

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday December 11, 2013 - Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting of council was held at Shannopin Country Club at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Berardi (arrived at 7:08), Cuteri, Davis, Isherwood, Keelan, Kolenda

Mayor: Dismukes arrived at 7:08

Solicitor: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Sgt. A. Beck

Avalon Fire Chief: Carney

Engineer: Firek

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Mr. Cuteri:

1. Vote to approve November Minutes: Mr. Keelan ***made a motion*** to approve the November Minutes. Mr. Kolenda seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
2. Vote to approve the November Treasurer's Report: Council took time to review the report. Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
3. Fire Report: Nothing to report. The Christmas tree sale is going well so far 200 trees have been sold and the department has ordered another 50. Chief Carney was not yet informed as to the "Santa in the Park" details for this year. Mrs. Raves will get the person in charge of the event in touch with the Chief.
Mayor Dismukes noted that he talked to Mr. Harry Dilmore regarding the extension of the Fire Contract and that the paperwork for the extension is currently being developed. Chief Carney stated that they want to increase the length of the contract without increasing the amount.
4. Police Report: The usual calls and patrols took place nothing unusual this past month. Mr. Keelan requested what a suspicious auto was... Sgt. Beck described that a resident could call because of an unusual car in the area. The police have been increasing patrols because of the recent auto break-ins. They have contacted homeowners if something looks out of the ordinary, such as an open garage door at night.
5. Public Comment: No public was present.

6. Engineers Report: Mr. Firek reviewed the letter dated December 6, 2013 to Council regarding their proposed 2014 Hourly Fee Guide. Mr. Cuteri noted that the rates are the same as the 2013 rates. Mr. Keelan questioned what the \$7,400.00 retainage was for... regarding Payment #7 and Mr. Firek stated that this is for possible work needed to satiate unhappy homeowners regarding the condition of their property. Mr. Isherwood ***made a motion*** to approve Lennon Smith Souleret's appointment as the Borough Engineers based letter dated December 6, 2013 outlining the Engineering Services Rates for 2014 noting that the rates will remain the same as 2013. Mr. Berardi ***seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Mr. Firek stated that we are now completed with the CCTV work for the sewer lines after Mr. Isherwood questioned that issue.
7. Planning Commission Update: Mayor Dismukes spoke with Mr. Harry Dilmore of Kilbuck Township and Avalon Borough. Mr. Dilmore stated that they were in favor of a Joint Comprehensive Plan and that Avalon and Kilbuck were in discussions with another Borough at this time but they would be happy to have us join in and work with them. Mr. Keelan volunteered to be the contact person for the Borough regarding this committee since Mr. Dilmore wanted a contact person from Ben Avon Heights Borough in order to move forward. Mr. Cuteri questioned if they had engaged a planner as of yet because we believe that Pashek is the best consultant for the job and he might be able to obtain some funding for the project. Mr. Dismukes stated that he was planning to discuss that as well as the additional municipality with Mr. Dilmore in the near future. Mayor Dismukes will try to get information from Mr. Dilmore soon.
8. Alcosan Rate Increase: Last month Council approved the amended Resolution 2013-2 adopting the proposed Alcosan rate increase into our fee structure based on the increases noted in Alcosan's Resolution. Mr. Vogel revised the Resolution, Council reviewed the revisions and it was signed.

Mayor Dismukes noted to Mr. Vogel that they needed to meet regarding language of the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding sewage fees.
9. Amending of Ordinance 318: Council reviewed the language in proposed Ordinance #323 permitting residential customers to install a deduct water meter which is currently forbidden under Ordinance 318. Discussion took place regarding the need for the Ordinance to restrict residential customers to one (1) deduct meter. Council agreed on the language presented and with the addition of the one meter restriction. Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to advertise Ordinance #323 amending Ordinance No. 318. Mr. Keelan ***seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
10. Ordinance No. 322: This Ordinance sets millage for 2014 Fiscal Year at 5.75 mills, the same rate as last year. Conversation took place verifying that no one on Council was in favor of raising taxes for next year and that the budget was formulated using this

information. At this time we have not heard of any large changes in the Real Estate Tax Base from last year's base. Mr. Kolenda **made a motion** to approve Ordinance No. 322 as written. Mr. Davis **seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

11. Budget: Council reviewed the budget submitted and advertised by the Budget Committee. Mr. Isherwood **made a motion** to approve the Budget as submitted. Mr. Davis **seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

12. ACORD Park Budget Review: Mr. Ed Gould, Chair, of the Avonworth Community Park Authority Board, submitted their 2014 Budget for Council's Review. The ACORD Board requests Council to indicate their consent regarding the submitted budget as quickly as possible. Council reviewed the formula regarding how their income is computed and where their funding will be distributed. Mr. Davis **made a motion** to accept the Avonworth Community Park 2014 Budget as submitted. Mr. Keelan **seconds this motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Dismukes stated that Mr. Gould has worked on the ACORD board for many years and has heard that once certain milestones are reached Mr. Gould will likely tender his resignation. Council will need to be looking for a strong replacement. (Mr. Gould will be difficult to replace.) Please bring ideas forward regarding possible replacements.

13. Auditor's Proposal: Mrs. Raves received a letter from Hosac, Specht, Muetzel and Wood LLP regarding their proposal to provide audit services for the 2013 year. The proposed fee is slightly under what was budgeted in the 2014 Approved Budget. Council was in agreement to award auditing services to Hosac, Specht, Muetzel and Wood for another year.

14. Executive Session: Council entered into Executive Session at 7:45 PM
The meeting resumed at 8:20.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed.**

This meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday January 14th at 7:00 at Avalon Volunteer Fire Department.

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary