

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 - Council Meeting Minutes

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

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

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

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Engineer: Heyl, Lennon Smith Souleret

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

OTPD: SGT. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Jason Brown; Jim Georgalas; Steven Stiller

Mr. Davis began the meeting at 7:01 PM.

1. November 2017 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Cuteri to approve the November 2017 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. Mrs. Smith seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
2. November 2017 Treasurer's Report: Mr. Radcliffe made a motion to approve the November 2017 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. **Mr. Davis seconds the motion.** Discussion took place, Mrs. Smith asked if the Borough always received so much in delinquent Real Estate Tax payments? Mrs. Raves stated that no, there were circumstances this past year that boosted that number. Mr. Cuteri questioned the Budget to Actual numbers regarding the loan payments. Mrs. Raves noted that one of the payments was inadvertently placed into the wrong loan line. **The motion passed unanimously as distributed.**
3. Police Report: Sgt. Beck read the previously forwarded report. It was a quiet month. One Ordinance violation, Soliciting was reported. Sgt. Beck will be attending a training session as our Emergency Management Coordinator and will report back.
4. Fire Report: Chief Berie noted that one tree was reported down and that a resident thought they smelled gas in their house. The details for Santa's arrival on December 24th have been worked out. The Chief thanked Council for a good first year as Fire Chief.
5. Public Comment: Mr. Georgalas was there to thank Mr. Davis for his years of service on Council. Mayor Dismukes took this time to review a list of Mr. Davis' accomplishments while active in Council. The Mayor then presented Mr. Davis with a fountain pen as a token of the Borough's appreciation.

6. **Engineer's Report: 2016 Roadway Project: MS-4** –submission was reviewed and signed. The \$500 renewal fee and signed application were given to Mr. Heyl for submission.
2018 Roadway Improvements – Mr. Heyl stated that bid documents will be ready for Council's review before going out to bid. It is LSS's intention to award the contract in March. Details of the project such as listing work the Borough will be completing on our own were discussed and agreed that the Borough's work will be shown as add alternates to the contract in order to keep track of Columbia Gas's costs.
Recently, a section of sewer line collapsed in front of 11 Banbury Lane. The line has been repaired and Mr. Heyl suggested lining that section of pipe for reinforcement. That work can be used under our O&M in the spring before the section of roadway is repaved.
Deteriorating Sewer inlets at Briar Cliff Road at the Clovelly intersection and one half way down Cambridge Road; Mr. Heyl stated that the contractor will be completing this work in the next day or two.
7. **Ordinance 337; A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe** to adopt Ordinance No. 337, Fixing the Tax Rate for 2018 at 7.95 Mills. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
8. **Resolution 2017 -05: A motion was made by Mr. Cuteri** to adopt Resolution 2017-05 Prohibiting Category 4 licensed facilities within the Borough. **Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion.** Mayor Dismukes asked if this would cause an issue for Shannopin Country Club regarding their "Small Games of Chance" permit. Mr. Vogel said it would not. Mr. Davis abstained from this vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**
9. **Resolution 2017 -06: A motion was made by Mr. Davis** to adopt Resolution 2017-06 Adopting the 2018 Budget at \$922,804. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion.** Discussion took place regarding the fact that this number is less than what was submitted by the Budget Committee. Mrs. Raves noted that the 2018 Road Improvement project estimate submitted by the Engineers was lower than first anticipated impacting the final figure. **The motion passed unanimously.**
10. **Avalon Contracts:** Mrs. Raves presented the contracts from Avalon for the Road Salting and P.W. / PA One Call. Mr. Vogel reviewed the differences between the 2017 contracts. **A motion was made by Mr. Cuteri** to enact the contract for Snow Removal and Salting submitted by Avalon Borough. **Mr. Davis seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
A motion was made by Mr. Davis to enact the contract submitted by Avalon Borough regarding P.W. and PA One Call work. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
11. **Alcosan Rate Increase:** Mrs. Raves reported that Alcosan has notified the Borough of its annual rate increase and that the Borough must notify Jordan Tax Services if we wish that fee increase to be passed onto the residents. **A motion was made by Mr. Davis** to pass the Alcosan Rate increase on to the residents and to leave the Borough's surcharge rate as it currently stands. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
12. **2018 Meeting Dates:** Council reviewed the dates for 2018 and it was agreed that the 2nd Tuesday of each month will be the meeting dates. **A motion was made by Mr. Davis** to advertise the dates, second Tuesday of each month. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** These will be advertised.
13. **ACORD Park Executive Committee Appointment:** Katy Von-Lehman has stepped forward to be on the Executive Committee representing Ben Avon Heights. **A motion was made by Mr. Davis** to pass accept Ms. Von-Lehman's appointment to the Executive Board on the Avonworth Municipal Park Committee. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
14. **Zoning Application Submission Review:** Mrs. Raves noted that 3 submissions were received this month.

- A. Shannopin Country Club's Application for expansion of a Non-conforming use to construct a fitness and tennis facility will need to be reviewed by the Zoning Hearing Board. That hearing is currently being scheduled.
 - B. 17 Banbury Lane submitted for a retaining wall along the driveway. This was approved by the Zoning Officer and the owner was informed to contact BIU for permits and inspections.
 - C. 5 Oxford Road submitted an application to build a new garage. This is the second submission for this structure and it was approved by the Zoning Officer. The owner will be informed to contact BIU for building permit and inspections.
- 15. Leaf Collection:** Council discussed the possibility of adding one additional leaf pick up to the 2017 season. It was determined that one additional pick up would be added weather permitting. ***A motion was made by Mr. Cuteri*** to add one additional leaf collection to the 2017 season. ***Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*** (Due to snowfall after this meeting the additional pick up was not scheduled.)
- 16. Closing Escrow Account:** Mrs. Raves requested Council's approval to close the Escrow Account that was established for the repealed Hauling Permits. Any funds will be transferred to the General Account. ***A motion was made by Mr. Cuteri*** to close the Escrow Account. ***Mr. Davis seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
- 17. Executive Session:** The meeting went into Executive Session at 8:10 PM.
- 18. Meeting Resumed at 8:25PM.**
- 19.** Council informed Mrs. Raves that they have approved a \$2,000 bonus for 2017 and an increase of her salary to \$29,000 in 2018. Council also approved to increase the crossing guard's payment to \$14.25 per hour. ***A motion was made by Mr. Cuteri*** to make the above described salary changes. ***Mr. Davis seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

This meeting adjourned at 8:35P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday January 9th at Avalon Volunteer Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer