

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - 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: Berardi, Cuteri, Smith, Stiller, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Mr. Cuteri began the meeting at 7:02 PM.

1. **November 2018 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Cuteri to approve the November 2018 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Radcliffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
2. **November 2018 Treasurer's Report: Mr. Stiller made a motion to approve the November 2018 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Radcliffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously as distributed.**
3. **Fire Report:** Chief Berie noted that there was one call that turned into three calls with a tree down on Lynton Lane as well as in front of the park. They had to shut the traffic off to the street until Duquesne light could come and remove the down trees from the powerlines. Chief Berie also reported they put up the Christmas tree in the park in the new location in front of the fence of the park, by the mailbox. He also agrees the new location is more visible from the street. They are also ready for Christmas eve, with Santa in the park. Chief will arrive early to set up the fire and Ms. DiNuzzo will have the chair ready in the park for the festivities. Mr. Radcliffe raised a question on what the Borough should do about questionable branches down along Ben Avon Heights Road and Perrysville Avenue. Chief Berie said he would speak to his boss to see what they could do.
4. **Police Report:** Chief Hanny reported that it was a quiet month, other than the one major storm that hit in mid-November, with 90 patrols and nothing major to report. Chief also report that they were able to assist the Borough one afternoon with crossing guard duties as we were short one. Chief also informed the committee he would have an officer to assist during Santa in the Park.
5. **Public Comment:** There was no public present for comment.
6. **Engineer's Report:** There were no issues to discuss for this months meeting.
7. **Zoning Application Submissions Report:** Ms. DiNuzzo reported that there was one submission for the month of November at 4 New Brighton for a new retaining wall. Mr. Price reviewed and approved this submission.
8. **Avalon Salt Contract:** Members reviewed the contract electronically before the meeting, distributed by Ms. DiNuzzo. **A motion was made by Mr. Berardi to accept the salt contract for 2019. Mr. Radcliffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
9. **Avalon Public Works Contract:** Members reviewed the contract electronically before the meeting, distributed by Ms. DiNuzzo. **A motion was made by Mr. Berardi to accept the public works contract for 2019. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. **2019 Levy Ordinance:** Ms. Smith asked if the tax rates would stay the same, Mr. Cuteri stated the tax rate would stay the same, but we need to update this yearly. ***A motion was made by Mr. Berardi to accept the 2019 Levy Ordinance. Mr. Stiller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
11. **2019 Budget Resolution for Approval:** The 2019 Budget resolution was advertised in the Citizen in the month of November. ***A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to accept the 2019 budget resolution. Mr. Berardi seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.***
12. **Storm Water Management Ordinance Approval:** Members received a copy of this at our November 2018 meeting. This was also advertised in the Citizen in the month of November as well. ***A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to accept the Storm Water Management Ordinance. Mr. Radcliffe seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.***
13. **Existing leaf collection contract:** The way the current leaf contract is written, it states the third Monday of October through the second Monday of December which is a total of 9 weeks, but the contract states 8 weeks. Because of this, it has caused much confusion this season. Mr. Cuteri suggests that we amend this contract at a very definite 8 or a definite 9 weeks. Committee members also suggested pushing the collection back by one week, as many feel the later pick ups are more crucial to the borough. Members also mentioned the spring pick-up was also very helpful for those in the borough. Mr. Radcliffe will begin working with Walt's landscaping on a new contract for both Fall and Spring. Ms. DiNuzzo will send Mr. Radcliffe the contracts on file.
14. **2019 Meeting Dates:** Council reviewed meeting dates last meeting and all approved. Ms. DiNuzzo spoke with the Shannopin Country Club earlier that morning, and they could not verify the end of 2019s availability as the committee had not voted yet. Therefore, the Ben Avon Heights Borough Council will meet at the Avalon Volunteer Fire Department when the Shannopin is not available. ***A motion was made to advertise by Mr. Stiller. Mr. Berardi seconded the motion. The motion to advertise was passed unanimously.*** Ms. DiNuzzo will advertise these in the Citizen. If anything shall change during the 2019 year, the borough will advertise these changes in the Citizen.
15. **Overgrown trees:** Mr. Radcliffe brought to the committee's attention that there are about 4-5 over grown locus trees that seem to be hazardous. Mr. Cuteri also brought to the committee's attention that there are some tree branches leaning on the telephone/power wires near the park. A member questioned if this was something Duquesne Light should tend to, but members believe this tree is on the owner's property. Mr. Radcliffe will survey these issues. If these are on the owners property, we will send them a letter informing them of the issue. As for the locus tress that Mr. Radcliffe feels are dangerous, he proposes obtaining a bid to make this safer. Some members voiced that they would like this to be surveyed before we obtain any bids.
16. **Executive Session:** The meeting went into Executive Session at 7:35P.M.
17. **Meeting Resumed at 7:45PM.**

This meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday January 8th, 2019 at Avalon Volunteer Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary