



Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, January 11th, 2022 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Brown (remote), Dawley, Mihalko, Neunder (arrived at 7:31, remote), Radcliffe, Stiller

Solicitor: Katie Beers (remote)

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Fire: Chief Berie

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Patrick Lope

Mr. Dismukes began the meeting at 7:03 PM.

1. **Mayor to swear in new council members and elected officials:**

- a. *Kim Gourley, Tax Collector 4-Year Term (sworn in January 5, 2022)*
- b. *Jason Brown, Member of Council 4-Year Term (sworn in January 5, 2022)*
- c. *Joseph Dawley, Member of Council 4-Year Term (sworn in January 11, 2022)*
- d. *Patric Lope, Member of Council 2-Year Term (sworn in January 11, 2022)*
- e. *Michelle Dawley, Judge of Elections 4-Year Term (sworn in January 11, 2022)*
- f. *Tom Kokoski, Constable 6-Year Term (sworn in January 9, 2022)*
- g. *Scott Dismukes, Mayor 4-Year Term (sworn in January 5, 2022)*

2. **Reorganization:**

- a. **Nominate Council President:** Mr. Dawley nominated Mr. Brown for Council President. Mr. Mihalko seconds the nomination. Mr. Radcliffe nominates Mr. Stiller for Council President. Mr. Stiller declined. All voted for the one nomination for Council President. Mr. Brown is the new Council President.
- b. **Nominate Council Vice President:** Mr. Brown nominates Mr. Stiller for Council Vice President. Mr. Mihalko nominates Mr. Radcliffe for Council Vice President. There were two votes for Mr. Radcliffe and two votes for Mr. Stiller. This would lead to a tie breaking vote by Mr. Dismukes. It was requested that there was a recount on the voting as there was some confusion and there was one vote not counted. The recount for Council Vice President was three votes Mr. Stiller and two votes Mr. Radcliffe, without the need for the tie breaking vote.

Mr. Brown now leads the meeting as Council President.

3. **Discuss Appointment of open positions:** Mr. Brown explained that Council reached out to the 3 who received votes back in November to see if they had interest and all declined. Council then reached out to a couple of residents who they felt would be a good addition to council, Patric Lope and Luke Rattay. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Lope who was present to say a few words to council as to why he has interest. Mr. Lope explained that they have lived in the Borough for a little over 10 years now and have no plans on leaving. He's looking for ways to give back to the community. **Mr. Mihalko made a motion to appoint the vacant Council seat today January 11, 2022. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Radcliffe made a motion to appoint Patric Lope. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Determine Council Committee Member Assignments:**

- a. Finance / Administration Mayor Dismukes, Jason Brown
- b. Fire/Police/Emergency Management Mayor Dismukes
- c. Streets / Lights / Water Joseph Dawley, Greg Mihalko
- d. Sewers / Consent Decree Steven Stiller, Mayor Dismukes
- e. Green Spaces John Radcliffe, Jacquelyn Neunder
- f. Digital Communications Jason Brown, Steven Stiller
- g. Insurance Jacquelyn Neunder, Patrick Lope
- h. Planning Jason Brown, Steve Stiller, John Radcliffe

5. **Discuss Appointed Positions for the Borough:**

- a. Borough Secretary Jessica DiNuzzo
- b. Solicitor John T. Vogel, Esquire
- c. Borough Engineers Lennon Smith Souleret
- d. ACORD Executive Committee Chair Damian Liska
- e. ACORD Board Terrie Brightmen & MaryBeth Bolam
- f. Auditors Hosack, Specht, Metzel and Wood
- g. Emergency Management Coordinator Sgt. Adam Beck, OTPD
- h. Zoning Officer Thomas Price
- i. Zoning Hearing Board David Raves (chair), Michael Rovitto, Clayton Morris
- j. Deputized Real Estate Jordan Tax Services
- k. Sewage fee collection Jordan Tax Service
- l. Planning Commission Members Al Cuteri, Justin Griffith, Michael Weir, Jason Brown, Steve Stiller, John Radcliffe
- m. Building Inspectors Building Inspection Underwriters, Inc.
- n. Fire Chief Charles Berie, Avalon
- o. Police Chief Joe Hanny, Ohio Township
- p. Emergency EMS Service Northwest Emergency Medical Services
- q. Wage Tax Collection Keystone Collections Group
- r. Water Service West View Water Authority

6. **Approval of December meeting minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Approval of November financials: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion.**

Mr. Stiller would like to review the transaction details of line 420.40. Mr. Brown also discussed his concerns with current cash flows and would like to transfer some funds into our General Fund account from the Reserve account to cover January loan payments and the last payment of the Road Project.

8. **Police Report:** Please see attached report. Chief Hanny shared the data with Council members, Council will review the summary and discuss this at the February meeting.

9. **Fire Report:** Fire reported that Santa's detail went well. Council agreed. Chief asked if we may bring Santa back to the park in the future. Council hopes so.

10. **Engineers Report:** Please see attached memo provided by LSSE. Mr. Dawley informed Mr. Heyl that Columbia Gas did a cut on Canterbury Road and they didn't seal it. Mr. Heyl will reach out to Columbia Gas to make sure they will seal it when the weather is warm enough. **A motion was made by Mrs. Neunder for a partial payment to Liberoni. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Council will table the SSORP until February, they would like to see the changes that have been made to the document before voting on this. Mr. Heyl will provide this document to the Council.

11. **Public Comment:** There was no public present to discuss any matters.

12. **Green Space:** Mr. Radcliffe updated Council that Walt's contract is up at the end of April 2022. He currently has a draft for both the park and leaf services. There was an invoice they received that was about a 25% increase from what was stated in the contract, council reviewed and discussed. Council would like to honor the contract rate and take up rate increases as part of the upcoming contract.

13. **Insurance update:** Mrs. Neunder informed council that she had a conversation with our insurance representative recently on the Boroughs cyber coverage and guidelines that will be required by the carrier to continue coverage on cyber. Mrs. Neunder noted that after reviewing this information, Ms. DiNuzzo and anyone else who is privy to confidential information will need to attend a cyber training. Mr. Brown would like the Borough to implement an IT Policy for the Borough.

14. **ALCOSAN 2022 increase:** Mr. Stiller informed Council that ALCOSAN increased their rate for 2022. It will be an additional 7% every year. In 2021 the rate was \$9.10 per thousand gallons, now it's \$9.73 per thousand gallons. **A motion was made to approve Resolution 2022-01 by Mr. Stiller. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion. The motion passed.** Mr. Brown would like to send a notice out to the residents informing them of the

increase. Mrs. Neunder would like to look into sending out information on an irrigation meter. Mr. Stiller will look into obtaining this information to add to the notice Mr. Brown would like to send to the residents.

15. 2022 council & 2021 annual review: Mr. Brown moving forward would like to be as transparent as possible to the residents. He would like to have open conversations and council members engage with residents when they can. He would also like the Council to take an active role in the committee they have volunteered for.

16. Executive session: started at 8:40pm

Regular meeting resumed at 8:51pm

Meeting ended at 8:52pm

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary