



Borough of Ben Avon

Council Work Session

September 6, 2022

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 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, Richard Wagner, Tavia Washington, Jim Thornton

Council Members Absent: Kara Roggenkamp

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *there was no public participation*

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administration Committee

Mrs. Bett reported that the Administration Committee discussed the upcoming Fall Festival on September 25 and confirmed that the Council will have a table out in front of the Borough Building. She asked for volunteers from the Council to staff the table in 1-to-2-hour shifts. She stated she would pass around a sign-up paper for those interested in participating.

Ms. Bett also confirmed the Halloween Parade will be on October 29, and she asked for help in filling the treat bags for participants. Mayor Holcomb had confirmed with the Community Presbyterian Church that the parade route may again end in front of the church, and the treat bags can be passed out from there.

Public Affairs

Mrs. Bett stated that she is beginning the search for a new website vendor to assume the duties of maintaining the site for next year.

Finance – *no report given*

Public Safety

Mr. Wagner stated that discussions are ongoing with Harshman and the Borough Secretary to improve the communication and documentation system. Mr. Wagner asked the Solicitor what the recourse was for property owners who do not respond to the registration/inspection request required by Ordinance every three years.

Mr. Wagner also noted that he spoke with the property manager on Church Avenue with that is the subject of the fence complaints. The owner is working to rent the property, however, has continued issues with neighbors parking on the lot. It is an ongoing concern, and they are concerned with liability issues as well and folks who do not respect the “No Parking” signs.

Mr. Pipery asked if there was any report on the house on Park Avenue with the roof issues, and Mr. Wagner replied that code enforcement continues to investigate.

Public Works

Mr. Pipery reported that the Borough Secretary is preparing to send letters to residents that will be affected by the upcoming road project. Before that can take place, however, Mr. Pipery and Mr. Regrut will meet with the engineer to discuss a proposed change.

Mr. Pipery also reported that Mr. Regrut is currently researching folding tables to replace those removed when the fire company disbursed. These tables were donated by the Avon Club and are needed for the upcoming Fall Festival as well as for upcoming elections.

In addition, Mr. Pipery noted that there was an exceptionally large hornet’s nest near the EMS/Coffee Shop building that will need to be removed immediately. He also stated that the traffic light at Rt. 65 and Brighton Road may need replaced.

Mr. Pipery then reported that to proceed with the Brighton wall project, several large trees would need to be removed. Duquesne light projected the cost for them to remove the trees would be near \$14,000. Mr. Pipery and Mr. Regrut plan to have another company remove the trees in question.

Community of Governments

Mr. Wagner reported a recent email from Mr. Conners, Quaker Valley COG (Councils of Governments), which explained a GDEF grant opening that may be appropriate for the Borough to submit.

Mr. Wagner also spoke with a member of Emsworth Council who would like to meet with several members of Ben Avon Council and discuss the possibility of collaborating on several shared services.

Sustainability – *there was no report given*

Special Projects

Centennial Building Project

Mr. Wagner noted that a meeting will be held next Monday evening. He stated that the committee is moving forward on the bidding process for Phase I.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Cell Tower

Mr. Wagner stated that following discussions with the company representing the proposed cell tower they would like to construct on 7219 Church Avenue building, there were many discrepancies, and he did not feel the information provided was accurate. In addition, the construction could potentially be in violation of several Borough ordinances. More information could be provided in a more formal proposal if one is presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *there was no executive session*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Mr. Thornton; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary