

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, January 9, 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

At 7:00 PM, the Honorable Tara Smith – Swore in Mayor Dismukes; Councilmembers Brown, Cuteri and Hebert; and Real Estate Tax Collector Raves

Present:

District Magistrate: Tara Smith

Council Members: Berardi, Brown, Cuteri, Hebert, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

OTPD: SGT. Beck

Northwest EMS: George Dudash III

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Robert Eadie; Jim Georgalas; Steven Stiller

Mr. Berardi, temporary president, began the meeting at 7:15 PM.

- 1. Nominations for President of Council:** Mr. Radcliffe nominated Mr. Cuteri. Council voted unanimously for Mr. Cuteri to be President.
- 2. Nominations for Vice President of Council:** Mr. Brown nominated Mr. Berardi who declined the nomination. Mr. Berardi nominated Mr. Radcliffe. Council voted unanimously for Mr. Radcliffe as Vice President.
- 3. Discussion of Appointment to empty Council seat:** Mr. Cuteri asked if anyone present was interested in holding the empty Council Seat. Mr. Steven Stiller, who was present, indicated his interest in the position. ***Mr. Berardi made a motion to appoint Steven Stiller to the position of Councilmember. Mr. Hebert seconds the motion the motion passes unanimously.***
- 4. Mayor Dismukes swore in Mr. Stiller.**
- 5. Committee Member Discussion:**
 - Streets/Lights/Water: Rick Berardi; Lee Hebert
 - Fire/Police: Mayor Dismukes
 - Emergency Management: Sergeant Beck, OTPD, Mayor Dismukes, President Cuteri
 - Sewers: Steven Stiller
 - Recreation: Alan Cuteri, John Radcliffe
 - Finance: Mayor Dismukes, Pres. Cuteri, VP. Radcliffe
 - Planning Commission: President Cuteri
 - Insurance: Rick Berardi
 - ANTCC (Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee) Rep.: Pres. Cuteri, Jason Brown

- 6. Proposed new Committee:** Mr. Brown proposed a new committee, “Digital Communications Committee”. He and Mr. Stiller will head this committee to get information to residents and the public in more efficient ways. Council agreed to the added Committee.
- 7. Review of Appointments:**
Council reviewed all appointment:

Secretary/Treasurer – Denise Raves	Zoning Hearing Board – David Raves (19) Kati Von-Lehman (20), One empty seat due to Mr. Brown’s Election to Council
Solicitor – John T. Vogel, Esquire	Emergency Management Coordinator – Sgt. Adam Beck, OTPD
Borough Engineers – Lennon Smith Souleret	ACORD Authority – Kati Vol-Lehman
Fire Chief – Charles Berie	ACORD Board – Rob Spoharski, Damian Liska, Alexis McCune: One empty position available on the Board
Legal Advertising – The Citizen	Auditors – Hosack, Specht, Metzler and Wood
Bank – Northwest Savings Bank	Earned Income Tax Collector – Keystone Collections
Building Inspectors – Building Inspection Underwriters of PA, Inc.	Elected Real Estate Tax Collector – Denise Raves (2022)
Zoning Officer – Tom Price	Deputized Real Estate Tax Collector – Jordan Tax Services
Police Chief -Norbert Micklos Note: it was brought To Council’s attention that the Chief has handed In his retirement, starting in May of 2018	Planning Commission Members – Alan Cuteri (18) Justin Griffith (19), Michael Weir (20)
Sewage Collection – Jordan Tax Services	Judge of Elections – Jenifer Knuth (2022)

Council asked Mrs. Raves to send out an email Blast regarding the two open positions, ACORD Board and the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Vogel requested that Mr. Brown submit a formal letter of resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board.

- 8. December 2017 Minutes: A motion was made** by Mr. Berardi to approve the December 2017 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. ***Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***
- 9. December 2017 Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Brown made a motion** to approve the December 2017 Treasurer’s Report previously distributed to Council by email. ***Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion.*** Discussion took place, Mr. Brown noted that there was a \$73,000 surplus in the 2017 Budget. ***The motion passed unanimously as distributed.***
- 10. Fire Report:** Chief Berie noted that only one call took place, an accident at the intersection of Wilson, Perrysville and New Brighton. Chief stated that Santa’s arrival in the Park went well and was well attended. Christmas tree sales went very well this year and they are planning a Purse Bash on April 21st. Council asked the Chief for the information that could be email blasted to the residents. The Chief thanked Council for a good first year as Fire Chief. Chief Berie discussed the idea of having the fire equipment at the Park for the sleepover. The Faders, who have been in charge of that event, seemed to be interested. Discussion took place regarding safety checks and Open House for the Volunteer Fire Company. Information will be passed along to residents once they are received.
- 11. EMS Report –** Mr. Dudash reviewed the quarterly and annual report with Council. 18 calls over the year with 6 transports. Mr. Dudash noted that there was a 14-minute response time to the

E-4 call, the accident at Wilson- Perrysville and New Brighton, due to the fact that the call came to them as a non-emergency. The Mayor asked if there was anything the Borough could do to aid in this communication issue. After much discussion, it was determined that nothing could be done at this time and all three emergency groups would let us know if something came up. Mr. Dudash noted that CPR classed could be made available if the Borough wanted them for the cost of the certificate.

12. Police Report: Sgt. Beck read the previously forwarded report. Sgt. Beck attended a training session as our Emergency Management Coordinator, he will need to attend 2 meeting each year.

13. Engineer's Report:

Fee Schedule Review: Council reviewed the fees that were forwarded to them by email earlier. ***Mr. Berardi made a motion*** to accept the submitted Fee Schedule from Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering Inc. ***Mr. Stiller seconds the motion***

Demonstration Project: Flow rates have not been submitted for Council's review to date 2018 Roadway Improvements – Mr. Cuteri noted that Cambridge Road milling and overlay were added to the Columbia Gas project scope.

Sanitary Sewer Line Collapse: Has been repaired in front of 11 Banbury Lane.

Deteriorating Sewer inlets at Briar Cliff Road at the Clovelly intersection and one-half way down Cambridge Road – This work was completed per Mr. Heyl.

14. Public Comment: Mr. Georgalas 15 Banbury Lane was there to discuss the newly reconstructed retaining wall at 17 Banbury Road that was reconstructed without a Zoning Review and Building Permit. His major concerns are that the wall is structurally sound and that the storm water run off is not directed onto his property. Mr. Georgalas cited Ordinance 279, Dye Testing, as a legal stance regarding the storm-water discharge. He is most concerned that the salt from the driveway above will kill his trees. Mr. Georgalas noted that the police were called to visit him per the neighbor's request.

Mrs. Raves reported that an approved zoning application was obtained by the homeowner. Ron Mulchay, inspector from Building Inspection Underwriters, discussed the matter with Mrs. Raves and stated that a letter from an engineer was to be forthcoming regarding the structural integrity of the wall. If the letter was not submitted by the hearing, that was previously scheduled, at Magistrate Smith's office on January 17th he would proceed and that he was prepared to instruct the wall owner to divert the water from the walls foundation for structural reasons.

15. New Signature Cards for all bank accounts - Mrs. Raves noted that Northwest Savings Bank now requires meeting minutes to change the signatures on bank accounts. Council reviewed that Mr. Cuteri, President of Council, Mr. John Radcliffe, Vice President of Council and Mrs. Denise Raves, Treasurer would be the three signatures for all 7 accounts at this time. A letter was signed by Mr. Cuteri and Mr. Radcliffe to the Bank for their use.

16. No Executive Session was needed.

This meeting adjourned at 8:23P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday February 13th at Avalon Volunteer Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer