

**Borough of Ben Avon Heights**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019 - Council Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of council was held at Avalon Fire Hall at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

**Present:**

Council Members: Brown, Cuteri, Mihalko, Stiller, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD:

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Damien Liska, Jackie Neunder, Terrie Brightman, Marybeth Bolam

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

1. **November 2019 minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the November meeting minutes. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion. Mr. Brown abstains, motion passed by majority.**
2. **November 2019 financials: This item will be tabled as the documents were not provided electronically to council in time for the meeting.**
3. **Police Report:** An officer filling in for Chief Hanny stated for the month of November there were a total of 95 calls, 93 of those being routine.
4. **Engineers report/ Road paving update:** Mr. Heyl updated council that LSSE transmitted partial payment number one in the amount of \$153,192.34 as noted in the letter dated December 6, 2019. This is the full amount minus five percent as there are some outstanding items on their punch list. Shannopin country club submitted a proposal for a first phase of their execution on their plans for a fitness center. LSSE provided documentation and sent back to Shannopin; they now will need to obtain capacity from Bellevue, Alcosan and the Health Department. Once they complete that, they will then need to submit to Ben Avon Heights Council, before their final completion of the Health Department. Mr. Dismukes suggested we assess the curbs next. Mr. Cuteri suggested we discuss this during the 5 year budget when we discuss when road improvement can continue. Mr. Brown questioned if we were within our budget for this project. Mr. Cuteri stated that we were within our updated budget for this project.
5. **Avonworth Municipal Authority Board Appointments:** Ms. Terrie Brightman from 17 Banbury Lane and Ms. Marybeth Bolam from 11 Briar Cliff have shown interest in joining the Avonworth Municipal Authority Board. Ms. Brightman has a background in landscape architect feels her background could help while being on the board. Ms. Bolam is a CPA and with her younger children getting older, she would like to be more involved in park activities that her children would participate in. **A motion was made to appoint Ms. Brightman and Ms. Bolam to the Avonworth Municipal Authority Board by Mr. Stiller. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Vote on 2020 Budget: A motion was made to adopt the 2020 budget by Mr. Mihalko. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Vogel questioned if we advertised the tax levi ordinance, Ms. DiNuzzo did not believe so, they would look into this after the meeting. **A motion was made by Mr. Brown to advertise the tax levi if it was not advertised with the budget. Mr. Stiller second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
7. **2019 Election results, positions open and filled:** Mr. Vogel informed council members that the official results were as followed: Kim Gourley for tax collector. The elected members who were on the ballot were: Steven Stiller, Greg Mihalko, and John Radcliffe. For the write-in positions for the 4-year spot according to county elections office was Jacquelyn Neunder as well as the 2-year spot. Ms. Neunder has decided to accept the 4-year term. Mr. Vogel then stated that when council meets for their reorganization meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 council can then appoint someone for the 2-year spot.
8. **Council meeting calendar dates for 2020:** All meetings are at 7pm and held at Shannopin Country Club except for the bolded dates which are to be held as Avalon Volunteer Fire Hall.

**January 7, 2020** (this is the reorganization meeting in which swearing in of new council members will take place)

**February 11, 2020**

**March 10, 2020**

April 14, 2020

May 12, 2020

June 9, 2020  
July 14, 2020  
August 12, 2020  
September 8, 2020  
October 13, 2020  
**November 10, 2020**  
**December 8, 2020**

9. **Alcosan rate increase:** Council discussed the Alcosan rate increase. Mr. Cuteri suggested that Ben Avon Heights fee on sewage should remain the same with no increase since sewage rates are climbing. After review of the rates and amounts accrued for the Sewer Fund it was determined that the borough has adequate funds to meet the minimum reserve. It was suggested that Council consider lowering the Borough Fee to \$3.00 per 1000 gallons of usage. This would more than offset the Alcosan increase in rates.

Mr. Brown questioned if any other Borough has taken legal action against Alcosan as this seems very unreasonable to increase sewage rates. After lengthy discussion, council members decided to take action at our next council meeting. **A motion was made to advertise a change to reduce the Boroughs sewer rate to \$3.00 per thousand gallons of usage by Mr. Stiller. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. **5 year budget:** Mr. Dismukes would also like council to discuss scheduling a 5-year budget meeting soon.
11. **Zoning Application Report:** Ms. DiNuzzo reported for the month of November, 11 Briar cliff Road submitted a zoning application for a building addition.
12. **Public comment:** Mr. Liska was interested in taking over Ms. Von Lehman's seat as the executive committee chair on the Avonworth Municipal Authority as Ms. Von Lehman has stepped down. **A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to recommend Damien Liska as executive chair on the Avonworth Municipality Board. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Nuender from 5 Biddeford wanted to bring to council's attention that she believes that the curb was taken out at the corner of Oxford and Biddeford and replaced with asphalt curbing. She wanted to make sure that council was billed properly.
- a. **Public announcements:** Mr. Cuteri reminded all that there are some up and coming events in the Borough: The council Christmas luncheon on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Ben Avon Heights Christmas Tea on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 Wilson; Avalon Fire Department Christmas tree sales are still going on, but it was communicated through social media that they only had a handful of trees left.
13. **Executive session:** began at 7:55pm.

Executive session ended at 8:20 pm. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm

The next scheduled meeting is January 7, 2020 at 7pm at the Avalon Volunteer Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary