

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 - 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

Present:

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

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Secretary: DiNuzzo

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

- 1. Vote to approve January minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the December 2018 minutes previously distributed to council by email. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. Vote to approve the January Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the January 2019 Treasurer's report. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion.** Mr. Brown had a few questions on the report as he would like to know who the credit entries in the detailed document are coming from. Ms. DiNuzzo will relay this request to the accountant firm that future reports should state where the credits are coming from. After much discussion over the budget, committee members feel it would be best that Br. Brown and Mr. Cuteri have a meeting with the accountant firm to go over these reports. **The motion was passed with a majority rule of 3-1. as distributed.**
- 3. Fire Report:** Chief Berie reported they had one call in the month of January; it was a faulty alarm system. Chief also introduced the Borough of Avalon's emergency coordinator, Rob Ensminger, with a background as a trauma nurse and FEMA. Chief will be ready for council for our second meeting on March 27th for our hearing. Chief reminded council of the Purse Bash which will be on March 23rd. He also mentioned they plan on having at least two fish fry's: the first Friday of lent and Good Friday. If they are able to have more, they will post the notice outside of the station on their sign.
- 4. Police Report:** Chief Hanny reported that there where a total of 111 calls, and 93 were of routine patrols for the month of February. Chief also reported that they were able to address the concern of illegal dumping which council brought to his attention last month, and they have made an effort in patrolling the area more frequently to keep an eye on the situation. In the month of January, a car passed a bus with its stop sign out at the intersection of New Brighton and Perrysville Ave. Since then, Chief has provided the bus stop area with extra cones and given the crossing guard with his cell phone number. He also noted that 2 traffic citations were issued, both in the same area he has had officers patrolling more frequently after the incident.
- 5. Engineer's Report:** LSSE sent a report which was distributed to council electronically before the meeting. Mr. Brown questioned who would be picking up the increased fees for the road project, and Mr. Cuteri informed him that it would be Columbia Gas. Mr. Dismukes suggested that an LSSE representative should attend our March meeting, so council members can talk to members about the timeline with Columbia Gas.
- 6. Public Comment:** Mr. Morris was present and asked council if the Borough was still going to invest in the traffic cameras. Mr. Cuteri informed the resident that they still need to obtain public bids for the cameras before we can move forward and we are having some difficulty with getting a comprehensive specification for bidding.
- 7. Zoning applications report:** Ms. DiNuzzo reported that for the month of January, the Borough did not receive any zoning applications.
- 8. Letter and proposal for audit services from A Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP:** A Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood contacted the Borough with a proposed three-year contract for auditing. Mr. Brown felt the proposed numbers looked reasonable. **A motion was made by Mr. Brown to accept the proposal. Mr. Radcliffe second the motion. The motion was passed to accept the proposal.**

- 9. Meet and greet with Anita Astorino Kulik, Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 8-11 a.m. at the Anchor and Anvil Coffee Shop.** Mr. Dismukes, Mr. Radcliffe and Mr. Hebert voiced interest in attending this event. Ms. DiNuzzo will let Ms. Kulik's office know who will be attending.
- 10. Alcosan audit letter:** Ms. DiNuzzo confirmed with the accountant firm that we agree with the letter that states the balance as of December 2018 is at zero.
- 11. Authorized advertising and administrative expenses for the Curative Amendment Hearing on March 27th:** Mr. Vogel informed council that we will need to advertise with the Citizen twice, before the hearing. We will also need a court recorder for the hearing. Mr. Vogel will write the advertisement for the Borough. Mr. Vogel's office will send this to Ms. DiNuzzo soon. **A motion was made by Mr. Brown. Mr. Hebert seconds the motion. A motion was passed by Council to advertise the Curative Amendment Hearing and reasonable administrative fees and expenses.**
- 12. Zoning Ordinance update:** Mr. Cuteri reached out to a landscaping company that does design, HRG, they've been in communication on what exactly Mr. Cuteri and the Borough needs. They suggested that they would like to audit the ordinance, as well as what we wanted to accomplish, before giving us a quote. Mr. Vogel was discussing this with a colleague, who suggested a contact person the Borough should reach out to for an additional opinion. Mr. Hebert asked how much this would cost, which Mr. Cuteri informed him that the audit would cost us \$3,374. Mr. Cuteri will reach out for the second opinion when Mr. Vogel provides his information. We'll discuss this again in March.
- 13. Leaf collection contract:** Mr. Vogel brought the contracts in which the council discussed last month. Council reviewed the contracts, council agreed these sounded well written with no confusion. Ms. DiNuzzo will send the contract to Walt for review as well as signature if he also agrees. **A motion was made by Mr. Brown to pass the contract as written. Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion. A motion was passed to approve amended contract.**
- 14. Executive session:** This meeting went into executive session at 8:05 p.m.
- 15. Meeting resumed:** Meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.
- 16. New Business:** Mr. Radcliffe has been working on a Ben Avon Heights sign for the park. He brought examples of sign designs in which he said cost approximately \$1,500.00. The location of the proposed sign is where the Christmas tree was located this past Holiday. Mr. Radcliffe will have drawings for next meeting. Mr. Radcliffe also proposed we cut down additional overhead canopy to cut out. Walt gave Mr. Radcliffe some prices for this. \$1,350 would cut all of Briar Cliff with a 5-year upkeep, \$680 which would be the lesser cost. Mr. Brown questioned if this was a safety issue, Mr. Radcliffe believes it is. Mr. Cuteri feels we should discuss this with the residents who live on that street and see how they feel.

This meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday March 12th at Avalon Volunteer Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary