

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 - Council Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of council was held at Avalon Volunteer Fire Company at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Berardi, Davis, Isherwood, Radcliffe, Smith

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Engineer: Firek, Lennon Smith Souleret

Ohio Twp. Police Sargent: Beck

Avalon Volunteer Fire Company: Chief Carney

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Mr. Davis began the meeting at 7:04 PM.

1. Vote to approve November Meeting Minutes: Mr. Berardi ***made a motion*** to approve the November Meeting Minutes as presented to Council earlier by E-mail. ***Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
2. Vote to approve the November Treasurers Report: Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve the November Treasurer's Report that was submitted to Council by email. ***Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously***
3. Police Report: The report was submitted by email to Council earlier. Nothing out of the ordinary to report.
4. Fire Report: There were no calls last month. Christmas tree sales are at 650 to date.
5. Engineer's Report:

ACO: LSSE submitted the required progress report to the ACHD.

2016 Roads, Banbury Sewer line was explored and drawings were submitted. The lateral for 11 Banbury is still not located. Now that the line is opened, we will need to televise to determine what is where and if a section has been dead ended.

A section of the "upper line" can be lined in the spring because of the 2 cracks discovered in that section of terra cotta line.

Mr. Firek will get Robinson Pipe to televise the lines in question.

The Roadway project is looking to come in approximately \$12,000.00 under the expected contract sum due mostly to the elimination of a base course that was not required once the old concrete roadway was discovered.

Mr. Davis questioned if the payment for the sewer work shouldn't come out of the sewer account and Mr. Radcliffe agreed with this statement. Mayor Dismukes

noted that the next Phase 2 Waste Water Treatment costs will be included in the Regional Basin and will probably be very expensive. Council agreed to pay this from the general account.

Avalon Sewer line: Sewer to Semple was CCTV's and it was discovered that 1 maybe 2 lines tap into our section of sewer. Mayor Dismukes suggested we hold off on any negotiations with Avalon regarding this till the overall interconnects in the region are assessed. Council agreed to table this issue.

2017 Fee Schedules for LSSE: Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to accept the submitted fee schedule from LSSE for the 2017 year. ***Mr. Berardi seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

6. Repealing Hauling Permit Ordinance. Mr. Davis ***made a motion to*** pass Ordinance No. 334 repealing Ordinance 314 requiring hauling permits for overweight trucks. ***Mr. Berardi seconds the motion.***
Discussion took place regarding the fact that we currently do not have anything else in place to protect the Borough's roads and curbs. No resolution was reached regarding this matter. The Mayor suggested contacting the Mayor's Association to see what other municipalities have in place at this time. ***The motion passed with a vote of 3 yea to 1 nay and one abstention.*** Member Radcliffe voted against and Smith abstained. At this time Council does not feel that the Weight Limit signs need to be removed from the roadways.
7. 2017 Tax Rate: Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve Ordinance No. 333 setting the Tax Rate for 2017 at 7.95 mills. Mr. Isherwood ***seconds this motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
8. 2017 Budget; Mr. Davis made ***a motion*** to approve Resolution 2016-06 adopting the budget for the fiscal year 2017 at \$542,875. ***Mr. Berardi seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
9. Alcosan Rates: Alcosan's Rates will be increasing in 2017 and Council has previously passed an Ordinance to have those increases passed along to the residents who pay sewage fees; however, Jordan Tax Services will need to know if the Borough wishes to increase the Borough's fees. Council does not wish to increase the Sewage Fee at this time. Mrs. Raves will notify Jordan.
10. 2017 Meeting Dates: Council agreed to meet on the second Tuesday of each month during 2017 as advertised in the Citizen. Locations will be Shannopin Country Club April through October and Avalon Volunteer Fire Station November through March of each year.
11. Street Signs: Auctioning of the old street name signs was discussed. Alex Smith is continuing his assistance in this matter as his senior graduation project from Avonworth High School. He will notify Council of his progress.
Mr. Radcliffe reported that the new street name signs will be leveled once the Christmas decorations are removed.
12. ACORD Budget: Council reviewed and approved the budget submitted by email earlier for the 2017 Avonworth Community Park.
Mrs. Raves was asked to verify that the board has all of its positions filled and if not to send out an email blast to the community.
13. 2017 Snow Removal Contract: Mr. Berardi made ***a motion*** to ratify the contract from Avalon Borough for snow removal services in 2017 as submitted and signed. ***Mr. Davis seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

14. 2017 Public Works Contract: Mr. Berardi made ***a motion*** to approve and sign the contract submitted by Avalon Borough for Public Works services in 2017. ***Mrs. Smith seconds the motion.*** Mr. Radcliffe questioned the ability to hire others for various tasks and was assured that we can still hire various contractors, this outlines the fees we will pay to Avalon's forces as well as to verify insurance issues. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
15. Employee Salaries: Council advised Mrs. Raves to increase her salary by \$1,000.00 in 2017 and to change the Crossing Guards hourly rate to \$13.75 an hour. Mrs. Raves was also given a \$2,000.00 Bonus for 2016.
16. Insurance increase: Mr. Berardi reported that our insurance carrier has requested a 4% increase in their rates due to a 4% increase in the value of the Borough's assets. Council agreed. Mr. Berardi requested Mrs. Raves to send the insurance company's latest correspondence to Council.
17. Executive Session: No executive session was needed.

This meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday January 10th at 7:00 PM at the Avalon Volunteer Fire Company.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer