

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, October 10, 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 (arrives at 7:15)

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Engineer: Heyl, Lennon Smith Souleret

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie (arrives at 7:30)

Northwest EMS: Tuscan

OTPD: Chief Micklos

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Columbia Gas: Phillip Spencer, Edward Byrd

Residents: Jennifer Knuth, Martin Knuth Sr, Martin Knuth Jr., David Raves

Others: Ron Bander, Dave Tessitor

Mr. Davis began the hearing at 7:00 PM.

Comprehensive Plan Hearing:

John Vogel introduced the Comprehensive Plan along with David Raves, the Borough's representative on the committee, who worked on the Plan for the past year and a half. This is a device to look ahead 10 years into the future relevant to Zoning and is required under State law to take place every 10 years.

We, the Boroughs of Avalon, Bellevue, Ben Avon and Ben Avon Heights, received a State grant to help facilitate this Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. The plan contains maps, goals and objectives highlighting recommendations for each community as well as the North Boroughs main street corridor, Green Links and bike routes as well as Action Plans.

Ben Avon Heights Borough published this hearing time and location twice in the Citizen as well as a community Email blast.

It is Mr. Vogel's suggestion to amend the Plan using more direct language regarding our housing situation. His amendment reads:

New Action Plan 6d: "In Ben Avon Heights, consider flexibility in interpretation of zoning/housing regulations to address demands of housing stock, while still allowing maintenance of local family residential character, given typical house and lot size in the Borough. Ben Avon Heights will work with other Boroughs to encourage residential real estate activity in the area, consistent with the Joint Comprehensive Plan."

Mr. Raves had no objections. Council thanked Mr. Raves for his work regarding this committee.

The Hearing ended at this time.

Mr. Davis began the meeting at 7:08 PM.

1. - **A motion was made** by Mr. Cuteri to adopt the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan as amended per Mr. Vogel's suggestion. Mr. Davis seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
2. **September 2017 Minutes:**
- **A motion was made** by Mr. Davis to approve the September 2017 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. Mrs. Smith seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **September 2017 Treasurer's Report:**
Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the September 2017 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. **Mrs. Smith seconds the motion.** The **motion passed unanimously as distributed.**
4. **Police Report:** The Chief had nothing unusual to report.
Mayor Dismukes arrived at the meeting and recommended Council approve the 3-year contract (with 2 one-year extensions) for Police Services from Ohio Township. **Mr. Cuteri made a motion** to adopt and execute the renewed Police Contract as presented by Mayor Dismukes. **Mr. Davis seconds the motion.** The **motion passed unanimously.**
Chief Micklos asked Council to consider a future budget item to add enhanced cameras to the major intersections of the Borough. The police department would like to work toward having all the major intersections within their jurisdiction under surveillance using the enhanced cameras due to their ability to show license plates. He noted that grants are available; however, they are usually given to areas with high crime rates. The Chief estimated that the cameras would cost between \$20,00 - \$40,000 each plus a \$1,200 - \$1,500 annual internet fee.
5. **EMS Report:** Mr. Tuscan reported that they have obtained several new vehicles for their fleet as well as adding crews. He distributed the 3rd Quarter Report. Council did not have any questions.
6. **Public Comment:** Martin Knuth Jr. presented before and after pictures of the work under his Eagle Scout Project at Ben Avon Heights Park. **Mr. Cuteri made a motion** to accept the completion of the Eagle Scout Project as presented by Martin Knuth Jr. **Mr. Davis seconds the motion.** The **motion passed unanimously.** Mayor Dismukes signed the final paperwork for the Scouts.
7. **Engineer's Report: 2016 Roadway Project: ACO:** Mr. Heyl restated that flow monitors have been installed in the Sanitary Sewer System and will monitor for approximately 6 months.
2016 Roadway Improvements: Mr. Heyl reported that the project was reviewed with the contractor on site and the final punch list will be forwarded to Liberoni tomorrow.

MS-4 Permit: Mr. Heyl informed Council that the MS-4 Report will need to be submitted by January 1, 2017 and will need to be accompanied by a \$500 check by December 1, 2017. He will forward additional information to Mrs. Raves so the check can be cut.

Miscellaneous: Briar Cliff Road Opinion of Probable Cost for base repair was submitted. This will be important in regards to the Columbia Gas work. It was discussed that the base structure of the road along Briar Cliff is in such disrepair that we should shift some funds from this year's budget to 2018 and bid the needed base repair to portions of Briar Cliff Road before the gas company resurfaces that roadway.

Discussion took place regarding the extension of the rain leaders at 11 Wilson. Mr. Heyl presented a proposal from Stefanik's Next Generation Contracting Company in the amount of \$6,700 to provide labor and materials as well as lawn restoration for this work. Council agreed to have the work completed.

CCTV Banbury Sewer Line: The video indicates that the sewer line is clear from the new manhole to its end approximately 250 feet uphill. There appear to be two active laterals into this line it appears to be in good shape with no roots.

Columbia Gas work in 2018: Mr. Heyl stated that their firm was involved in this type of line replacement work for the Borough of Avalon last year and that work is currently underway. Mr. Spencer and Mr. Byrd, of Columbia Gas, presented a large-scale drawing indicating the scope of gas line replacement they intend to undertake early in the spring of 2018. Their work will include base trench repair done by their forces at all locations; however, they have ask the Borough to bid the mill and overlay work due to their perception that we will receive better pricing. They state that Columbia Gas will then cut a check for the contract amount plus engineering fees to bid the project.

Mayor Dismukes noted that New Brighton and Perrysville roads are State roads and not under our control. The representatives from Columbia Gas stated that they are aware of that fact and that they will work with the State regarding those roadways.

Mr. Radcliffe and Mr. Cuteri asked how individual residents service lines will be hooked up to the new main lines which will be moved from the backyards to the street. It was stated that each home will be handled individually and that the meters will be moved if needed all at Columbia Gas's expense. Columbia Gas stated that they prefer boring the individual lines and they will have contractors to perform site repair at each residence as well as supervision on site at all times. They will be careful to not cross bore by using cameras. Service line specialists will be on site and will work to minimize the extent of interior work to each individual residence but again, all costs will be paid by Columbia Gas.

When Mr. Radcliffe asked if multiple roads will be affected at the same time, the representatives stated that they will be working continuously and that multiple roads will be affected at the same time. They noted that the narrow roadways in the Borough will a challenge and that they will work with the Borough and the police department. When trench repair is complete they will place a temporary binder in specific areas if needed, but all resurfacing work will be done at one time due to remobilization costs of the milling machine. The roads will be in disrepair for a while. They realize that need to be sensitive to their work during school times as well.

CG would like to schedule a walk thru preconstruction meeting including their contractor supervisor, CG coordinator working on the job along with Borough representatives. Anticipated start date would be late March or early April, weather depending.

Mr. Radcliffe asked about the concrete curb along Banbury Lane that they previously agreed to install. CG's representatives noted that once they move their shallow line that work will be performed.

Council instructed LSSE to begin working on the bid documents for this project with the intension of going out to bid the first of the year.

Crack sealing of roads: It was the determination of Tough Seal of Pittsburgh that our roads do not need crack sealing this year. Council agreed.

8. Voting machine discussion: Mayor Dismukes asked that this be put on the Agenda after Mr. Tessitor presented his material to him while Canvassing the neighborhood. Mr. Tessitor noted that he hosts the Borough's website through Pittsburgh Free Net and he is with Open Pittsburgh working to get County Council to pass legislation having the voting systems publicly and openly vetted by persons who know security and accessibility in elections and how elections run to obtain accountability. It is Mr. Tessitor's and Mr. Bander's, president of Vote Allegheny with a background in cyber security, opinion that Allegheny County should create a Voting Process Review Commission and asked Council to pass a Resolution or Ordinance requesting a change to the type of voting machines used in the Borough. It is their position that the machines used in Allegheny County are subject to manipulation and bad calibration. They feel a paper system is needed to verify that the votes have been cast properly. He noted that the State law permits that each municipality, regardless of its size, has the right to determine what type of machine is used in their elections. Mr. Tessitor and Mr. Bander are proposing that Council act to add the Borough's next election (next spring) a referendum question of whether we would want electronic voting with a paper trail. The County is bound by law to conform once passed. Vote Allegheny is currently in court with Meyer, Unkovic and Scott against the County fighting for a County wide referendum question added to the next election. Mrs. Knuth reviewed the procedures our elections staff goes through during an election day and she is concerned, that if our machines are different than the units used elsewhere in the County, that our votes may not be counted. Mr. Bander stated that the County would be smart to have the scanners necessary to match the machines used. Mr. Cuteri asked how do we determine if the vote actually goes to the proper candidate. Mr. Bander described that the current machines do not have a way to verify how the vote was counted. A paper ballot will show where that vote was cast and can be audited. There is no auditable system in place in Allegheny County. The presentation was given for a type of voting machine that uses a paper system of review not a specific manufacturer of a machine. This type of machine, in their opinion, would be auditable unlike the technology the County is using today. The petition was circulated and those present who wanted to sign did.
9. Jordan Tax Services Inc. Submitted a letter for Council's consideration to extend their preparation of the tax bills and collection of the 2018, thru 2021, inclusive, Borough Real Estate taxes at a rate of \$3.50 per tax bill. This cost reflects NO CHANGE and included both mailing and return envelopes and postage. **Mr. Cuteri made a motion** to accept the proposal from Jordan Tax Service, Inc. for the 2018- 2021 Borough Real Estate Tax Collection. **Mr. Davis seconds the motion.** The **motion passed unanimously.**
10. Area along Briar Cliff: Mr. Radcliffe met with Scott McGinn to review clearing the area along Briar Cliff Road that was sprayed to kill off the Japanese Knotweed. Their discussion included cutting the weeds and dead plants, remove all debris, grade the area with a machine and to add up to 30 tons of topsoil over existing rubble, rake and seed the area, top with mushroom manure and straw. Clean up and haul away all job debris for a total of \$3,700.00. **Mr. Davis made a motion** to accept the proposal of McGinn Lawn & Landscaping as presented by Mr. Radcliffe. **Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion.** Mrs. Raves reminded Council that the Japanese

Knotweed eradication contract is for three years and that any grass planted will likely be killed next season when sprayed again. Council asked Mr. Radcliffe to discuss the project with Mr. McGinn and to eliminate the planting of grass at this time. The ***motion passed unanimously based on the removal of planting grass seed.***

11. ACORD Park Board: Eric Shultz, from Avonworth Community Park, questioned if Council wanted to appoint Kati Von-Lehman to the Executive Committee, a voting position, or as a non-voting Board member. Council asked Mrs. Raves to reach out to the existing members of the Board to see if any of them wanted to be on the Executive Committee. If not, then if interested Council would approve Mrs. Von-Lehman as an Executive Committee member.
12. November Elections: Council asked Mrs. Raves to send an email blast to the residents notifying them that there are 4 Council positions open for election this November.
13. Little Free Library: Mr. Radcliffe discussed the installation of the post for the library with Mr. McGinn as well as the base for the refurbished water fountain. The location of the library was discussed and it was determined that it would be installed along the sidewalk at Wilson Road just as the chain link fence ends near the corner at Perrysville.
14. Fountain Review: Mr. Radcliffe reported that he and Mr. Cuteri discussed the fountain and asked Mrs. Raves to put \$12,000 in next year's budget for this work. Donatelli Monuments will remove the fountain completely over the winter.
15. Fire Report: Mrs. Raves reported that Chief Berie was here and reported that they had no report.
16. October Budget meeting: Wednesday October 25th.

This meeting adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday November 14th at Avalon Volunteer Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer