



Borough of Ben Avon

Council Work Session

June 7, 2022

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 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 Pipery, Kara Roggenkamp, Richard Wagner, Tavia Washington, Melanie Hughes-Holcomb

Council Members Absent: Jim Thornton

Others Present: Solicitor Daniel Conlon, Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *there was no public participation*

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Henry Wagner, Eagle Scout Candidate

Mr. Wagner presented his proposal to Council outlining his plans to do maintenance on the trail at Avon Park.

Mr. Patrick Martin & Mr. Martin Stahly, Wilson Engineering

Representatives from Wilson Engineering reviewed the results and recommendations of the energy audit they performed on the Borough Building, Public Works Garage and EMS/Coffee Shop building.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administration Committee

Ms. Bett and Mr. Kuehner reported they have been reviewing and updating the Borough fee schedule. She is hoping to have something for Council to review at the July meeting. Under consideration are adding a fee for dye tests, and reservation of the park pavilion as well as reviewing current fees which have not been updated in recent years. Mr. Kuehner and Ms. Bett hope to have a draft in the next few months for Council's approval.

Public Affairs – *there was no report given*

Finance

Mr. Pipery reported on the status of the fraud discovered several weeks ago on the General Fund and Capital Reserve accounts held at Northwest Bank. Both check fraud and ACH funds transfer fraud were reported. The Capital Reserve account has been frozen, and the General Fund had the addition of a Positive Pay feature which is monitored by both Mr. Kuehner and Mrs. Patsch on a daily basis. There are several outstanding checks that have not been reimbursed by Northwest at this time, and Mr. Pipery reports he has reached out to the branch to get an update on that status. Mr. Pipery recommended that the Borough leave the current bank and reported that Mr. Kuehner and Ms. Patsch have met with two other financial institutions that have offered proposals and the Finance Committee approved Dollar Bank as the new depository for the Borough. A meeting is scheduled with Dollar Bank to begin the transition process.

Public Safety

Mr. Wagner reported that the large tree that was causing concern on Brighton Avenue has been removed. He also stated that the overgrown grass on the corner of Church and Breeding has been cut following recent complaints. The fence remains pending the zoning permit review.

Public Works

Mr. Wagner reported that the fire station garage door openers were returned to Public Works. He stated that the pick-up of the remainder of the fire company's belongings is pending. Also, a third party may be interested in the pool table left by the fire department when they vacated the building. Mr. Wagner stated he was approached by representatives wanting to place a cell tower for Verizon on one of the Borough properties. He will reach out to those contacts and inform them that there is no Council support based on current zoning ordinances.

Community of Governments

Ms. Washington noted a recent email from the COG requesting all participating Boroughs pass a resolution agreeing to the financial support of the two new glass recycling locations. She asked that the resolution be added to the June agenda for a vote. In addition, Ms. Washington asked that more information be shared with the public regarding the glass recycling procedures.

At the most recent meeting of the COG delegates, Ms. Washington reported the SHACOG will have a survey regarding salt contracts for completion by the municipalities. Mr. Pipery stated he would discuss this with Mr. Regrut and they will complete the survey.

Ms. Washington also stated that there is an upcoming cyber security webinar that will be free to participants through the COG and PSAB. More information will be forthcoming.

Sustainability – *there was no report given*

Special Projects

Centennial Building Project

Mr. Wagner reported on the committee met two weeks ago to review detailed designs protecting the historic aspects of the building as required by the county. The new window plans include removal of the window, leaving the current casing. The county also must approve the designs in the works for the roof, which is delaying the progress. Mr. Wagner stated the initial mock-up of the proposed elevator reflects the return to placement in the corner of the Borough Council room. He also noted the Avon Club awarded the Borough a \$3000 grant for replacement of the kitchen appliances in the upper floor of the building, and he thanked the Avon Club President, Tavia Washington, for the grant on behalf of the Borough.

Park Project

Mr. Wagner reported Henry Wagner, Eagle Scout candidate, would be kicking off the park improvements with a project in the coming months to clean up the trail. In the coming weeks, he would like to review the survey results with the residents that have shown an interest in park improvements, including improving accessibility on the trail, which the cleanup should help.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – *there were no other topics for discussion*

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION *to discuss potential litigation*

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion: Ms. Bett; **Second:** Mr. Kuehner; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting to executive session at 8:49 p.m.

MOTION TO RETURN

Motion: Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Ms. Bett; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the executive session and return to the regular meeting at 9:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Bett; **Second:** Mr. Kuehner; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting to executive session at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary

