



Borough of Ben Avon

7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, PA 15202
phone 412-766-7704 • fax 412-766-7311

Council Work Session
December 6, 2022

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue. Vice President Jennifer Bett presided and opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present: Jennifer Bett, Russell Kuehner, Kara Roggenkamp, Jim Thornton

Council Members Absent: Ken Opiery, Richard Wagner, Tavia Washington

Others Present: Mayor Melanie Holcomb

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Mike Metz, Avonworth Wrestling

Representatives from the Avonworth Wrestling program asked for the Council to consider allowing them to rent the warehouse at 7219 Church Avenue for their practice space three evenings a week through the middle of March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Bett commented on the Christmas decorations on the outside of the Borough Hall and thanked the Mayor and Ms. Roggenkamp for their efforts. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming Holiday event for staff and volunteers.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Bett noted that she continues to research advertising options in the new year with the *Citizen* no longer publishing print copies. Ms. Roggenkamp stated that Representative Venkat should be made aware of this developing problem when he visits next week.

Ms. Bett reported she had two quotes for website design and maintenance for consideration, and a meeting will be held tomorrow at Pitt to outline their graduate student's proposal.

FINANCE- *no update given*



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Thornton requested the councilmember's input on the procedure for rental property inspections in the Borough which are required every three years. After some discussion, it was agreed that:

- the initial letters wording would be reviewed for clarity,
- all letters would now go certified mail to the property owner,
- If the property owner challenges the designation of rental, a form will be provided that would need notarized. This form must be reviewed by the Solicitor before distributing it to property owners.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Roggenkamp reported that the leak from Western Avenue into a local business continues to be an issue. Alcosan has been involved, and more camera work was completed. It is potentially a large repair expense for the Borough in the new year.

In addition, Ms. Roggenkamp noted that the updated GIS (Geographic Information System) software will be required in the new year and estimates for the upgrade should be between \$5,000 - \$7,000.

COG (Councils of Governments) – *no report given*

SUSTAINABILITY

Ms. Roggenkamp referenced a recent email forwarded by the Borough Office to all the Council members concerning a meeting this Friday with Pittsburgh CONNECT. She reports she will attend this meeting.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – *no report given*

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

FEE SCHEDULE

Ms. Bett stated the proposed fee schedule will be on the agenda December 13 and should take effect in January 2023. She led a review and discussion of the various fees, including the zoning hearing fees, commercial and group home inspections, charges to reserve the park pavilion and the room in the upper floor of the Borough Hall.

2023 BUDGET REVIEW

There were no questions or comments concerning the proposed budget.



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7219 CHURCH AVENUE PROPERTY

Mayor Holcomb asked if the use of the warehouse building as a rental was decided or should the conversation include the possibility of a sale of the property. She noted that the Borough has no current use of the building and questioned the use of the Borough resources to maintain the property. Ms. Roggenkamp stated that if the property were to be considered for sale, all pros and cons would need to be considered.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Thornton; **SECOND:** Mr. Kuehner; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary