



Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, August 8th 2023 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Brown, Dawley, Lope, Neunder, Radcliffe, Stiller

Police: Hanny

Fire:

Mayor:

Solicitor: Mongilio

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Damian Liska 19 Banbury Lane

Call to Order: Mr. Brown started the meeting at 7pm

- 1. Roll Call:** There was a roll call of Council Members. A quorum is present.
- 2. Approval of July 2023 meeting minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the July 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown just noted there was an error, in section 9, it should be County not Council. *Motion passed.*
- 3. Approval of July 2023 financials:** *A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the July 2023 financials. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown noted the real estate taxes have started to come in, which brings us up significantly. We are looking into a few items: delinquent real estate taxes, there seems to be a discrepancy over this. Earned income is up, and we are over in our publication budget as it is significantly more expensive to run advertisements now. He also noted that some areas are under budget due to some projects that we had planned for, but have not completed. Mr. Stiller added since getting the LSA grant that has helped us out significantly. Liquid fuels have transferred into the correct account. *Motion passed.*
- 4. Fire Report:** No fire was present
- 5. Police Report:** *See report below.*
- 6. Public Comment:** Jacqueline Neunder at 5 Biddeford Road came with some concerns over the drafted zoning ordinance. She feels that a section might need a different perspective, perhaps from a young family who needs more space in their home to update and accommodate for those in the home who now need to work from home, or who have a hybrid schedule now.
- 7. Engineers report:** *Memo below.* Mr. Stiller added that the hole on Canterbury will be taken care of by Columbia Gas within the next few weeks. Mr. Stiller also noted that the borough has been working with Duquesne Light, Kilbuck and PennDot to remove the remains of the tree that fell on Ben Avon Heights Road. That tree is set to be removed by Duquesne Light. He also added that the lines have been painted earlier than scheduled by Avalon and he also noted that he wants to get the pylons in the bus stop area on Oxford upgraded. Tri State will also be scheduled in the future to clean out the catch basins in the fall. He would like Council to plan on in the budget next year to fix our portion of Courtney Mill and work with Kilbuck jointly. Mr. Dawley noted that while we had the temporary lighted speed signs, it really helped with the speeding in

the area. He researched and there are studies that prove that these work for speed calming. He thinks we should really invest in these. Mr. Brown noted that he also agrees and he has reached out to neighboring Council members and they also suggested removable speed bumps. Mr. Dawley stated he would take on this project.

- 8. Avonworth Park audit:** Ms. Bennett and Mr. Liska came to Council to update on the 2022 audit. Ms. Bennett noted that they decided to hire a third party, American Pool. They've done numerous updates to the pool and pool area: filter panels, repainted the pool, a raccoon infestation that was in the pool area, lighting and added more seating which was a request from the community. They also were able to offer a scholarship this year for a resident and or family that were unable to afford a pool pass for the summer. They added a new roof on a pavilion, new parking was added across Camp Horne for overflow, and is used very sparingly while they anticipate the trail connections. They also added new security cameras, partnered with Lizzy's bikes to give out 30 bikes to underprivileged kids in the community. Mr. Brown suggested that we all work together for future grants, as many have come across our desk for trails.
- 9. Green Spaces Update:** Mr. Radcliffe noted that some limbs were removed from some trees that were down. There was a small yellowjacket infestation that was taken care of in the park. Mr. Brown added he would like it if we could send a notification out to the community when there are bee and wasp issues, as it's a pretty common allergy. Mrs. Neunder added that they are thinking of reaching out to local boy scout groups and possibly open up to the public for some volunteer hours. Going this route will save the Borough around \$2,200. They hope to complete this project by the end of fall. Mr. Radcliffe noted the Japanese knotweed is really out of control in the area, he noted that a resident pointed out that there are some areas that are growing rapidly on Cambridge. Mr. Stiller will be setting up a meeting with PennDot to discuss their eradication program.
- 10. Planning Commission Update:** Mr. Brown noted that the Planning Commission gave him the action items that he requested later than he had wanted, and then made Council aware of when he was in possession of these items. He added leadership had a meeting with the Solicitor on the direction on where this process needs to go and was advised that the Planning Commission needs to have another public meeting to go over the document that they are sending to the County and vote to approve. The Planning Commission will then come to the Council's meeting in September to inform Council that they have sent the document down to Council. At that point, Council is in possession of the document.
- 11. Storage Update:** Mr. Lope and Ms. DiNuzzo moved the storage unit to a smaller space saving \$79.20 dollars per month. They were thanked by the council for their efforts.
- 12. Zoning Applications:** One application was submitted for 17 New Brighton for removal of side porch, relocate ac, replacement of existing porch column, addition of 1/2 bathroom in existing 1st floor space, no changes to square footage.
- 13. Executive session began: 8pm (Personnel / Public Safety Matters)**
- 14. Executive session ended: 8:07pm**
- 15. Meeting adjourned at: 8:08pm**

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary

August 07, 2023

Calls for Service - by UCR Code
Incidents Reported Between 07/01/2023 and 07/31/2023
BEN AVON HTS



Code	Description	Primary Count	Secondary UCR Count		
			Code 2	Code 3	Code 4
0634	THEFT-UNDER \$50-FROM AUTO (EXCEPT 0635)	1			
2660	TRESPASSING OF REAL PROPERTY	1			
3400	MENTAL HEALTH	1			
3500	SUSPICIOUS PERSONS	1			
3600	DISTURBANCES-DOMESTIC	2			
3870	MEDICAL EMERGENCY/ ASSIST AMBULANCE	1			
4027	TREES DOWN	2			
7092	ROUTINE PATROL COMPLETED	74			
CITW	WARNING	3			
Total Calls		86			

MEMO



846 Fourth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108
(412) 264-4400 • (412) 264-1200 Fax

TO: Ben Avon Heights Borough

FROM: Kevin A. Brett, P.E.
John R. Heyl, P.E., CPESC

SUBJECT: **August 8, 2023 Meeting
Engineering Report**

DATE: August 4, 2023
S. O. No.: 0452-01
cc:

Following is a summary of the engineering services provided since the last Engineering Report:

1. Phase II Consent Order and Agreement (COA)

Task for the remainder of the Order include continued O&M and reporting of SSOs.

2. Sanitary Sewer Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

Repair scope for the 2021 and 2022 have been drafted and project has been submitted for a PA Small Water Grant. PA Small Water Grant application has been submitted. 2023 O&M CCTV has been completed.

3. MS4 Permit

MS4 Waiver was approved through 2028.

4. LSA Grant

*Borough was awarded \$149,905.00 for the 2023 Sanitary Sewer O&M Repairs project. LSSE provided a scope summary in a memorandum dated May 3, 2023. **LSSE preparing bid documents for an October bid opening; LSSE provided the Advertisement on August 3, 2023 (Attachment A). The Borough will be required to obtain a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) from PennDOT to raise the manhole to grade in their right of way. LSSE will prepare the HOP application.***

5. Canterbury Paving

As requested, LSSE reviewed pavement failure on Canterbury Drive. It appears the pothole formed around a gas valve. LSSE reached out to Columbia Gas and they indicated someone would review the situation.

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6. Canterbury Sidewalk and Curb

As requested, LSSE prepared Opinion of Probable Costs for Sidewalk and Curb Replacement. LSSE to prepare a Grant application for the 2023 LSA Grant.

7. Stratford/Clovelly Storm

LSSE is coordinating with Tri-State to review conditions of storm sewer connection and sinkhole area. LSSE to request proposals from contractors to address sinkhole in storm sewer.