

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 - Council Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of council was held at Shannopin Country Club at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Berardi, Brown, Cuteri, Hebert (arrived at 7:15), Stiller, Smith, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD: Detective Hanny (newly elected Chief)

Avalon Volunteer Fire Company: Chief Berie

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Martin Knuth Sr.

Mr. Cuteri began the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. April 2018 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the April, 2018 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
2. April 2018 Treasurer's Report: Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the March 2018 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. Mrs. Raves noted that the Flow Monitoring Program has already put our Consent Decree line item over budget. Mr. Cuteri requested a copy of the invoices and asked Mrs. Raves to contact the Engineer's office to verify if this was the last bill for that project. Mr. Brown questioned the IRS line item on the Budget to Actual Sheet. Mrs. Raves admitted she saw that as well; however, the overall final numbers for the Payroll item is in line with the overall 2018 budget. The *motion passed unanimously as distributed.*
3. Police Report: Detective Hanny read the report submitted by email and informed Council that there was a hit and run, car vs bicycle, in Kilbuck Township on New Brighton Road just outside of our border the evening earlier. The cyclist would be fine but they are looking for a red pick-up truck.
Detective Hanny asked if Council had any questions regarding the security camera project presented last month. Mr. Cuteri noted that the project will need to be bid publicly since the project is over \$20,000.
Mr. Radcliffe asked the Detective about a Next-Door Ben Avon post from last month who posted something about drug activity in their Borough. Mr. Radcliffe asked the Detective to stay on top of that issue. The detective noted that patrols were increased and now that the residents are aware of the issue typically the activity ceases.
4. Fire Report: Chief Berie noted that there were 2 fire calls last month. One was a smoking electrical outlet and the second was a dryer issue. Mr. Berardi noted that the response time was excellent and thanked the Chief for their efforts. There was one service call this month

involving a residents CO2 monitor. They believe that an issue with a downed transformer the day before affected the unit.

Chief Berie noted that while Columbia Gas is working on their line replacement we should inform residents that if they smell gas at any time to not to hesitate to call the Fire Department.

5. **Public Comment:** Mr. Knuth requested information regarding the work that was scheduled for Banbury Lane this summer and why it is different than what was completed on Oxford road in 2016 also noting that the curbs and sidewalks are in bad shape. Mr. Cuteri stated that the work being done this year is not the Borough's but due to Columbia Gas' line replacement which, by our Ordinance, requires them to resurface the roadway. Mr. Cuteri also noted that sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility but if the gas company damages them then the gas company would need to repair them. He suggested that Mr. Knuth take photographs of the property before the work began near his house.

Mayor Dismukes noted that the Borough was doing roadwork for the Gas company in order to save money and to add some base repair work in areas we know are in desperate need. This work will also include the resurfacing of Cambridge Road in order to preserve the road and to protect the main sewer line that runs along that roadway.

Mr. Radcliffe noted that he had asked the Engineer to make sure that the roadway along Banbury is crowned when replaced in order to expose more of the curbs that were buried years ago in hopes it will improve the rainwater runoff.

Mr. Knuth asked who would be responsible for the work on his property. Mrs. Raves noted that Columbia Gas has informed us that they will contact each homeowner to discuss their specific project and will pay all costs to reconnect the gas line to the homes and that will happen as they replace the main lines throughout the Borough. This timeline is not yet known; however, they are gearing up to start the project in the next two weeks.

6. **Engineer's Report:** Was emailed to Council. Discussion took place regarding the signing of the contract for the 2018 roadway improvement project. Council approved the contract last month but did not sign in order to verify Columbia Gas' start date.

7. **Cambridge Catch Basin:** Mrs. Smith noted an open hole, catch basin along Cambridge Road and questioned its safety. The engineer sent an email stating that it was an "Old School" catch basin and since it was not in the cart way it did not need a grate but gave us several options in order to add a grate. Mr. Radcliffe noted that he would look into getting a grate for the area.

8. **Zoning Application Submission Report:** Mrs. Raves reported that there were no submissions this month.

9. **Fountain Update:** Mr. Radcliffe noted that the fountain plumbing relocation and base have been started. He visited Donatelli to see the refurbished fountain and that all the plumbing devices were going to be reviewed later this week and that the new fountain may be up and working late next week.

Mr. Radcliffe noted that Jen Dickson has offered to plant annuals in the bed where the bushes were removed.

Mr. Radcliffe also noted that he would like to see a community sign erected in the area where the bushes once stood. Council liked this idea. Mr. Brown questioned having the mailbox relocated since its current location is unsafe and was informed that moving the mail box would be a Federal Offence. He then asked if the stone wall, where the bushes were, be made smaller to give additional space to the sidewalk. Mr. Radcliffe noted that we could explore moving the fence in that area to make room for the new sign and additional space along the sidewalk.

It was noted that there is a ragged sign post in the bed where the bushes were and Mr. Radcliffe stated that it would be cut off.

- 10. Tennis Court:** The Recreation Committee reported that we have a quote to clean the court for \$915.00 and a low bid of \$250.00 to paint Pickleball lines on the court. These items will be completed as soon as possible. Mrs. Raves noted that once the water is turned back on we can schedule the cleaning.
- 11. Additional Work along Briar Cliff Road:** Mr. Radcliffe reported that he met with the weed contractor to discuss expanding the treatment area to eliminate the Japanese Knotweed growing along that area. He received a bid of \$2700.00 for the 2 years remaining on our contract for the expanded area. Discussion took place regarding several areas along Perrysville Road and Mr. Berardi agreed to discuss the project with the homeowner of 4 Banbury Lane. Council agreed to have Mr. Radcliffe work with the contractor and to move forward with the project.
Discussion took place regarding removal of an additional leaning tree in that area. Council agreed to discuss its removal with Scott McGinn.
- 12. Retirement Scholarship Donation: A motion was made** by Mr. Berardi to approve a donation to the fund of \$1,000.00 subject to the Solicitor's Review. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 13. A Motion to Authorization to Advertise Ordinance 339** - to enter into a joint emergency operations agency with Ohio Township was made by Mr. Berardi. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 14. Bills for Columbia Gas and Shannopin Appeal:** Mrs. Raves asked if she should just start billing Columbia Gas and Shannopin Country Club for expenses. Mr. Vogel stated that we could begin billing, simply send copies of the invoices to each party. Mr. Hebert asked if we could bill Columbia Gas for the PA One Call call out bills from Avalon. Mr. Vogel said that they too could be passed along to Columbia Gas company.
- 15. Executive Session:** Council entered into Executive Session at 7:59 PM.

The meeting resumed at 8:20 PM

- 16. Bidding of Security Cameras:** Mr. Vogel stated that the Borough will need to bid the security cameras. Council asked Mrs. Raves to contact the security camera vendor and request a complete biddable specification.

This meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday June 12, 2018 at the Shannopin Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer