

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 - Council Meeting Minutes

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

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Cuteri, Davis, Eadie, Isherwood, Radcliffe, Smith

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Avalon Fire Chief: Carney

Ohio Twp. Police Chief: Sgt. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

1. January 2016 Minutes:
- ***A motion was made*** by Mr. Cuteri to approve the January 2016 Minutes. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
2. January 2016 Treasurer's Report
- ***Mr. Isherwood made a motion*** to approve the January 2016 Treasurer's Report. ***Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion.*** Mr. Isherwood questioned the \$4,000 payment to Avalon. Mrs. Raves stated that this was a payment for snow removal. The ***motion passed unanimously as distributed.***
3. Police Report: Sargent Beck stated that only the usual events were reported.
4. Fire Report: Chief Carney stated that there was nothing to report. The fire company will be hosting an all you can eat fish fry this Friday evening.
5. Engineer's Report: forwarded by email earlier in the day. The 2016 Roadway project schedule is as follows:
March 14, 2016 – Advertisement to the Borough
April 11, 2016 at 11:00 AM – Open Bids
April 12, 2016 – Award Contract
Pre-Construction Meeting, Issue Notice to Proceed – May 2, 2016
6. Public Comment: No public in attendance.
7. Hazard Mitigation Plan: Mayor Dismukes reported that we had received a letter along with Allegheny County's 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This letter notifies the Borough of the details of the 2015 County Plan and the need for us to adopt this plan or another of our construction. Both Mayor Dismukes and Mr. Vogel suggest that Council adopt the County's plan. This Resolution will enable the Borough to be eligible for help from

FEMA in the event of a natural disaster. The Mayor reminded Council that funds were received from PEMA to build the retaining wall along Cambridge Road after the hurricane destroyed this stretch of roadway. **Mr. Davis made a motion** to Adopt Allegheny County's 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan as Resolution 2016-01. Mr. Cuteri seconds this motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Publication of Ordinance for AIM loan and Northwest Savings Bank loans: Mrs. Raves Informed Council that the Borough was approved by AIM for a loan totaling \$178,354.00 at a rate of 1.34% over (5) five years to cover the work along the lower portion of Wilson Road. In addition, we have a quote from Northwest Savings bank for a loan of \$190,000 at a rate of 3.4% that we can choose to have a 5 year, 6 year (which would mature the same year as our 2012 loan) or a 10 year note. This loan is for the reconstruction of the entire length of Oxford Road. **Mr. Davis made a motion** to advertise Ordinance No. 331 increasing the Borough's debt. Discussion took place and Council decided to accept the 10 year terms from Northwest Savings Bank as long as there were no penalties for early payment.

9. Park Improvements: Mr. Cuteri reported that he has an idea of what the new fountain in the park should look like. It is a concrete unit designed to appear as natural stone with a number of heights for various users. No additional information is available to date.

Mr. Cuteri also reported that he would look into additional species of trees for the park. He was interested in discussing this matter with a landscape architect. Last month, Council had asked Mrs. Raves to contact Walt's Landscaping to obtain an estimate to clean out the underbrush in the Park between the ball field and the Penhurst Resident's properties. The quote received was \$300.00 for that work. At the same time, Mrs. Raves asked Walt's Landscaping to review the wooded area next to Banbury and Briar Cliff since this area is overgrown as well. Walt submitted an estimate of \$500.00 for this work. Council approved both of these projects. Mr. Radcliffe brought up the height of the hedges at the Park along Lynton Lane stating that they were too high to see a small child running toward the street from a car on Lynton. He suggested that we get a proposal from Walt's Landscaping to cut the hedges to approximately 2'-0" since such a severe pruning would be best this time of year. Council approved that work as long as it was under \$500.00.

10. Road Signs: John Radcliffe went to Lake Shore to discuss the signs and took the peel and stick mock up sign Mrs. Raves had made for their review. The quote submitted was \$6,928.20 to create the signs backs and to install previously created signs onto their frames. Council discussed the construction of these signs and the aesthetic qualities that the cast aluminum signs that Lake Shore would provide. Mrs. Raves noted that the aluminum signs provided by Ibis signs would cost \$760.00. It was determined that Council believed that the cast aluminum signs would give the Borough the public appearance they felt was important. Mr. Radcliffe and Mrs. Raves were asked to get the sign package together and out for bid. Council reviewed with Mr. Vogel that projects under \$10,000 do not need to be publically bid. Mr. Davis and Mr. Cuteri will get the breakaway base specifications together.

Mr. Radcliffe mentioned that the directional arrow sign to Shannopin Country Club was located at the intersection of New Brighton and Perrysville Roads was in need of updating as well. He stated that he could have this sign refurbished if the club was interested. Mr. Davis and Mr. Dismukes stated that they would discuss the possibility of this with the club's manager. They will also inquire to see if Shannopin would like to add a second sign to the pole at Canterbury and New Brighton Roads.

11. Planning Commission Appointment: Council asked Mrs. Raves to send out an email blast to the residents noting this opening as well as the openings still available on the ACORD Park board.

12. Changing Street Opening Ordinance: Mrs. Raves noted that with all the new road work we are undertaking, perhaps this might be a good time to update our street opening permit ordinances to include a curb to curb repair. Council agreed and requested Mrs. Raves to send the current information to our engineer's for their review and comment. Discussion will proceed next month regarding this change.

13. Annual Report: Mrs. Raves asked Council to review the draft annual report before it is sent to the residents.

14. Executive Session: Council entered into Executive Session at 7:50 PM

15. Council resumed session at 8:04 PM

This meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday March 8th at 7:00 at Avalon Volunteer Fire Company.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer