plan – See Attachment "A"

Mrs. Bett, Emergency Operations Coordinator, shared the EOP required of each municipality. This plan, once approved, will be signed by all members of Council. Mrs. Bett reviewed the slide presentation, attached, and asked council members to review the plan prior to the April voting session. Once signed, it will go to the County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Thornton; **Second:** Ms. Washington; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

Motion: Mr. Thornton; **Second:** Ms. Bett; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. .

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Washington; **Second:** Mr. Thornton; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary