

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

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

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD: Sgt. Beck

Fire: Chief Berie

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents:

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

- 1. Approval of Aprils Financials: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the May financials. Mr. Brown seconds the motion.** Mr. Cuteri updated council, informing them that the meeting that he and Ms. DiNuzzo had with the accountant went well in June and they have a follow up meeting this up and coming Friday. Mrs. Neunder questioned if the Borough accounts could move in a more online banking direction as the Borough did have a few over withdrawals in previous months. Mr. Cuteri agrees that that would be an ideal situation but needs to investigate further into how secure online banking would be for the Borough as he's concerned of various types of fraud situations hindering the accounts.
- 2. Approval of June 2020 minutes:** June meeting minutes will be tabled for August's meeting.
- 3. Fire Report:** For the month of June there were no calls or alarms.
- 4. Police Report:** For the Month of June there were a total of 96 calls, 90 of them routine. Mr. Dismukes mentioned that there was someone in the neighborhood soliciting. He stated he asked to see the individuals permit, he proceeded to show his ID. Mr. Dismukes informed this individual that if he does not have the proper permit, he needs to leave and that he will contact the police to inform them of this activity. Sgt. Beck did inform council they haven't had the same number of applicants as they usual do this time of year due to COVID. Council thought it would be a good idea to send a notification out to the residents on the procedures as well as the link to the *do not knock* list. Ms. DiNuzzo will draft a notice up and send out to the residents. Mr. Stiller wondered if there could be some officers patrolling through the intersections of Perrysville and New Brighton as he's noticed during the lunch hour people roll through the stop signs.
- 5. Engineers report:**
 - a. **Administrative consent order:** PA DEP approved the Interim CAP extension until June 30, 2020. COA anticipated to be released in late June. Likely a 10% reduction in flows will be incorporated into order. COA has not been issued to date. On June 16, 2020 the Borough submitted a Sewer Cap Extensions request that included 15 additional taps within Ben Avon Heights Borough. Borough Council approved the update to the Operations and Maintenance Plan at the May 2020 meeting. LSSE to prepare structure physical inspections as CCTV work occurs. LSSE issued RFPs for CCTV and cleaning of sanitary sewers on July 1, 2020 and Proposals are due on August 6, 2020.
 - b. **2018 Road improvement plan:** Contractor being notified to correct the wedge curb on Briar Cliff. Punchlist work is ongoing; curb work outstanding. Contractor to submit final pay request once work is complete. LSSE to prepare Final Change Order for project closeout once work is complete. Mr. Brown questioned if there was some way to force them to complete this as it's been 7 months. Mr. Cuteri requested LSSE to write a letter than this must be completed by September 1st. If this isn't complete by Shields, the Borough will have to look into other companies.
 - c. **Cambridge Road:** LSSE spoke with Tri State Maintenance again on April 6, 2020 and answered some questions. Tri State Maintenance is finalizing their proposal. At the request of the Borough, LSSE obtained quotes from Tri-State Maintenance and G. Salandro Excavating, LLC to repair the three outfalls at the top of Cambridge. G. Salandro Excavating, LLC was the low bid at \$9,600.00. **A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to have G. Salandro Excavating to complete the repair of the three outfalls on Cambridge. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
 - d. **Curb Study:** Mr. Dawley with the assistances from Mr. Radcliffe and Mr. Stiller walked the Borough streets to survey the curbs. They focused on the roads that were not paved last year. During their inspection, they identified paving and curb replacement needs that could be completed over a two-year period if the budget allows. Much discussion

took place with council on the types of curbs they would prefer and what roads they felt were more needed. Mr. Dawley noted that there were more streets to add to this list but thought they could present this over the next few years. Mr. Cuteri would prefer to see the full list so they can budget the 5-year budget and requested the Borough Engineer put together a full plan based on the information provided.

- e. **Street Light replacement:** Mr. Cuteri looked into the program but had a few questions on the billing with Duquesne Light. Mr. Heyl indicated that the cost per light is an all-inclusive cost. Mr. Cuteri asked if Ms. DiNuzzo knew, she pulled up the most recent invoice and they is no indication of a breakdown. Mr. Cuteri Requested Ms. DiNuzzo provide a copy of the Duquesne light invoices for Mr. Cuteri to review.
6. **Public Comment:** A couple of the council members indicated desire to have the curbs rounded at the top as they believe this will allow people to hit the curb without damaging it. The borough engineer will provide cost estimate for both rounded curbs and the current curb deign.
 - a. **Avonworth Park update:** Kristen Bennit the co-chair from Avonworth Community Park updated council on all of the changes that have taken place during COVID. They did open their pool, which was a difficult decision. Pool passes were allowed to be purchased by last year holders, and residents. They opened up the fence to allow more social distancing. Their last paid event was March 14th 2020. Their next tentative event is July 18th 2020. Because of this, they have reduced staffing and payroll. They are still able to hold small events with the pavilions. Basketball courts and trails have been opened, softball leagues have been able to play, but bathrooms remain closed as there is no staff to clean them. They are always looking for volunteers to clean the trails. Mr. Radcliffe asked if annual memberships increased with people staying locally. Kristen said that annual passes have not increased but daily passes have. Mr. Cuteri asked if there was an assessment as to whether there will be a deficit at year end and thus increasing the contribution by the boroughs? Kristen did not have any assessment as to the final condition of finances for the year at this time. She has mentioned that they have gotten push back from the RAD grant. RAD Board seems to not be willing to grant as large of the amount they have received in the past.
 7. **Council Acknowledgement of Community Service, Recognize Kim Cuneo:** Mr. Cuteri read the resolution to council which was sent to council in advance. ***The resolution was approved unanimously.*** Council will extend an invite to Ms. Cuneo to our next council meeting to present the resolution to her.
 8. **Green space update:** Mr. Radcliffe informed council that they had two tick control applications in the park. There was also trimming along Briar Cliff, Banbury and Cambridge. Columbia Gas has seeded the areas in which they were required to replace. Mr. Radcliffe also noted that he communicated with Giant Eagle, informing them that they also had the poisonous hemlock on their property. Giant Eagle has removed the vegetation completely
 9. **Zoning applications:** For the month of June there was one submission for a zoning permit application; 23 Banbury to enlarge patio, replace retaining wall and install a fence. This has been approved.
 10. **County CARES Act:** Tabled for Augusts meeting
 11. **Enforcing obnoxious vegetation ordinance:** Mr. Stiller mentioned that council has talked about this issue. Mr. Stiller mentioned there was a resident on Oxford that had weeds growing on her garage from a neighbor's yard and didn't know how to go about this issue. Mr. Stiller questioned if we needed to come up with a protocol, such as setting up a spreadsheet after Memorial Day and going from there. Mr. Cuteri stated that they need to review the ordinance to see if there is a violation, it can't just be because someone doesn't like the vegetation. Mrs. Neunder suggested we send out a friendly reminder. Ms. DiNuzzo will send a notice out to the community to remind residents and to attach the ordinance as well. In the future, council will send this notice out in May.
 12. **Comcast agreement:** Mr. Vogel ha been in touch with the comcast representation, there has been a lot of back and forth between the two parties. ***A motion was made to advertise the ordinance of the cable agreement if it is ready for the August 2020 meeting by Mr. Radcliffe. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*** Mr. Brown questioned how we receive revenue from a cable provider while we discuss a cable agreement. Mr. Vogel stated that they won't cut the revenue off while we negotiate the contract.
 13. **First draft of new zoning ordinance:** Mr. Cuteri drafted a schedule for the review process of the zoning ordinance for council to review. Council will advertise a meeting to the public for a zoning ordinance meeting. Council agreed on Thursday August 6th, 2020 at 7pm. Mr. Cuteri requested council to forward any questions or concerns to him prior to the meeting.
 14. **Executive session:** began at 8:52pm

Executive session ended at 9:02pm

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm

The next scheduled meeting is August 11th, 2020 at Shannopin Country Club at 7pm

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary