

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, March 12, 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: Berardi, Hebert, Radcliffe, Smith, Stiller

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Engineer: Heyl

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

OTPD: SGT. Chief Hanny

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Resident(s): Greg(?), Ms. Liska

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

1. February 2019 Minutes: This item has been tabled until next month.
2. February 2019 Treasurer's Report: ***Mr. Stiller made a motion*** to approve the February 2019 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. Ms. Smith had a question on the transfers from liquid fuels to the general account and wondered if this was done on a regular schedule. Ms. DiNuzzo will check with the accountant on how often this happens. Ms. Smith was also curious about the tree work discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Radcliffe confirmed the work was completed by Walt's Landscaping for less than the amount quoted. ***Mr. Berardi seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously as distributed.***
3. Fire Report: Chief Berie reported for the month of February they had a total of 9 calls, 7 of those were due to the windstorm with wires and trees down. Chief also mentioned the kitchen fire that happened at Shannopin at the beginning of February. Chief Berie asked the council if they knew who was in charge of Shannopin, because he would like to have a discussion about an ox box for when they receive calls. He also thanked all who attended the Fish Fry. He reminded council the next Fish Fry will be on Good Friday. Chief Berie also confirmed with Council for the hearing on March 27th, 2019.
4. Police Report: Chief Hanny reported for the month of February they had a total of 99 calls, 84 of those being routine patrols. Chief also wanted to note that they too made numerous phone calls to Duquesne light regarding the down powerline at the intersection of Wilson and Penhurst, but there was a point where Duquesne Light were no longer responding to incoming phone calls, and unfortunately, the intersection was not on the top of their priority list. Mr. Radcliffe thanked Chief Hanny for promptly coming out the night of the power loss, assessing the situation, and blocking it off to keep residents safe.
5. Engineer's Report/Columbia gas project/road project: Mr. Heyl was present and distributed copies of the engineer report to council members to review. Mr. Heyl confirmed with Columbia gas that they would begin their completion project in the up and coming weeks of March. They anticipate the completion date by the end of July, possibly early August. Mr. Heyl also contacted the paving company to confirm they would still honor our contract. They sent a letter to the Borough on March 11, 2019 stating they would honor our contract, and as of late last fall they had an estimate of \$34,000 with additional indexed cost for fuel and asphalt increases. Mr. Heyl then reached out to Columbia gas to see if they would cover any increased costs, otherwise, the Borough

would have to cover these costs. Mr. Radcliffe questioned if they could begin immediately after Columbia gas finished, Mr. Heyl did not see why they would not be ready. Mr. Radcliffe mentioned the additional roads that were going to be paved, such as Cambridge, that were included on the bid, and if they could possibly start on these roads if Columbia gas was running behind on their project. Resident Greg Mihalko mentioned he is a little concerned with the project end date as he has a 100 + wedding guest list for his home on August 3, 2019. Mr. Heyl asked for his address so they could make sure that section is complete by that date. Mr. Hebert made a point that they should be able to provide us a color-coded map of where they are working, where they plan to work, and what has been completed.

- a. **SUBSEQUENT TO THIS MEETING MR.** CUTERI PROVIDED THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION REGARDING COLUMBIA GAS AGREEMENT TO PAY FOR THE ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR PAVING WORK. See attached letter and email correspondence.

6. **The Avon Club Foundation Celebrates it's 75th Anniversary:** Ms. Liska informed the committee members that they have some wonderful events coming up this year to help celebrate their 75th anniversary. On May 11th, they will have an open house at Ben Avon Borough Hall, where they will display a collection of their work and accomplishments over the past 75 years. There will be light refreshments from 1-4pm. The annual fall festival will be held on September 28th, on the main street of Ben Avon. The holiday house tour will be on December 7th, with homes of Ben Avon on display. Mr. Stiller requested flyers for these events when they arrive closer so we can distribute them to our residents through email and social media. Ms. Liska also mentioned they will post the sign Council approved back in November by the park in the following weeks.
7. **Public Comment:** Greg Mihalko came to the meeting because he has interest in possibly running this fall and wanted to be more involved.
8. **Vote to Authorize Al Cuteri to retain HRG for zoning assessment per their proposal:** Mr. Radcliffe mentioned per note from Mr. Cuteri that the second opinion Mr. Vogel suggested we contact, did not return our calls. Mr. Vogel, as a refresher, explained that HRG will help the Borough possibly re-write the zoning ordinance. First, they would like to audit our zoning ordinance before we agree to work with them. This audit, final report, and attend some meetings. Mr. Stiller questioned if this would affect current issues we're dealing with. Mr. Vogel responded no, this would be for the future. **Mr. Hebert made a motion to authorize Mr. Cuteri to retain HRG for zoning assessment per their proposal. Mr. Berardi second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
9. **Zoning Application Submissions:** Ms. DiNuzzo informed council that for the month of February, there was one submission from 14 Devon for an addition/demolition/grading/fencing/garage/shed. Mr. Price reviewed this application and approved. Mr. Radcliffe asked if he could see the details of this application. Ms. DiNuzzo informed the committee she would share the details of the approved application after the meeting.
10. **Development of a drop-based recovery system for container glass:** Mr. Dismukes informed the committee that the future of glass pick-up with our recycling is in question. There was a planned community drop off in ACORD park in June. Initially, Kilbuck stated they would support this event financially for \$750 dollars, but recently backed out. Council raised the question if this was permanent, or a one-time event. Mr. Dismukes confirmed it was a one-time event. Mr. Stiller asked if any residents had raised concerns about the recycling collection recently, Ms. DiNuzzo confirmed that one resident reached out to her as they had received a notice from Valley Waste about glass pick up. She contacted Valley Waste, and per our contract for 2019, glass pick up will continue for Ben Avon Heights. **A motion was made by Mr. Berardi to financially support the drop-based recovery system for container glass on June 2nd in ACORD park. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed with the majority vote.**
11. **Planned spring leaf clean up date/contract update:** Mr. Radcliffe informed the committee that Walt agreed to a one-time spring leaf pick up for April 15th. Ms. DiNuzzo will send notification out to the residents in the next few days. **A motion was made for Walt's Landscaping to provide a Spring leaf pick-up on April 15th by Mr. Berardi. Ms. Smith seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
12. **Review Ben Avon Heights sign contract with FastSigns:** Mr. Radcliffe provided a presentation of options from FastSigns for committee members to review. The signs will be aluminum, and the company will work with us on colors and graphics. Mr. Berardi asked the total price for this, Mr. Radcliffe responded that it would cost approximately \$2,000. **Mr. Berardi made a motion for the \$1000.00 down payment for the contract with FastSigns. Mr. Hebert seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Smith mentioned getting residents involved, allowing them to vote on which design they would like. Mr. Stiller agreed, possibly getting

the designs down to two, and then send the residents a survey monkey of which they preferred. Council members agreed.

13. New Business: Mr. Stiller asked if Council meetings should have more structure, with more guidelines. Council members agreed, Mr. Radcliffe suggested we add this to the agenda in April.

14. Executive Session: No executive session was needed.

This meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday April 9, 2019 at the Shannopin Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica DiNuzzo