

## Borough of Ben Avon Heights

### Tuesday, August 13, 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, Radcliffe, Smith, Stiller

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD: Sargent Beck

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Avonworth Park Representative: Bennett

Residents: Ms. Mihalko

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

1. July 2019 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the June, 2019 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. July 2019 Treasurer's Report: Mr. Radcliffe made a motion to approve the July 2019 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously as distributed.

Mr. Stiller asked if we had a meeting scheduled for our 2020 budget meeting. Members realized council did not have one scheduled, after discussion they decided September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7pm at Shannopin Country Club. Ms. DiNuzzo will have this special meeting advertised in The Citizen.
3. Police Report (Beck): For the month of July Sargent Beck reported that there were a total of 96 calls. Sargent Beck asked if the Borough had time to create the ordinance for emergency management previously suggested by the solicitor who attended our meeting in July. After some discussion, Mr. Vogel concluded that a resolution would best fit for this and he will draft one up for council and Sargent Beck to review.
4. Fire Report (Berie): There was no fire representation to report.
5. Engineers report (Heyl): There was no engineer present to report, Mr. Brown asked if we had updated dates for the paving project, Mr. Cuteri responded with what LSSE provided us via memo for the meeting this evening: *LSSE met with Columbia Gas on August 9, 2019. Columbia Gas informed LSSE that the binder placement on Briar Cliff will be completed the week of August 12, 2019. The concrete curb on Banbury will be installed starting the week of August 19 or August 26, 2019 and will take approximately three weeks to complete.* Mr. Cuteri informed council he spoke with Mr. Heyl to see why this would take three weeks as this project is now creeping into late September. Mr. Dismukes questioned if Mr. Heyl had reached out to the paving company to which Mr. Cuteri was uncertain. Ms. DiNuzzo mentioned she had a conference call set up with LSSE, and Columbia Gas for August 13<sup>th</sup> and last-minute Columbia Gas had to reschedule.
6. Update on storm inlet cleaning Cambridge regarding Tri-State: Mr. Cuteri talked with Tri-State, they have cleaned all the inlets in the Borough, the issue currently is the outflow is clogged from the storm lines. Tri-State will excavate the outflow within the next week.
7. ACCORD Park – Annual Budget report (Bennett): Ms. Bennett as well as Mr. Bellotti who both co-chair, felt it would be a great idea to start including the Borough on budget updates to allow the Borough to stay informed on where their money is going. Ms. Bennett shared ACCORD Parks annual audit as well as a staffing list for council members to review. She also provided information for rental units; in case anyone approaches council with questions. Ms. Bennett noted that their rental demand was down, but this past year they decided to put money in areas they felt were needed such as maintenance, landscaping, upgrading the bridal suite, etc. The other area they decided to focus more on was marketing, as well as increasing staff as well as payroll. She did note that they would like to partner with the Borough more, with getting word out for events. She also mentioned that they are in need of volunteers,

there are still three spots open on the Ben Avon Heights Committee. Mr. Cuteri informed Ms. Bennett that if she would send information about up and coming events to Ms. DiNuzzo, she will share it with the residents of the Borough.

8. **Public Comment:** Ms. Mihalko just questioned what exactly council means by paving, as they just came the other day near her house and repaved a small patch. She wanted to confirm the whole road is actually being paved. Mr. Cuteri confirmed the whole road would be paved; the patching just occurs after Columbia Gas does work. She also was curious on the landscaping that council is planning to do on the hillside by her home. Mr. Cuteri noted this is number 11 on the agenda and would be discussed shortly.
9. **Zoning Application Submissions report:** Ms. DiNuzzo reported for the month of July there were no zoning application submissions.
10. **Council member early resignation request:** Mr. Cuteri informed council that council member Rick Berardi would like to resign early as he is unable to attend anymore meetings for the rest of his term. Mr. Cuteri approached Mr. Mihalko if he would like to step in for Mr. Berardi as he is on the ballot for this year. Mr. Vogel noted it would only be for completion of Mr. Barardis term until the end of the year. ***Mr. Stiller made a motion to accept Mr. Berardi's resignation. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*** Mr. Cuteri nominated Greg Mihalko to complete Mr. Berardi's term. Mr. Stiller seconds the nomination. There were no other nominations to compete Mr. Berardi's term. ***Mr. Cuteri made a motion to nominate Greg Mihalko. Mr. Brown Seconds the motion. The motion to accept Mr. Mihalko to complete Mr. Berardi's term passed unanimously.*** Mr. Dismukes swore Mr. Mihalko in as council member.
11. **Update on parks and landscape:** Mr. Radcliffe updated council informing them the new sign is up, and flowers were put in under the sign at the corner of the park. Mr. Brown complemented Mr. Radcliffe on all the work he's done with the park as it looks wonderful.
12. **Update on Noxious weed program:** Mr. Radcliffe informed members that Davies tree service will come in September and preform something called "girdling" to the trees where they kill the tree of heaven. This should be completed by Christmas, and the trees would then be cut down during the winter months. In the Spring the ground will be prepared with a low mow grass which will create a very nice look as well as choke out weeds. Ms. Smith questioned if council had ever decided on a budget plan for this type of project as she feels this should come out of a budget line. Mr. Radcliffe informed Ms. Smith that the tree removal will cost approximately \$3,000. He has also received some quotes for the re-seeding portion of this project, but nothing has been formalized. Mr. Radcliffe noted that council agreed that this project not to exceed \$3,000. Mr. Stiller questioned what line this would hit as this is information, we should have for the budget meeting.
13. **Homeowner property maintenance complaint and parking issues:** Mr. Cuteri informed council members he has been receiving quiet a few complaints about parking issues and yard maintenance. Mr. Cuteri noted council should take a closer look at the parking issues this fall with the ordinance revision. Mr. Stiller questioned the complaints about property maintenance, and if they were safety issues. Mr. Cuteri informed Mr. Stiller that if the complaints were safety related, we would reach out to the individual property and instruct them to alleviate the safety issue.
14. **Executive session:** began at 8pm

Council resumed at 8:11pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday September 10, 2019 at the Shannopin Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary