

**AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 19, 2011**

The meeting opened at with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance led by Mayor Haslett.

Roll Call: Bernstein, Cortese, Dixon, Donnelly, Lloyd, Narcisi, Powell, Repp and Sefick. Also present were Dilmore, Shawn Rosensteel and Judith Brogan.

No Executive Session was held prior to the Regular Council Meeting.

Powell moved “to dismiss Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek & Eck, P.L.L.C. as the Law firm representing Avalon Borough in legal matters and Richard Canciello as the Solicitor.”

CARRIED

“To appoint the Law Firm of Goering, Rutter & Boehm as the Law Firm representing Avalon Borough with Megan M. Ott as the Solicitor.”

CARRIED

“To accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 15, 2011.”

Dixon noted a homonym error on page 7 and a phrasing error on page 8. Corrections were noted and the minutes then...

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Dilmore stated that he received a call from Allegheny County regarding Avalon Borough opting in or out of the CDBG Grants for the next three (3) years. Dilmore stated that he is not aware of the reason for this but if Avalon opts out, the Borough will not be eligible for future grants. Donnelly stated that the QVCOG was aware if this option and emails were sent out with no response from**

Avalon Borough. She stated that she has suggested to them that calls should be made to the Boroughs not responding.

- **The Avalon Volunteer Fire Department Fire Relief audit came in from the Auditor General and copies were given to the Safety Committee.**
- **Letter from PIRMA, the liability insurance carrier for Avalon Borough, for the renewal decoration for 2012. Dilmore is meeting with Mr. Lutz on Thursday and he will report back to Council with information for their consideration.**

VISITORS:

Jackie Yurkovich of Grandview Avenue thanked Council for the repair of the street lights. She also asked Councilman Cortese to give a detailed pool report because people are asking her questions she cannot answer. Cortese stated that he would give his report at this meeting and answer her questions.

She also stated that the Quality of Life will be holding a clean-up day on April 30th at 8:00 a.m. She was representing her daughter who is in charge of the clean up day. She asked the Councilpersons to be there to help with the clean-up. They will supply the gloves and bags and later serve a lunch. She stated that there are other groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Dilmore asked if they have a plan to dispose of the bags and she stated that they did not but would welcome help. Dilmore stated that Council can have the bags picked up and would supply shovels and brooms. He stated that Jackie should let him know what is needed and Council will help.

MAYOR:

NO REPORT

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- **Dilmore stated that bids for the West Bellevue Road project were opened and Shawn Rosensteel will give a detailed report at this meeting.**
- **All paper work has been filed for the 2010 audit by Maher Duessel. Copies are in the Administration office for review. Dilmore will set up a closing meeting with Maher Duessel and inform Council of the date.**
- **Completed the salt letter to the Quaker Valley Council of Government exercising the 2011 – 2012 Salt Contract.**
- **Met with Megan Ott, the new Solicitor, regarding her taking over the Solicitor position.**

SOLICITOR:

Megan Ott thanked Council for the opportunity to represent Avalon Borough and looks forward to serving the Borough in the order they are expecting. She stated that she will give monthly reports concerning pending litigation and/or other matters of importance to Council prior to the Council meetings.

Narcisi welcomed her and asked if she would be giving written monthly reports every month and Megan stated she would do that if Council requests it; otherwise, it will be only if there are pending issues.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Shawn Rosensteel reported that the bids for the West Bellevue Road contract have been opened. He reported that the high bid was \$342,390 and the low bid was Independent Enterprises at \$278,400. Chester Engineers recommended accepting the low bid with Independent Enterprises. He stated that they have a year to complete the job and he is confident in the company they are recommending.

FINANCE REPORT:

Powell stated that with taxes being collected, the money is coming in but the budget still must be followed.

Powell moved:

“to accept the Finance Report as submitted.”

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

CARRIED

SAFETY:

The Fire Department is having the regular safety check on the fire truck snorkel. Also, there was no asbestos found in the old roof that is going to be replaced at the Fire Hall.

The Auditor General’s report on the Fire Department was positive as has been the case for the past several years.

The Committee is working on the parking problems in the Borough which will include addressing parking permits and possible ordinances which would require landlords to supply parking spaces.

Sean Kirley passed his test with the State Police regarding the large truck program. Chief Kokoski stated that Sean attended the course which was two (2) weeks and three days. The training covered training for inspections for large trucks and was authorized and certified by the State Police.

Chief Kokoski also applied for a grant for breathalyzers to be used by the police. He will report back to Council when he knows if the grant is approved.

STREETS:

Lloyd stated that he attended the Pennsylvania State Association of Municipalities Conference in Harrisburg and Hershey. There is a lot of information available to the municipalities and he will make it available to Council as received.

Lloyd encouraged Council to participate in the Avalon Clean-Up day on April 30th and to support the Apple Blossom Festival on May 4, 2011. The festival will open with a breakfast at the Trinity Church and there will be music and a Chinese auction throughout the day. There will also be children's inflatable rides and a pie eating contest.

He also stated that Keystone Tax Services will hold a free seminar for employers on April 21, 2011 at the Borough Building at 10:00 a.m.

State Representative, Dan Deasy will be conducting a Town Hall Meeting on May 18th at the Borough Building. The Library will have a bake sale and a book sale on Election Day and the Fire Department will host a fish sale on Good Friday.

Lloyd moved "to authorize the Secretary to advertise for part time summer help for the 2011 season."

CARRIED

Lloyd pointed out that he does not know at this time how many part time employees they will hire. They will check the budget before making that decision.

