

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – June 19, 2018
Minutes

Call to Order

President, Jennifer Bett, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Jennifer Bett, Earl Bohn, Michele Boyd, Henry Casale, Megan Dolan, and Ken Opiery, David Stoeckle

Council Members Absent

Others Present

Melanie Holcomb, Mayor
Anne Sweeney, Esq., Solicitor
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman
James Rupert, Chief, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department
Joe Hanny, Chief, Ohio Township Police Department
Theresa Patsch, Ben Avon Borough Secretary

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mr. Bohn; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2018 meeting.

Approval of Pre-Council Minutes

Motion: Mr. Bohn; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018 Pre-Council meeting.

Financial Report - Report given by Ken Opiery

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the financial reports as presented for May 2018.

Motion: Mr. Opiery; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the accounts payables for \$101,684.90 for May 2018.

Administration Report –

Motion: Mr. Bohn; Second: Ms. Boyd; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Theresa Patsch, Borough Secretary, as the Right to Know Officer.

Motion: Mr. Bohn; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve naming Theresa Patsch, Borough Secretary, as Tax Collector and directing her to deputize Jordan Tax Service as the collecting agent.

Earl Bohn reported the draft of the auditor findings on the 2017 financial activity is awaiting comments from the Borough – he will discuss with Finance Chair Ken Opiery and respond to complete the audit.

Public Affairs / Communications Report – Report given by President Jennifer Bett

Jennifer Bett reported that while the release of the new website is close, the current website up to date with changes. Ms. Bett, Mayor Melanie Holcomb, and the Borough Secretary will plan a meeting to discuss social media content and parameters.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement Report–Report given by David Stoeckle

Mr. Stoeckle reported that the property owners at 176 Ridge were sent a letter requesting they trim overgrown hedges, and he will take an opportunity to check on the progress and report back to council.

Earl Bohn stated that he is following a rental property off Park Avenue on Oak Way that was reported to throw trash, glass, and prescription drugs out of the upper floor windows. The property changed hands three years ago, and became a Section 8 subsidized property last year.

Earl Bohn also reported visiting a property on Berringer Place that burned in 2016 and has been in disarray since the incident. A neighboring resident reported the problem and the possible ordinance violations and would like direction from council. Earl is currently following up on this and will report his findings.

Mr. Bohn requested a meeting with BIU to review the 2015 agreement and has not had a response to date.

Public Works Report – Report given by Ken Opiery

See Attachment A.

Quaker Valley COG Report – Report Given by Megan Dolan

Megan Dolan reported a working meeting will be held at the Ben Avon Borough building tomorrow night. There is ongoing discussion as to the financial viability of the COG. Ms. Dolan did not have any insight as to the withdrawal of Sewickley from the QV COG at this time.

Mayor’s Report – Report given by Melanie Holcomb

Please see Attachment B.

Police Chief’s Report – Report Given by Chief Joe Hanny

Chief Hanny did not have any unusual reports concerning the police calls for the month of May. The Chief reminded everyone that soliciting season is upon us and the registered solicitors should have a permit on them and present them to homeowners upon request.

Fire Chief’s Report - Report given by James Rupert.

Solicitor’s Report

Anne Sweeney discussed the three pending ordinances addressing short term rentals, parking and signage put forth by the Joint Planning Commission. Michael Kurela and John Busse were present to answer questions, and instructions will be forthcoming as to the procedure for adopting these in the Borough.

Old Business

Contracts

Henry Casale reported that the Comcast contract does not expire for another 4 years, therefore there will be no proposal at this time. Mr. Cohen will do a proposal for audit only.

Business Cards/Letterhead

With the agreement at last month's council meeting to purchase business cards for Melanie Holcomb, Jennifer Bett, Dale Regrut, and Theresa Patsch, prototypes were distributed for review.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Motion: Kenneth Opipery, Jr.; Second: Earl Bohn; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to executive session at 8:38 p.m.

Adjournment from Executive Session

Motion: Kenneth Opipery; Second: Earl Bohn; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn executive session at 8:58 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Bohn; Second: Mr. Stoeckle ; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch

Ben Avon Borough Secretary

Utilities:

- a) West View Water
 - 1) Brighton Rd.
 - a. Water main break occurred last week on the section of Brighton being replaced.
 - b. New mainline on Brighton is in and has been tested.
 - i. Further testing on water samples needs to be completed and if ok services are transferred to new line. (5 or 6 services are installed on the new mainline on that stretch of Brighton.)
 - ii. Once services are transferred, old line is drained and closed and project is completed.
 - 2) Alder and Flaccus
 - a. Mainline replacements are completed and all services converted.
 - b. Still have to drain and close the old water mains.
 - 3) Monitor Avenue
 - a. Sink hole on Monitor @ 65 – failed WWV patch where an earlier leak had created a sink hole We have inspected our sewers and there is nothing wrong with that system – WWV has to repair the failed patch (and check for more leaks.)
- b) Columbia Gas
 - 1) Brighton Road
 - a. Completed installing services on Brighton mainline.
 - b. Old line has to be closed and final restoration can be completed at both ends.
 - 2) Dalzell
 - a. Completed new mainline on Dalzell and new services installations should be finished this week. (Still have two more buildings to connect to new line)
 - b. Old gas lines on Dalzell and Brighton have to be removed from service and closed. (All services completed with 1 or two more needed on Dalzell.)
 - 3) Alder
 - Gas company to begin replacement project soon. Sewer Inspections:
- 1) CCTV inspections completed by State Pipe on all roads to be paved. Nothing catastrophic found but now Gateway has to review the video and decide any repairs that need to be made.

Paving Project

- 1) Contractor has deadline of September 18 to complete the project
- 2) Preconstruction meeting to be held next week to review project

Ben Avon Mayor's Report

June 2018

ATTACHMENT B

- Communicated with 2 residents on Monitor Ave. about requests to have a Handicapped parking space in front of their home. Visited and spoke with each resident. 1 request was granted, 1 was not. Communication was sent to the requestors, after being cleared through Counsel, and copied to the Borough Office.
- Participated in Memorial Day Parade. Ben Avon resident LTC Christen Cieslak was the guest speaker for the ceremony.
- Responded to concerns from residents on Dalzell about an Air BnB operating on the street. Suggested they attend the working meeting of Council to hear about upcoming Zoning proposals. Conferred with Chief Hanny, who was aware of the situation.
- Attended COG meeting.
- Responded to concerns from a resident of Laurel Village about online reports of home break-ins in the area. Conferred with Chief Hanny who was aware and reaching out to a resident who had posted the incident on social media, but had not contacted the police. Posted a follow up suggestion on the Borough Facebook page, with suggestions from the Chief, encouraging residents to follow best practice of reporting all incidents or concerns to the OT police.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Holcomb
Mayor