

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – May 17, 2016
Minutes

Call to Order

Council President Earl Bohn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Julian Wynnyckyj, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Earl Bohn, Philip Brind'Amour, Brad Cole, Ken Opiery

Council Members absent - None

Others Present

Anne Sweeney, Solicitor
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman
Lisa Cronin, Secretary
Norbert Micklos; Chief; Ohio Township Police Department
Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire

Public Participation –

Speaking on behalf of most of the businesses, Mr. John Kicher from Kicher Duplicating Services located at 7117 Church Avenue and Mr. Jimmy Viscusi from Jimmy V's Hair Styling at 7115 Church Avenue spoke to council regarding the lack of parking in front of their establishments on Church Avenue. The result of decreased parking became an issue ever since a new company moved in across the street. According to them, four to six parking spaces belonging to employees are parked on Church Avenue every business day, contributing to the parking congestion. The result has been decreased parking available for their customers and the customers and patients at other businesses located in the block. Mr. Viscusi said customers have called him and said they drove by his business and could not find a place to park, so they were not able to stop in. Mr. Kicher and Mr. Viscusi were looking for council to provide some help in resolving this issue. Council member Ken Opiery said that parking along that stretch of Church Avenue has a two-hour limit during the daytime hours for allowing people to park for the businesses. He also heard that the doctor's office has had problems with patients being inconvenienced by a lack of parking spaces. Mr. Kicher said he has talked to the new tenants and they parked elsewhere for a while, but a few days later the cars would be back on Church Avenue. Council member Julian Wynnyckyj questioned if this was a "law enforcement issue". Mr. Kicher said the police have also talked with them, with the same results. Council president Earl Bohn asked Mr. Viscusi and Mr. Kicher to lead the way by parking elsewhere themselves. Council member Richard White noted that the dentist office employees park on adjoining streets. Council asked Police Chief Beaver Micklos to spread the word or send letters that if the employees did not start parking somewhere else, parking tickets will begin to show up.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Brind'Amour; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the Regular April 19, 2016. Mr. Bohn abstained.

Financial Report - Report given by Mr. White, Co-Chair

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the April 2016 reports as presented. Mr. White reported that the reconciliation for last month has been corrected and there is another one this month for \$2,000.00 which was not booked appropriately. We know what happened, and we know why that happened and it will be corrected. Finally, we are audited every year and are required to post a summary of the audit in the newspaper which we use The Citizen. Mr. White wanted to note that the Statement for Revenue & Expense for the year ending December 31, 2015 shows a deficit of \$400,000.00 and wanted to make clear that we are showing that because one; we transferred money from our General Fund to our Capital Reserve which is counted as an expense and two; that we spent money that we had on hand from previous years for capital purposes. So it is not like we are \$400,000.00 in the hole, we really are not. It is the Accountants way of accounting for transfers and monies and saved up monies spent in previous years. We actually ran a surplus last year. We are not \$400,000.00 in the hole. Mr. White just wanted to make that clear. Mr. Pipery added that they are not showing any activity in the Capital Reserve. We have that savings account that we tap into and that we pay bills for and that is not reflected in the numbers that Mr. White pointed out.

Accounts Payable - Report given by Mr. Pipery, Co-Chair

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the April 2016 accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$22,856.47 from the general account with the addition of \$9,181.77 of standard bills that were back-dated. Mr. White wanted to update council that the March 2015 General Fund balance has been corrected. Mr. White also said that the General Fund for March 2016 is out of balance by \$689.45. Again, there was a technical error and they are working to correct the input error.

Administration Report –Report given by Mr. White

Mr. White has been our QVCOG delegate for the last two and half years and is requesting to be relieved of his post. Council accepted his resignation. Council member Julian Wynnyckyj was the alternate member and will participate on behalf of the borough.

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission Report – No Report

Public Works Report – Report given by Mr. Pipery

Motion: Mr. Pipery; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the lowest bid for the 2016 Road Paving Project by A. Liberoni for \$272,675.00, a bid that came in much lower than anticipated. Woodland Avenue, Merton Road and upper Dickson Avenue are scheduled for repairs this summer and the plan is for the work to be done in June and July and finished by August. All the work is to be done by A. Liberoni with no subcontracting. Mr. Pipery will ask Gateway Engineers to be Project Engineer with additional support on Sewer

and Storm Water work. Borough Engineer, Ed Magee will provide back up support. Mr. Opipery also noted that the salt contract has been accepted by Cargill, Inc.

Mr. Opipery, Dale Regrut and Ed Magee recently met with ALCOSAN regarding our regional sewers. Parts of our sewers are being turned over to ALCOSAN and the meeting was to go over what is going to happen coming up. Mr. Opipery wanted to confirm that we are on their list to inspect our sewers.

Mr. Opipery communicated to council that the borough is working diligently to inform and remind residents that anything on the streets can make its way to the boroughs sewer system. The borough wants to make sure the residents are aware of their impact on the environment and to therefore be careful when performing activities that will have a negative impact on our water supply. The borough is active in helping educate the community by posting information on the borough's web site, the bulletin board outside of the borough hall and enlisting other organizations such as scouts to help in getting the word out on protecting our water supply.

Public Safety / Code Enforcement Report –*Report given by Mr. Wrbas*

Public Affairs Report – *Report given by Mr. Brind"Amour*

Property Revitalization / Building and Properties – *Report given by Mr. Wynnyckyj*

Mayor's Report – *No Report*

Police Chief's Report – *No Report*

Fire Chief's Report – *No Report*

Solicitor's Report – *Report given by Anne Sweeney*

New Business

Code Enforcement of Garbage Cans and Sidewalks (Ordinance 613)

Council members agreed they need more time to review the ordinance.

Old Business

Ordinance 550 and 576

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to advertise Ordinance No. 776, repealing ordinances 550 and 576. Solicitor volunteered to draft the new ordinance and advertise.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Cronin

Borough Secretary