

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2011

The meeting opened at 7:35 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance led by Council President, Ed Repp.

Roll Call: Bernstein, Cortese, Dixon, Donnelly, Lloyd, Narcisi, Powell, Repp. Also present were Mayor Haslett, Dilmore, Solicitor Ott, Shawn Rosensteel and Judith Brogan. Sefick and Mayor Haslett came in at 7:45 p.m.

There was no Executive Session held prior to the Regular Council Meeting.

Cortese moved “to accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, dated November 15, 2011.”

Sefick 2nd

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Dilmore stated that he received a letter from the Allegheny County Economic Development office on the proposed update to the 1998 County Land Development Ordinance.**
- Received letter on healthcare coverage from MEIT, UPMC and Highmark, updating the Borough on the progress of the “war” going on between them. Relevant papers have been placed in the employees pay envelopes and Dilmore will keep Council informed as it develops.**
- Letter from Allegheny County Emergency Services giving notice that radios will be switching over on January 1, 2013. This is to gather information on what we have already done. The letter has been forwarded to both the police and fire chiefs.**

- Letter for the Solicitor which Dilmore will give to her at tonight's meeting.

VISITOR:

Valerie Cupps of 647 Grandview Avenue thanked everyone for their help with the Christmas event. She also spoke about the clean up of the properties in Avalon.

She also stated that she usually attends the Quality of Life meetings to voice her concerns but she wants to make Council aware of her concerns as well. She stated that there are too many properties that ignore cleaning their yards or cleaning the property. She would like to see the Borough get back to what it used to be in prior years.

VISITOR:

Pam Golubski of 221 S. Starr Avenue stated that she is an avid runner and during her runs she sees a lot of yards and properties that need to be cleaned. She complained about neighbors that do not clean their leaves or sidewalks. She stated that when people ask her where she lives she tells them she lives in Bellevue.

Bernstein stated that he also sees this and believes that in some situations, the community should come into play. Maybe a neighbor doesn't have the time or money to do the work and neighbors should be willing to help.

Lloyd stated that he has seen what Pam Golubski does to help her neighbors. Pam stated that she has also cleaned the area around the hospital which Lloyd pointed out is in Bellevue. She noted that it is the younger residents that do not care about the Borough.

Lloyd has a list of streets with overgrown trees and weeds and noted that Cleveland is one of the "very bad" streets.

Lloyd also noted that when a resident is cited for violations they have the right to appeal and this could go on for months. He stated that it should be pride in your community.

VISITOR:

Jackie Yurkovich of Grandview Avenue asked why the leaves are not being picked when they are raked into the street. She pointed out that this has been a terrible year with the leaf pickup.

Repp stated that the Crew was out working but the weather had a lot to do with the leaves not being picked up. He stated that if the leaves are put in the street, they will be picked up.

She asked Dixon how wide the fire and EMS trucks are because she saw the fire truck have to back down her street because of the parking. People park illegally and cause the already narrow street to become a hazard.

She stated that she asked one of the officers why the cars are not ticketed and he told her they have been told not to ticket those cars. She stated that nothing is being done to enforce the law and wants to know why.

Police Chief Kokoski stated that the reality is that there is illegal parking on every street in the Borough and he can not have his officers using their time writing tickets when there are more serious crimes being committed.

Yurkovich stated that citizens will be attending the safety meeting to complain about this situation. She stated that in some instances, there are no signs telling drivers not to park.

Repp asked if this issue could be addressed at the Quality of Life meeting and observed that parking is limited throughout the Borough.

The police can and will enforce the public roadway laws in case of an emergency and Kokoski stated that his men can ticket the cars but the drivers do not move the vehicles.

She stated that people will not park in the back of the apartment building because the elevator does not work. She thinks this is also a hazard.

MAYOR:

Mayor Haslett wished everyone a Merry Christmas and he thanked Councilman Sefick for his years of service to the Borough.

SECRETARY MANAGER:

- **Dilmore stated that he held a County and subdivision meeting at the Municipal Building on December 6, 2011. Council President Repp and Councilman Lloyd attended and new guidelines for County Ordinances were discussed.**
- **Worked on the Auto Zone subdivision proposal and the Avalon Arms sale, both of which the Solicitor and the Engineer can discuss at this meeting.**
- **Met with representatives of Columbia Gas Company on the possibility of changing from gas to propane fuel for the Avalon Park facilities. More information is pending.**
- **Finalized the AIM loan, the Tan Loan and the Liquid Fuels paperwork for the year end reports.**
- **The 2012 Budget is complete and on display at the Administrative office during regular business hours.**

SOLICITOR:

Megan Ott spoke about the Avalon Arms closing and the escrow account that the Borough requested to be established. The sale was finalized on Monday and the money was put into the escrow account. She has already started work on the fees involved.

Megan stated that she also has prepared a Dumpster Ordinance at the request of Council and will circulate copies to members of Council. She believes this Ordinance is appropriate at this time.

Megan also stated that all parking in the Borough is connected to the Traffic Ordinance that is already in place. She believes this Ordinance should be revisited and reviewed.

She stated that the Auto Zone subdivision was approved months ago and the Planning Commission has reported to Council.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Shawn Rosensteel stated that he agrees with the Solicitor regarding the Avalon Arms sale and stated that work has started and should be completed in a couple of weeks.

Shawn stated that the office of Economic Development now has the red line drawings of West Bellevue Road.

Finance:

Powell stated that this is his last year on Council and he thanked everyone for their support.

Powell moved

“To accept the Finance Report submitted.”

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept the Tax Collector’s report as submitted.”

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted.”

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

Repp thanked Powell for his years of service and stated that Council and the Borough appreciate everything he has done during his time on Council.

Narcisi thanked Powell for his diligence in keeping the Committees aware of the need to control their spending and thanked Powell for his work on the Finance Committee.

SAFETY:

NO REPORT

STREETS:

Lloyd stated that the Route 65 Birmingham Bridge work is completed for this year. He noted that the work will be completed next year.

He also thanked everyone for a productive year. He also thanked Jackie Yurkovich, the Trinity Lutheran Church, and the Brownie Troop who make all of the little decorations for the tree to celebrate their 100th Anniversary and Al Wurst for his in making the Christmas event a big success. He especially thanked Valerie Cupps for putting so much time and effort into the event.

Lloyd moved

“to enter into an agreement with Ben Avon Heights Borough for “One Call” administrative services with terms set forth in the contract.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To enter into an agreement with Ben Avon Heights Borough for snow removal and salting for the 2011/2012 season. Terms set forth in the contract.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Lloyd stated that this has been done for the past few years and believes it is a good process.

Lloyd stated that Council has been working on the contract for the Department of Public Works and they now have a shake of hands three (3) year contract agreed upon. He thanked everyone for their diligent work on it.

PROPERTY:

NO REPORT

Councilman Dan Sefick thanked Council and the office staff for their work throughout the years. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Repp thanked him for the work they did together over the years.

Donnelly thanked him for his work on the projects she worked on with him. Sefick noted that they have done a lot over the years and he enjoyed working with everyone.

HEALTH:

NO REPORT

CORP/PLANNING:

NO REPORT

Bernstein stated that anyone wanting to specify whether they want their e-mail address on the website should let him know. Those present who want their email on the website are: Cortese, Donnelly, Haslett, Lloyd, Narcisi and Repp.

INTERBORO:

Donnelly moved

“to accept the Minutes of the Library Preservation Board.”

Sefick 2nd

CARRIED

Donnelly moved

“to appoint Richard McDonald to the Library Preservation Board.

Cortese 2nd

**CARRIED
(DIXON ABSTAINED)**

PARKS:

Cortese stated that there will be a meeting to discuss the spaghetti dinner fund raiser on January 26, 2012 and they are looking for volunteers. The fund raiser is for the Avalon Swimming Pool.

LIBRARY:

NO REPORT

4th of July

NO REPORT

Cortese moved

“to adjourn this meeting until December 29, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. for a clean up meeting.

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

Harry W. Dilmore