Lloyd moved "to exercise the option year for salt pricing with Morton Salt Company and have the Secretary notify the Quaker Valley Council of Governments of the intent."

CARRIED

Lloyd stated that when he was in Hershey, Pennsylvania attending the conference, he spoke to several people about the new regulations for the street signs. The street signs will have to be six (6) inches high with reflective capital letters. One of the reasons for this change is that seniors have trouble seeing the ones being used today.

Narcisi asked who was initiating and enforcing this change and Lloyd stated that it is the Federal Government – specifically the Federal Highway Administration.

Dilmore stated that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments of which Avalon is a part, is considering purchasing a machine which costs over \$14,000. The signs will have to be certified every year due to potential changes, and it is more feasible to share the cost of the machine with all of the municipalities in the QVCOG.

Narcisi asked how many complaints have been filed about the street signs and Lloyd stated there were no complaints. The Bush Administration put this in effect to accommodate our growing senior population.

Donnelly stated that street sign colors vary from state to state and this law would make them uniform.

Lloyd stated that he worked with the Library Board for one month and he learned a lot about the library and its operation. There are approximately 250 items per day leaving the library. There were several activities held at the Library last week. They did get the 501C-3 tax status and with their fund raisers, they have turned the Library deficit around and balance their budget.

PROPERTY:

Sefick stated that the bids for the Fire Hall will be opened on May 12, 2011. He also stated that the doors at the Library that had been damaged in the car accident late last year are in and will be installed as soon as possible.

HEALTH:

NO REPORT.

CORP/PLANNING:

Bernstein stated that he continues to work with the Energy Savers, Inc. to get the savings for Avalon residents. He will report back to Council when he has all of the information.

INTER – BORO

Donnelly moved “to authorize sending the Borough Manager to the APMM Conference at Seven Springs from May 17th to May 19th.”

Dilmore explained that APMM is the Association of the Professional Municipal Managers and the conference is being held in Bedford, Pa. this year. He stated that he has attended these conferences in the past but this year he is on the Executive Committee and will have to be there an extra day. He will pay for the expenses for the extra day and his admission to the cocktail party. He is asking Council to approve the balance.

He is asking Council to approve payment for the two days which will include his tuition and certification as well as two (2) days room and meals.

Dixon asked how much it will cost the Borough and Dilmore stated that it will be under \$600.00.

Repp asked for a vote on Donnelly’s motion and the motion was...

CARRIED

Donnelly stated that she attended the Allegheny County League of Municipalities at Seven Springs. She stated that it was a productive meeting because they discussed the 2011/2012 budget.

She also reported that Avalon needs to assign a representative to the Connect Group. Connect Group is a group from the Universities and Grants and it is for Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities.

She also stated that Bellevue received money via a grant for their Urban Garden. We will also check their web site at www.allegheny.com to find out how much money is available and what needs to be done to apply for a grant. This money may be available for bike trails, walking trails and other community centered activities.

There is also a discussion about what can be done to improve small business opportunities.

Donnelly also discussed the recycling day for the QVCOG which is on the same day as the Sewickley Festival.

She attended a meeting on the CD37 update meeting and the Manager's Meeting. She stated the speaker, Joseph Dinkle, stated West View Water will no longer be putting chemicals in the water.

Repp stated that he would like to make a change to the Library Board. He stated that he wants to move Tom Lloyd from the Library Board and appoint him as the Borough representative to the Tri – Boro Planning Commission.

PARKS:

Cortese moved to hire Cati Makatura as the Manager of the Avalon Swimming Pool for the 2011 season.

CARRIED

Dixon asked if Cati has all of the necessary certifications. Cortese stated that she does.

The pool cover will be removed next week, pot holes will be filled in and needed painting will be done.

Ten (10) people applied to work at the concession stand and ten (10) people applied for pool guard.

Vandals stole the hockey stick that was part of the new hockey sign in Avalon Park. It will cost approximately \$400 to repair the damage done to the park.

Birmingham Park has a new see – saw and a new spring duck for the children which was bought to replace the old, broken ride.

Cortese stated that there is drainage water running into the baseball field. The workers used a crane to move the 2200 pound blocks and put sand bags in place. Then they put the blocks back. The Street Crew workers are waiting to get their hepatitis shots before cleaning the field. There is a fence there now until the work is completed.

He stated that he has received complaints that someone is dumping trash in the creek behind the park. Dilmore notified Ross Township and they are going to prosecute in their own area.

Yurkovich asked if there is any money available to fix and clean the local monument. Dilmore stated that work is already slated for the monument and he will look at the damage she is referring to because he is not aware of any recent damage other than what happened during the winter months. He is also looking into other options for funds to repair and repaint the monument.

Cortese noted that they are still looking for a manager for the concession stand at the pool. He stated that because of the losses and salaries they are going to have to raise prices. They are looking for other options and workers. The need adult help to manage the kids and accept responsibilities for the workers.

LIBRARY:

Lloyd moved “to accept the resignation of Ralph Cortese from the Library Committee.”

CARRIED

Repp appointed Vickie Donnelly as Council chairperson to the Library Committee.

Donnelly moved “to accept and appoint Erin Zimma and Rich McMonigle to the Executive Board of the Library.”

CARRIED

Cortese noted restrictions on the term and replacement rules of the By-Laws.

Donnelly stated there will be a meeting to nominate new positions on April 28th.

4th JULY:

Connie Rankin stated they are making progress on the plans for the celebration which will be held on July 1, 2011.

Cortese moved

“to adjourn.”

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

**Harry W. Dilmore
Manager**