

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, November 12, 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, Mihalko, Stiller, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Mary Claire Arena, Viktorija Telbis, Megan Thompson

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

- 1. October 2019 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the October meeting minutes. Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. September 2019 Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the September 2019 financials. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 3. October 2019 Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the October 2019 financials. Mr. Hebert seconds the motion.** Mr. Brown had a few questions regarding the budgeted amount for engineers. He questioned what the actual number was, Mr. Cuteri did not think we had the current number as of yet. Mr. Mihalko had a question on why there were still some budgeted items listed as miscellaneous as council had previously discussed at our budget meeting on liquidating those lines. Mr. Cuteri explained there were actual details below those miscellaneous lines, but in the future, we will work on liquidating those lines into more accurate areas of the budget. **The budget passed unanimously.**
- 4. Police Report:** Chief Hanny reported for the month of October it was also quiet with a total of 100 calls, 93 of these routine patrol. Mr. Cuteri asked Chief Hanny for an update on the hunting issue a resident brought to councils' attention earlier in the week. Chief Hanny stated there was a misjudgment on property lines but the hut had been moved since it was brought to councils' attention. Mr. Cuteri asked if Chief knew the distance for bow hunting from residential property, Chief believed it is 150 yards but would supply Ms. DiNuzzo and council the proper distance to share with residents at a later date. **Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that Firearm Hunting is restricted to no less than 150 Yards from a residence and Bow Hunting no less than 50 Yards from a residence.**
- 5. Fire Report:** Chief Berie reported for the month of October was pretty quiet. He reported that the Halloween parade went well on their end as well as trick or treating. Tree sales will begin the day after Thanksgiving. Chief reported they will put signs up by the park as they have in the past. He also reported that they will be at the park on Christmas Eve.
- 6. Engineers report/ Road paving update:** Mr. Heyl was not present at the meeting, council was hoping to get an update with the walk through of the paving project, but was unsure if they were able to due to the snow. Mr. Cuteri read off the memo in which LSSE provided council:

There was no change with the Administrative consent order, no change with the MS4 permit, the work has been completed with the 2018 road improvement program, but as previously stated, Mr. Cuteri was hoping for an update with the walk through.

- 7. Budget Adoption vote:** The budget will run in the citizen on November 22, 2019. Council will vote on this in December.
- 8. Bidding for Trash Collection:** The Borough only received one bid for trash collection and was Valley Waste. They proposed for the years of 2020, 2021, and 2022 the terms outlined are as follows: for the year 2020, \$2233.66 per month for all 142 homes and 2 trash cans at the park. For the year 2021 \$2300.40 per month for all 142 homes and 2 trash cans at the park. For the year 2022 \$2369.98 per month for all 412 homes and 2 trash cans at the park. An additional \$20.00 per month charged per hour for rear door collection. Acceptable items for recycling include: metal beverage and food cans;

cereal/shoe boxes; plastic jugs/bottles (types 1, 2 and 5); newsprint; dry, clean corrugated cardboard; office/computer paper and envelopes. Glass items are no longer accepted as a recyclable item, they will be accepted with the solid waste refuse. **A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to accept the bid provided by Valley Waste. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion.** Mr. Hebert asked if we asked anyone else. Mr. Cuteri stated that the bid was advertised in The Citizen. **The motion passed by majority.**

9. **Contract renewal Avalon snow removal and road work:** Council were provided both contracts to review prior to the meeting. Mr. Hebert asked if their truck had been serviced, Ms. DiNuzzo stated she would touch base with Avalon on that. Ms. DiNuzzo will also see if she can get the contracts earlier for council to review. **A motion was made by Mr. Mihalko to approve the snow removal and road work. Mr. Hebert seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
10. **Alcosan rate increase:** Alcosan sent a letter to the Borough with rate increases for 2020. Effective January 1, 2020, the waste water treatment charge will increase by 56 cents from \$7.94 to \$8.50 for each thousand gallons used and the customer service charge will increase by \$1.17 from \$16.69 to \$17.86 per bill issued. The average customer, who uses 12,000 gallons of water per quarter, will pay \$7.89 more for a three-month service period, increasing their quarterly charge from \$111.97 to \$119.86. The rates for effluent surcharges, commercial disposals and auxiliary meters will remain the same. Mr. Brown questioned if last year we were required to have 120% saved. Mr. Brown also questioned what other options we have, which we have none. Council will resolve this and come to a decision at Decembers meeting relative to any change in BAHB fee on sanitary sewer charges.
11. **Public Comment:** Ms. Telbis from 1 Wilson Drive was wondering if council had an update on the street light at the intersection of Wilson and Penhurst as it is extremely dark at that intersection at night. Mr. Hebert stated he would contact Duquesne Light. Ms. Telbis also was hoping there could be more open communication with events like Halloween and trick of treating. Ms. Thompson from 15 Penhurst understands council postponed Halloween due to a safety concern; she knows a lot of people were excited it was changed, but it's very hard for those with busy schedules to then rearrange as there were many families that were disappointed as they did not have the following Saturday held as they have such busy schedules. She proposes that perhaps council arrange a rain date in the future and post these items to the website so then those with busy schedules can hold both dates. Council agreed that setting up a rain date for the future is a great idea. Mr. Stiller mentioned that council tried their best to make their decision as quickly and thoroughly as possible, and safety was the number one issue, the rain was not the issue at all but it was the high wind gusts. Ms. Thompson suggested it be called something like rain date for safety concerns so people know it's not just because of the rain.
12. **Election results:** Mr. Dismukes requested that the election results be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Vogel noted that at this time, a particular person depending on how you read it won both the 2 and 4 year seat that was open. There were also two different spellings for the person who won both seats. Mr. Vogel also noted that if there were any absentee ballots, that those have not been accounted for as of yet. Mr. Vogel also would like to confirm with the elections on the two different spellings of the candidate's name.
13. **5 year budget:** Mr. Dismukes would also like council to discuss scheduling a 5-year budget meeting soon.
14. **Zoning Application Report:** Ms. DiNuzzo reported for the month of October there were two submissions: 9 Briar Cliff to demolish an old garage and build a new one in its place and 11 Oxford for a new addition. Neither have been approved at this time.
15. **HRG contract for review and approval:** Council was supplied this previously to review. Mr. Brown requests that everything be digital and also would like to know if he has copy rights to be able to post this on the website. Mr. Cuteri explained that this will be owned by the Borough, therefore it can be posted on the website. **A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to accept the contract. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.**
16. **Update on parks and landscape:** Mr. Radcliffe updated council that tree trimming in the park within the next few months. The fountain in the park was just turned off as of last week. The trees of heaven are in the process of being removed, they are about half way complete. Mr. Hebert asked if anyone had approached him about hiring a goat scaping company, he had not but is open and willing to look into this. Alexis McCue on Oxford supplied council with this information a few meetings ago. Mr. Radcliffe will reach out to her about this information.
17. **Executive session:** began at 8:06 pm

Executive session ended at 8:21 pm. Ms. DiNuzzo will send a notice to residents on the zoning hearing appeal at 45 Wilson. In the future any zoning hearing appeals that are posted in The Citizen, will also be sent to residents. Meeting was adorned at 8:31pm

The next scheduled meeting is December 10th 2019 at 7pm at the Avalon Volunteer Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary