

Borough of Ben Avon

Council Work Session

September 5, 2023

Minutes

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a regular voting session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, and at 7101 Church Avenue for the purpose of transacting General Business. President Richard Wagner opened the meeting at 7:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those Present

Jennifer Bett, Russell Kuehner, Kara Roggenkamp, Rick Wagner, Tavia Washington

Those Absent

Ken Opiery, Jim Thornton

Others Present

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Solicitor Daniel Conlon, Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *there was no public participation.*

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administration Committee

Ms. Bett stated she plans to reach out to Avon Club representatives regarding the need for a table for the upcoming Fall Festival. She will circulate a sign-up sheet to council members asking them to volunteer on that day. In addition, help may be needed at the end of the day to tear down the display.

Public Affairs/Communication Committee

Ms. Bett reported that the Fall edition of the Borough newsletter should be on the way to residents. Ms. Roggenkamp asked about the status of the new website, and Ms. Bett stated she is waiting for an update from CivicsPlus.

Finance – *no report*

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – *no report*

Public Works – *no report*

Council of Governments

Mr. Wagner noted that following last month's delegate meeting, information on emergency notification services information was forwarded to Ms. Bett. Ms. Bett stated while that was out of

the Borough's budget, there may be other local communities that would be interested in a group plan. Mr. Wagner stated that several other COG municipalities expressed an interest, and he would bring it to the next delegate meeting. Mayor Holcomb said that there is a county-wide system for major emergencies, however that would not be particular to Ben Avon. She noted that Ohio Township Police formerly included that in their services but cancelled the plan due to cost prior to the Swift company going out of business.

Sustainability

Ms. Roggenkamp stated she was informed that a possible solar developer came and inspected the roof of the Borough properties, however the Borough was not notified of the visit. She has reached out to see if another visit is required. She also reported that CONNECT legislative dinner next week. In addition, there is an EV information session that will be held in October and a Green Building Alliance event which will include Inflation Reduction Act funding. She is working to learn all she can about funding opportunities.

Building Project

Mr. Wagner reported there was a meeting held this morning to discuss the building remodeling schedule. He stated the windows are in, however Pella is having some issues and they are confident they can be installed by the 30th. Mr. Regrut had some concerns on the window sill width, and there was discussion on the paint color. The project should be completed prior to the Fall Festival.

The roof project will start next week and take approximately two weeks. It should not hinder the use of the building. The contractor will now include the flashing; however, the gutters were not included in the bid. They will inspect the gutters as they complete the roof and repair them as necessary. There will be an estimate of cost associated provided.

Mr. Wagner stated they are moving onto Phase II of the elevator project, and they are considering an elevator vs. a lift as it would be less of an expense. An assessment is underway and should be done in the next month. The Committee is hoping to have a budget and specifications out for bid by the end of the year.

Halloween Parade

Ms. Holcomb stated she was in contact with Northwest EMS, and they were happy to have the parade end at the building this year.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Kuehner; **Second:** Ms. Bett; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. to discuss a contract matter.

RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

Motion: Ms. Roggenkamp; **Second:** Ms. Bett; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to return to the General Session at 8:03 p.m.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion: Ms. Bett; Second: Ms. Washington; Motion Carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary