



## Borough of Ben Avon

Council Work Session

May 3, 2022

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 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 Opipery, Kara Roggenkamp, Jim Thornton, Richard Wagner, Tavia Washington, Melanie Hughes-Holcomb

Others Present: Solicitor Daniel Conlon, Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

#### Administration Committee

Ms. Bett reminded the council to return their completed Statement of Financial Interest forms to the Borough office prior to May 1. In addition, she reminded all members to be wary of spam emails that may appear in their Borough email accounts.

Public Affairs – *there was no report this month*

#### Finance

Mr. Opipery noted that there was evidence of fraudulent checks without proper signatures being cashed against the General Fund checking account in the month of April. There were eight checks presented and a police report was filed immediately. Ohio Township Police are currently investigating the theft. A Positive Pay option was added to the account, which monitors any incoming checks and requires Borough approval prior to releasing the money. Mr. Kuehner and Mrs. Patsch will monitor the account and approve checks for payment each day. In the long term, Council will need to consider either opening a new account with the same bank or moving all accounts to another banking institution.

#### Public Safety

Mr. Wagner stated that Code Enforcement was currently investigating a few ongoing ordinance violations. Although attempts to improve communications with Harshman continue, Mrs. Patsch is working to have a response concerning the violations from them prior to the regular council

meeting. Mr. Wagner also asked the solicitor if there was a response as to when the former fire company were able to pick up their items left behind in the building. Mr. Conlon stated there has not yet been a date set.

### Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported that bids were opened last Thursday on the road paving project for 2022, and there were 3 bids submitted. One of the bids, however, did not include the alternative options therefore disqualifying it. The low bid was from the contractor that did the last two years' road work, however the final tabulation from Gateway has not been received. Mr. Opiery reported there will be another opening this Thursday, May 5, for the Brighton Road retaining wall project. He stated that the Public Works committee will meet next week and bring the recommendations from the engineer before the council for action.

### Community of Governments

Mr. Wagner reported that the COG (Councils of Governments) tour of Waste Management recycling facility is scheduled for tomorrow. Ms. Washington reported there is a flagger training course available for Public Works scheduled for the end of May. Although there were no complaints on the salt supply problem reported by Public Works at the last meeting, Mr. Conners did agree some also had similar concerns that were reported on other occasions. It was suggested that someone reach out to SHACOG via email to see if there are other options available.

### Sustainability

Mrs. Roggenkamp reported recently seeing a post for candidate Summer Lee mentioning a clean air funds grant for air quality improvement programs. She felt it warranted further investigation. Mrs. Roggenkamp and Mr. Thornton will discuss this at the next committee meeting.

### Special Projects

#### Centennial Building Project

Mr. Wagner reported on a meeting last week with detailed design information on the window and roof improvements. He will share the drawings with Mr. Regrut for his input. Mr. Wagner noted that the roof options may include replacement tiles or material that resembles slate. In addition, design work continues for the Borough building elevator.

#### Park Project

Mr. Wagner noted that the survey that was on the Borough website can now be removed. There were 72 responses, and he received 47 emails from folks who expressed interest in participating on the committee. He plans to schedule a meeting soon.

## **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### Joint Planning Commission Solicitor

Mr. Wagner reported that the JPC, which represents the three boroughs of Avalon, Ben Avon, and Bellevue, is given the option to have their solicitor serve with the Commission on a rotating basis. In recent years, Ben Avon has elected to pass. According to a recent letter and Avalon ordinance, Avalon has taken their option to place Tucker Arensberg beginning this July. Mr. Wagner expressed concerns with the tone of the correspondence from Avalon in that there seemed to be some underlying issue. His concern is for the three representatives from Ben Avon and their ongoing service to the community. Mr. Wagner will attend the next JPC meeting to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Ms. Bett; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch  
Borough Secretary