

BEN AVON BOROUGH

Council Meeting

February 16, 2021

Minutes

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a regular voting session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue for the purpose of transacting General Business. President Jennifer Bett presided and opened the meeting at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN ATTENDANCE

Jennifer Bett, Henry Casale, Megan Dolan, Ken Opiery, Kara Roggenkamp, David Stoeckle, Rick Wagner

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Solicitor Anne Sweeney, Chief Joe Hanny, Jim Rupert (Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company), Catherine Houska (JPC), Chris Cieslak (JPC), Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sara Ponsoll, 54 Forest Avenue

Ms. Ponsoll had a request for allowances in street parking during the inclement weather.

BOROUGH REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb reported the application to Local Government Academy for a summer intern was submitted, and initial conversations with representatives of that organization were positive. The job details will be posted with LGA for applicants to review and choose their area of interest.

Police Report – See Attachment A

Chief Hanny reported another quiet month with 41 calls. He reminds residents to lock cars and remove any valuables to deter theft.

Fire Department – See Attachment B

Solicitor's Report – *no report given*

Joint Planning Commission

Ms. Cieslak stated the new officers and members of the Joint Planning Commission will begin their work on outdated ordinances and she will share upcoming plans with council once the list is finalized.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Casale; **Second:** Mr. Wagner; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021 council meeting as presented.

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; **Second:** Mr. Casale; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 council meeting as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Revenue & Expense Report

Motion: Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Mr. Casale; **Motion Carried** by voice vote to approve the Revenue and Expense report with the changes Mr. Opiery outlined at this meeting.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion: Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Mr. Wagner; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to approve the Accounts Payable as presented in the amount of \$33,105.62.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee

Mr. Wagner reported the Centennial Committee met again and reviewed plans for information and surveys that can be uploaded on the website to engage residents in the renovation process and assist with future fundraising. He also spoke to a representative of The Citizen and shared the ongoing progress of the committee. Mr. Wagner noted Ms. Cieslak was instrumental in assisting with two grant applications recently, one submitted to the Avon Club and another for a Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund Grant with Allegheny County. As a requirement of the CITF grant Resolution 2021-02 was presented to council to approve the submission of the grant application.

Motion: Mr. Wagner; **Second:** Mr. Stoeckle; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to formally approve the submission of the CITF grant application.

Mr. Wagner also planned to meet with Ms. Roggenkamp to outline the Borough's goals prior to meeting with Kilbuck Township on the plans to upgrade the facilities at Avon Park using donated funds.

Mr. Wagner and Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch recently met with a representative from GovPilot, a software company providing services to enhance the coordination and tracking of functions in the administrative office. He plans to assess the interest of other COG members to see if resource sharing would reduce the expense for the individual municipalities.

Public Affairs/Communications

Mrs. Bett reported she is working on creating the Centennial page for the borough website. Ms. Roggenkamp also requested to add a page for information on the borough climate action plan.

Borough COVID cases: 567 tested; 92 confirmed cases; 0 deaths.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement

Mr. Stoeckle stated there were no code enforcement updates at this time.

In Chief Tom Maletick's absence, Jim Rupert, VFD member, asked Council the status of their most recent request for a truck purchase. He stated that today two people were injured at the fire house while changing a tire on the ladder truck and were taken by ambulance due to a corroded front wheel. Mr. Rupert estimates the expense in the \$4000-5000 range to replace the rusted rim and tire and questioned

putting that amount of money to a piece of equipment that will be retired in the next 18 months. Both Mr. Rupert and Chief Maletick traveled to, inspected a potential truck replacement, and asked that it be put on hold pending approval by Council. Mr. Rupert would like Council to take a vote immediately to approve their expenditure of capital funds to purchase the truck and assume the cost of renovations to the hall (needed in order for the new truck to fit in the building, as the current door and roof trusses are too low) pending Gateway engineer's review of the structure changes.

Mrs. Bett stated that it is in the best interest of all parties before beginning this process, to have council address several legal items to enable all parties to be clear on their responsibilities. Both a lease for the Fire Company and an updated Service Agreement are in the process of review by the Borough Solicitor and should be available shortly for submission to the Fire Department. Although there are no funds exchanged in regards of the lease, the Fire Department is a tenant of the Borough and must be aware of the legal aspects of housing in that property as a separate 501c3 entity. Once these documents have been reviewed, and the reports and financial documents have been submitted showing the fire department's financial viability, Council can consider moving forward on the process of the hall renovations. Mr. Rupert stated that any truck that has been researched and viable to replace the ladder truck would require the hall renovations. Mr. Opiery confirmed that Gateway has visited the site and made an initial review of the structural drawings and calculations, for which the Borough has been billed just under \$1000. Going forward with this process would require new fee proposal from Gateway engineers to prepare sealed construction documents and associated engineering work, as the drawings provided by the Fire Department were not prepared by a licensed structural engineer. Mrs. Bett stated once the construction documents are completed, the project would need to comply with municipal procurement code including advertising for bids if the estimated cost exceeds \$21,300 it will be considered for the bidding process if over \$21,300.

Mr. Casale and Solicitor Sweeney both asked for clarification on what the Fire Department is asking of the Borough. Mr. Rupert explained the Fire Department is covering all cost of the fire truck – with both the capital reserve funds provided by the borough (from the Kilbuck contract) and the balance through a low interest loan through the state which has yet to be applied for. The Fire Department requests that the modifications to the fire hall be paid by the Borough, including any engineering and solicitor's fees.

Mr. Rupert stated that once the approval is given for the replacement truck purchase, the dealer would require 30-40 days or more to prepare the truck for delivery. At that time, if the Fire Hall renovations are not complete the Fire Department was not clear where the truck would be housed. With that in mind, Council members agreed that the tire repair and replacement should be completed as soon as possible regardless of the timeline of the truck search as it has been made clear by the Chief that the ladder truck is an integral piece of equipment for the response team.

Assistant Chief Otstot asked for improved communications on this matter going forward. His concern is with the safety of the crew and residents. Mrs. Roggenkamp asked about the financial statements that are to be provided to the borough as set forth in the current service agreement. Mr. Otstot stated he would discuss these with the current treasurer. Mr. Opiery confirmed that it is important for the council to see all documents that would attest to the financial viability of the organization prior to making this decision, at which time Mr. Otstot said he would talk to Mr. Buckman and provide those documents.

Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported that Public Works staff has been working to keep the streets of the borough clear as the region has experienced an abundance of snow this winter, however he asked that through the website and social media residents be reminded not to blow or push snow out onto the road as noted in Ordinance 666.

At this time, the hiring of a third Public Works employee is on hold pending completion in training the most recently hired Public Works employee.

QV COG

Mr. Wagner reported the waste and recycling contract is making progress and a consultant hired by the COG is doing a great job on the initial review. A formal draft of the RFP will be forthcoming.

Mr. Wagner stated PRC offers a traveling glass bin as in past years, and council was asked about their interest in participating and sharing the expense. The cost for each date of operation would be \$1100.00, and PRC and the COG are requesting each borough pay for one date. Mr. Wagner is asking council for their input on the interest for the borough.

Mr. Wagner also stated that the second phase of the Route 65 Corridor Study began with an interactive Zoom presentation this past week. Representatives from Michael Baker and Carnegie Mellon University asked participants for their thoughts for specific recommendations.

Mr. Wagner reported there is also a COG meeting tomorrow, February 17 with a speaker from CONNECT Pittsburgh on the agenda. The topic for discussion is how to improve communications between municipalities and their fire departments.

NEW BUSINESS – *there was no new business*

OLD BUSINESS – *there was no old business*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Opipery; **Second:** Mr. Stoeckle; **Motion Carried** to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. to discuss contract and lease issues.

Motion: Mr. Opipery; **Second:** Mr. Wagner; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to leave Executive Session at 9:47 p.m.

There was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Wagner; **Second:** Mr. Stoeckle; **Motion Carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

CHIEF OF POLICE
JOSEPH P. HANNY



Office
(412) 259-8304
Fax
(412) 259-8306
Dispatch
(412) 473-3056

OHIO TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Established 1803
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
126 Lenzner Ct, Sewickley, Pa. 15143

Ben Avon Patrols
January 2021



BA-1 149
BA-2 128
BA-3 146
BA-4 118

TOTAL = 541

2/10/2021

Call Service Report Grouped by Urcodes
OHIO TOWNSHIP POLICE
1/01/2021 THROUGH 1/31/2021
For Municipality: 05

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<u>CODE</u>	<u>JAN COUNT</u>	<u>YTD COUNT</u>
0501 - ALARM - RESIDENCE	1	1
0810 - SIMPLE PHYSICAL ASSAULT	1	1
1440 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - ALL OTHERS	1	1
2112 - DRIVE UNDER INFLUENCE-ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED	1	1
2300 - PUBLIC DRUNKENESS	1	1
2440 - DISORDERLY CONDUCT-DISTURBING THE PEACE	1	1
2626 - FALSE FIRE ALARM	1	1
2647 - PFA-PROTECTIVE ORDERS	2	2
3320 - DOA	1	1
3400 - MENTAL HEALTH	2	2
3600 - DISTURBANCES-DOMESTIC	2	2
3620 - DISTURBANCES-OTHER (FIGHTS,DISPUTES,ETC)	1	1
3820 - DISABLED VEHICLE	2	2
3855 - ROAD DEPARTMENT CALL OUT	3	3
3860 - LOCKOUTS (VEHICLE/BLDG)	2	2
3870 - MEDICAL EMERGENCY/ ASSIST AMBULANCE	5	5
3880 - OPEN DOORS/WINDOWS - DISCOVERED	2	2
3900 - TRAFFIC & PARKING PROBLEMS	1	1
4091 - CIVIL DISPUTES	1	1
5012 - LOST & FOUND - MISSING JUVENILE MALE	1	1
5590 - ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - REPORTS	1	1
6610 - TRAFFIC RELATED - MOTORIST AID	1	1
7010 - POLICE NOTIFICATIONS/INFO	1	1
7504 - ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES - OTHER POLICE	1	1
911 - 911-HANG UP	2	2
CITW - WARNING	1	1
CKWE - WELFARE CHECK	2	2
	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>

ATTACHMENT B

Ben Avon VFC

Ben Avon, PA

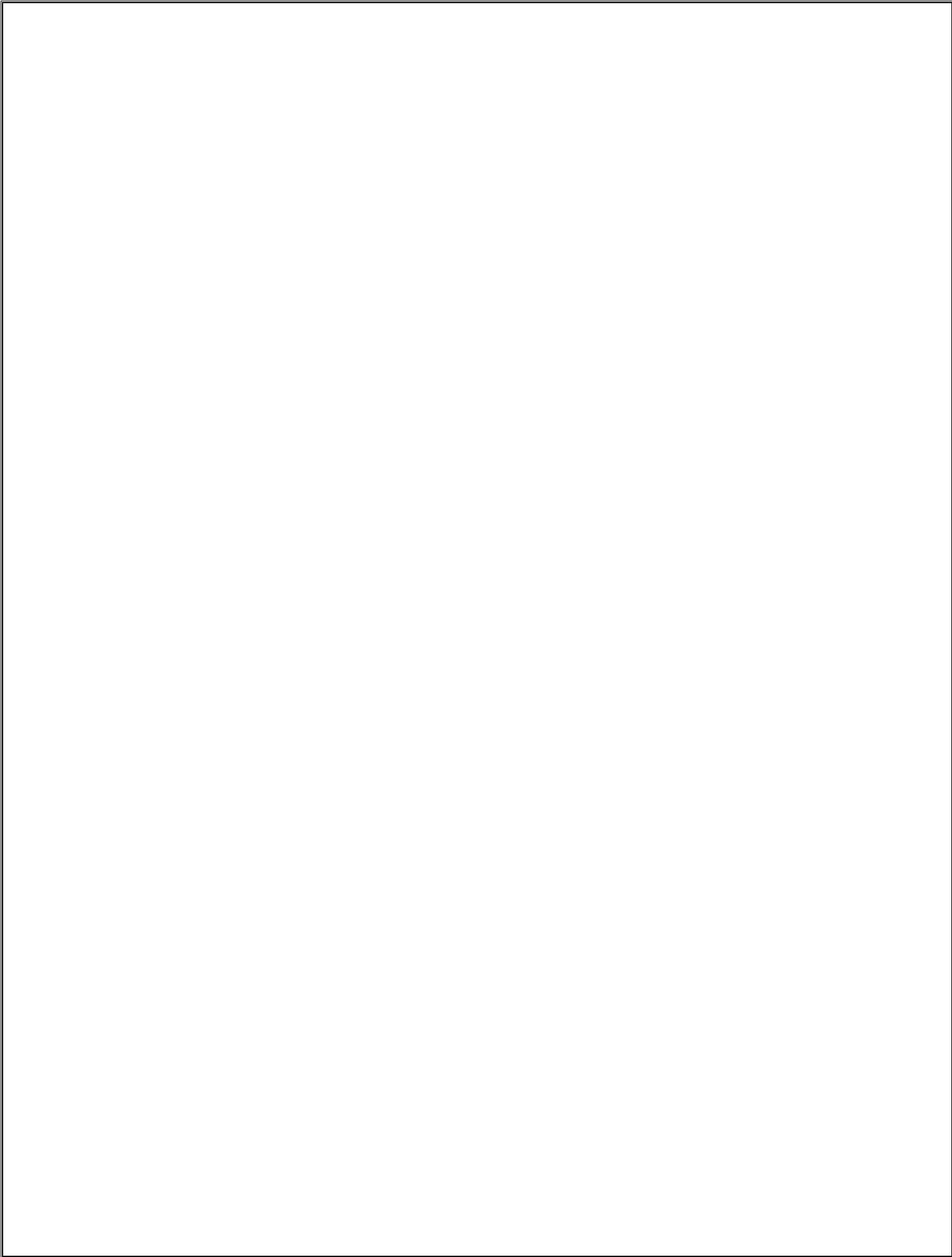
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Basic Incident Info for Incident Type

Incident Type(s): All Incident Types | Start Date: 01/01/2021 | End Date: 01/31/2021

Incident Date	Incident #	Dispatch Run Number	Address	Narrative	Station	Zone
01/01/2021	2021-1		699 Forest AVE	Remarks: Disregarded by 108 Capt.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/01/2021	2021-2		7126 Belle Rivere CT	Remarks: Fire alarm activation. Cancelled by alarm company and home owner. Checked by 109 C2.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/06/2021	2021-3		608 Taylor AVE 301	Equipment: SCBAs and gas meters.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/11/2021	2021-4		547 Lincoln AVE 8	Remarks: Alarm activation. No cause found. Disregarded by 108 OIC.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/15/2021	2021-5		8235 Ohio River BLVD	Equipment: Extension cords and fan. Remarks: Alarm activation due to burnt food in main kitchen. Assisted in ventilation.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/16/2021	2021-6		50 Greenough AVE	Remarks: Disregarded by 108 Chief enroute.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/18/2021	2021-7		820 Centennial AVE		109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/18/2021	2021-8		106 Hivue LN	Remarks: Reported gas leak in street. Disregarded by 148 OIC.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	
01/27/2021	2021-9		36 S Harrison AVE	Remarks: Burny food. Disregarded by 108 OIC.	109 - Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company	

This report is limited to 500 pages. Incidents with more than one narrative will appear on multiple pages. Only REVIEWED incidents included.



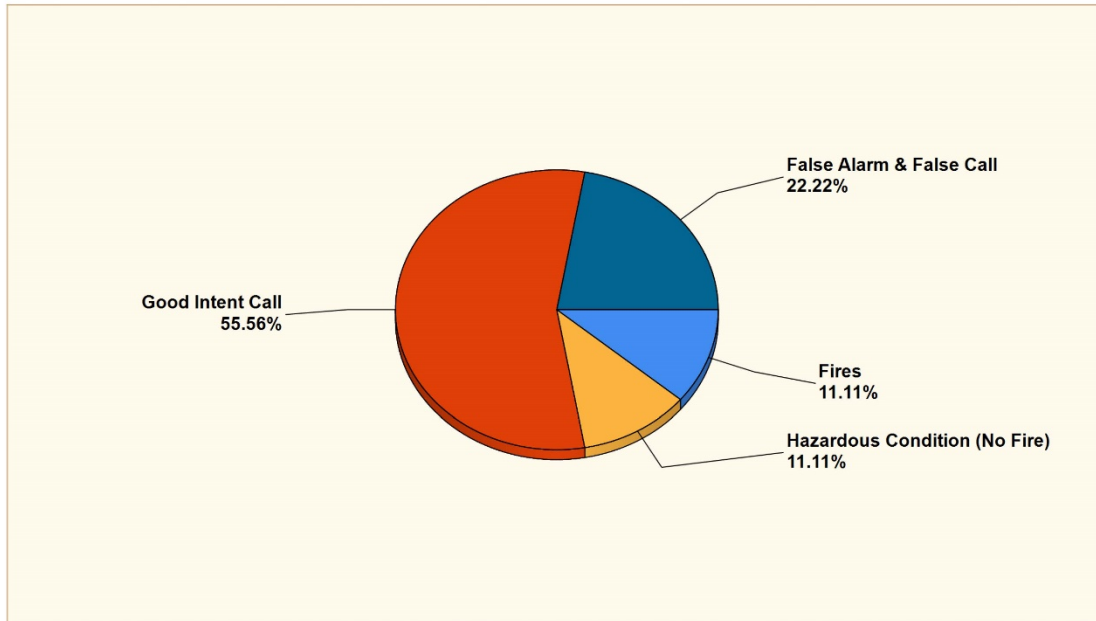
Ben Avon VFC

Ben Avon, PA

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 01/01/2021 | End Date: 01/31/2021



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	1	11.11%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	1	11.11%
Good Intent Call	5	55.56%
False Alarm & False Call	2	22.22%
TOTAL	9	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	1	11.11%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1	11.11%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	5	55.56%
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	2	22.22%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	9	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.

Ben Avon VFC



Ben Avon, PA

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Incident Type per Municipality for Date Range

Start Date: 01/01/2021 | End Date: 01/31/2021

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
Municipality: AVALON	
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
# Incidents for Avalon:	
1	
Municipality: BELLEVUE	
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	4
# Incidents for Bellevue:	
4	
Municipality: BEN AVON	
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1
# Incidents for Ben Avon:	
1	
Municipality: EMSWORTH	
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1
# Incidents for Emsworth:	
1	
Municipality: KILBUCK (TOWNSHIP OF)	
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1
# Incidents for Kilbuck (Township of):	
1	
Municipality: SEWICKLEY	
111 - Building fire	1
# Incidents for Sewickley:	
1	

MUNICIPALITY data comes from the Basic Info 3 screen of an incident. Only REVIEWED incidents included.



**EMERGENCY
REPORTING**

emergencyreporting.com

Doc Id: 849

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February 12, 2021

Ben Avon Council
Ben Avon Borough
7101 Church Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Subject: Monthly Code Enforcement, Zoning, and Building Permit Report.

Dear Council,

The following are updates on action items since the previous Council meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

New complaints being investigated:

None

Ongoing investigations/Citations:

308 Spruce Run Road – Trash, Vehicles

09.11.20	Notice sent allowing for 30 days remediation for removal of trash and vehicle.
10.16.20	Reinspection scheduled for 10.26.20.
11.13.20	Reinspection took place on 10.26.20. Portions of property were cleaned, but not everything. Citation filed with Magistrate.
12.11.20	Citations open; monitoring for scheduling
01.15.21	Magisterial Hearing scheduled for 02.02.21.
02.12.21	Magisterial Hearing rescheduled to 03.10.21.

Engineering & Surveying

100 Courson Hill Road
Washington, PA 15301
T: 724-503-4125

www.HarshmanLLC.com

Office@HarshmanLLC.com

Codes & Zoning

2455 Park Ave
Washington, PA 15301
T: 724-993-4505

Permits@HarshmanLLC.com

54 Forest Ave – Retaining Wall

04.13.20	Notice sent 04.13.20 allowing for a period to remediate the deteriorating retaining wall.
05.12.20	Reinspection scheduled for 05.13.20
06.15.20	Property posted 05.13.20. Citation to be filed with Magistrate.
07.15.20	Citation filed with Magistrate.
08.12.20	Magisterial Hearing scheduled for 09.02.20
09.11.20	Magisterial Hearing held on 09.02.20. Property owner did not appear.
10.16.20	Appeal period of Magisterial Hearing ended 10.02.20.
11.13.20	Monitoring.
12.11.20	Daily Citations filed with the Magistrates office following the expired appeal period. Magisterial Hearing scheduled for February 2, 2021.
01.15.21	Property owner deceased. Citations cancelled by Magistrate. Had to refile under spouse.
02.12.21	Citations open. Legal representative of property owner contacted Code Enforcement to discuss remediation.

Tallied new complaints investigated are as follows:

- Structures – 0
- Trash / Rubbish / Junk – 0
- Grass / Trees - 0
- Other – 0

MAGISTERIAL HEARINGS

None

RENTAL INSPECTIONS

None

BUILDING & ZONING PERMITS

Building Permits:

None



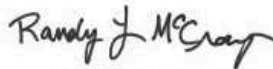
Zoning Permits:

None

Please contact our office at any time with questions.



Jarrod D'Amico, BCO
Director of Codes and Zoning



Randy McCray, CZO
Code & Zoning Technician

cc: File 19.159

