

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 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: Brown, Cuteri, Hebert, Stiller, Radcliffe

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD: Chief Hanny

NorthWest EMS: Dudash

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Jim Georgalas, Greg Mihalko

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

1. February 2019 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the February 2019 minutes previously distributed to council by email. Ms. Smith seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. March 2019 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the March 2019 minutes previously distributed to council by email. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. March 2019 Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cuteri noted that our financial reports are more to councils liking, than as in previous months as we have a new accountant Mary Quinslin with Dennis Piper and Associates. Mr. Brown had a few questions with the actual budget, as it looks as we are over for the year in certain areas. Mr. Cuteri reminded Mr. Brown that some items that our billed to us during the year, do not hit monthly, they could hit quarterly, which could make us look over budget at the moment. Mr. Cuteri suggested inviting Ms. Quinslin to the next meeting, so council may ask her specific questions as well as meet her.
4. EMS Report: Mr. Dudash reported that during the 4th quarter they received a total of 3 calls, patients did go to the hospital. there were a total of 3 calls in the 1st quarter of 2019, only 1 had to go to the hospital. Mr. Dudash reminded council that patients do have the right to request where they would like to be treated.
5. Fire Report: No fire representative present.
6. Police Report: Chief Hanny reported for the month of March there were a total of 105 calls, 93 were of routine patrols. Mr. Brown asked Chief if he began having a patrol sit at the intersection of Perrysville and New Brighton for any particular reason, as he's noticed one more recently. Chief did request some patrol officers to swing by as there were a few issues this past winter with a car passing a bus and crossing guard. Mr. Brown greatly apricates the police presences as he feels cars actually stop at the intersection now.
7. Engineer's Report: Mr. Cuteri reported that he had some email communication with Mr. Heyl. He did report that Mr. Heyl is requesting a calendar schedule for the work from Columbia Gas. Mr. Cuteri also included with councils electronic documents the letter that states they will cover the costs in which council questioned in the previous meeting. Ms. DiNuzzo also confirmed she had spoken with Mr. Heyl on a calendar schedule from Columbia Gas as there was no access to Shannopin on Tuesday, April 2nd and she was unable to notify Shannopin of this beforehand.
8. Public Comment: Jim Georgalas from Banbury lane just wanted to voice his concern on the future of Banbury's road project as previously the road was concrete. His concern is once the Columbia gas project is complete, that the road will be prepared afterword's. Mr. Cuteri confirmed that the council is aware of this, and have made Columbia gas aware of this issue.
9. Zoning Application Submission Report: Ms. DiNuzzo reported for the month of March, there was one submission for a shed at 10 Stratford. Mr. Radcliffe requested to see the application. Mr. Vogel also reminded council that we will need to advertise councils special meeting on the Shannopin hearing that took place on

March 27th. Council agreed that they can have a quorum on May 7th for a special meeting. Ms. DiNuzzo will confirm with Shannopin that the room is available and run a legal advertisement with the Citizen.

10. Open House Celebrating the Avon Club's 75th Anniversary on May 11th. Ms. DiNuzzo reminded council that the Avon club will host an Open House celebrating the Avon Club's 7th Anniversary on May 11th. Ms. DiNuzzo will send information out to the community.

11. Discuss more structure to council meetings: Mr. Stiller wanted to clarify that he wanted to discuss the time-line leading up to our meetings. He put a proposed time-line together to help all feel included and prepared. He suggested the Friday prior to the meeting Ms. DiNuzzo should send the minutes and agenda to leadership to review. Mr. Cuteri stated that the Friday prior to the meeting, all council members should receive the minutes and agenda to review and by the 4th Friday of the month minutes should be resolved. The 4th Wednesday of each month Ms. DiNuzzo will send out an email confirming attendance with council and ask if council needs anything added to the agenda. The 4th Friday Ms. DiNuzzo will send minutes and the agenda to council to review. Ms. DiNuzzo will send financial records to council as soon as they come in. Mr. Brown suggested council use less paper and go more digital, council agreed to use less paper, but not as many agreed on a cloud base sharing system. Ms. DiNuzzo will gladly post documents to a shared google drive for those who would like to go that route.

12. New Business: Mr. Radcliffe notified council members prior to the meeting of the "Tree of Heaven" which seems to be killing trees along Cambridge and Banbury. Mr. Radcliffe had Davey tree services come out and evaluate the situation. Mr. Cuteri asked Mr. Radcliffe what his idea for this problem would be after discovering this issue. Mr. Radcliffe believes that council should have Davey tree service give the Borough and estimate on treatment for this "Tree of Heaven". The process to rid of this would be to chop at the stump of this and inject the stump with a chemical that would then go down into the roots and kill the tree. Mr. Radcliffe estimates around four of these types of trees in this area. Mr. Radcliffe has not received an estimate yet, as he wanted to discuss this with council before proceeding. A few council members raised the question of, what the long-term goal of this area of the Borough is, and if this was not budgeted for the year, is there harm in postponing until next year, allowing us to budget for this project. Mr. Cuteri mentioned that the long-term goal was to make this area more landscaped and to not call this area a "dump area" anymore. Mr. Brown would like a full estimate on this project for next meeting so council has a better understanding. Ms. Smith also mentioned that there are some residents in the Borough who are landscaping specialist and would like us to possibly reach out to them for a long-term plan. Mr. Radcliffe also updated the committee that he will have mock-ups of the street sign designs for next meeting. Members again all agreed that we should allow residents to vote on the final two via survey monkey. Mr. Stiller said he would work with Ms. DiNuzzo to get those out to residents once we are ready.

13. Executive Session: No executive session was needed.

This meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is May 14th, 2019 at the Shannopin Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary