

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, January 8, 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, Stiller, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Mr. Cuteri began the meeting at 7:05 PM.

- 1. Vote to approve December minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the December 2018 minutes previously distributed to council by email. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. Vote to approve the December Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the December 2018 treasure's report. Mr. Stiller seconded the motion.** Mr. Brown had a few questions on the report as this is the year end budget. After discussing some of the lines on the budget, specifically real estate tax, the committee agreed that some communication with Jordan Tax would be most conducive for future discussion. Ms. Smith mentioned she remembers in the past that the Borough needed to reach out to Jordan Tax more frequently for reports. Mr. Brown raised a few more questions on the budget, Mr. Cuteri suggested he would talk with the accounting firm to see if we can more closely align the treasurers report with the line items in the annual budget to make it easier to understand the monthly treasurers report. **The motion was passed unanimously as distributed.**
- 3. Fire Report:** Chief Berie reported that they had one call in the month of December on New Brighton for a faulty stove. He also reported that the Santa in the park event went extremely well, with a large outcome. Mr. Radcliffe thanked Chief Berie for pulling off a great event as everything looked and went great. Chief also noted he was able to get the tree branches removed that the Borough had requested last month. He also mentioned that they will be holding a 'purse bash event' on March 23, 2019. He will send the flyer to Ms. DiNuzzo to share with the community with more details.
- 4. EMS report:** No report to share with the council.
- 5. Police Report:** Chief Hanny reported that there was a total of 98 calls and 93 patrols for the month of December. He also reported that Santa in the park detail went very well for the large turnout. Mr. Vogel raised a question for the Chief. A resident of the Borough contacted Ms. DiNuzzo about dog waste being left in their front yard and if something could be done if the residents provided surveillance video as this does violate one of the Boroughs ordinances. Chief did inform Mr. Vogel and the council that they would take action on our behalf, however he does tend to lean towards issuing warnings over citations unless the issue does begin to come out of hand. Typically, a visit by an officer with a copy of the ordinance in violation tends to put an end to the issue. Mr. Cuteri also raised a question on residents dumping illegally off of Briar Cliff Road. The Borough has sent out communication about this in the past, but this issue continues. How would the borough handle something like this? Chief asked if we could send him the addresses so he can look into questioning the properties in this

area to help us figure out who may be illegally dumping. Mr. Radcliffe volunteered that he would provide that information to the Chief for follow up with the residents.

- 6. Engineer's Report:** The engineers provided council a memo prior to the meeting. Mr. Cuteri mentioned that he is working on a contract with LSSE for annual services under which the waste load management report would be provided. Mr. Dismukes raised the question on when Columbia Gas will return to complete the project and who will be responsible for what, as many of the residents certainly would like to know. Mr. Cuteri suggested discussing this at the February Council meeting so we can get an update from Columbia Gas, as there will not be any road work completed this time of year. Ms. Smith asked council members if any would be attending the ALCOSAN meeting on January 29th. Mr. Cuteri mentioned that that particular meeting, is in relation to the County assuming control of sewer lines, and the borough does not have any sewer lines of the size that would be subject to this new County Responsibility.
- 7. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
- 8. Zoning Ordinance update:** Mr. Cuteri reached out to HRG engineering that does zoning ordinance writing; he is waiting on a proposal to update our ordinance and compliance with the multi-municipal study. Mr. Vogel also noted that he could send Mr. Cuteri some companies from other projects he's worked with.
- 9. Leaf collection contract:** Mr. Radcliffe will reach out to Walt's landscaping to work on our future contract so the verbiage is more clearly stated. The current statement state leaf collection will begin on the 3rd Monday of October through the 2nd Monday of December, which would be a total of nine weeks. The next line then states that this contract is effective for 8 weeks. Mr. Radcliffe suggested our contract start one week later than our current statement states. Mr. Brown questioned why our contract price and budget price were so different. Mr. Radcliffe noted that we are charged for each load of leaves he takes for dumping which was not in the original contract, as he is charged for each load. Members questioned if we could look into other areas where Walt's Landscaping could dump our leaves for free or a lesser charge. Mr. Dismukes suggested that our next contract have set price for an additional week if we need it, as well as any surcharge for dumping.
- 10. Executive session:** This meeting went into executive session at 7:51 p.m.
- 11. Meeting resumed:** Meeting resumed at 8:08 p.m.
- 12. New Business:** Mr. Radcliffe suggested to the committee that he would like to put a sign up in front of the park, where the Christmas tree was this year. The sign he presented to the committee would cost between \$1,500-2,000. Mr. Radcliffe went up to fast signs in Wexford. No decision was made on the new sign, but it was suggested we look at the area in front of the park to see if it could be made more inviting and allow for the sign and landscape.
- 13.** Mr. Radcliffe also got quotes from Walt's Landscaping and Davie Tree service on the tree's we had in question at a previous meeting that needed some trimming on Briar Cliff and Cambridge. While they surveyed the area, they found some more trees that needed to be removed. Walt's landscaping gave us the better price of \$1500.00, where as Davie's quoted us at a very close \$1550.00

This meeting adjourned at 8:23P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary