

**AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

The meeting opened at approximately 7:30 p.m. with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance led by Tom Lloyd.

Roll Call: Bernstein, Cortese, Dixon, Donnelly, Lloyd, Narcisi, Powell, Repp, Sefick. Also present were Dilmore, Chief Kokoski, Solicitor Canciello, Rob Arnold, and Judith Brogan and Ed Klicker, Tax Collector. Absent: Mayor Haslet.

No Executive Session prior to the Regular Council Meeting.

Lloyd moved:

“To accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 19, 2010.”

CARRIED

Powell noted one change on page 10

He did not abstain to motion to change the garbage fee to \$165 if paid by March 31, 2011. Bernstein did abstain to that motion.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Dilmore stated that he received a letter from the Allegheny County Summer Lunch Program. Avalon will take part in that program again this year. Letter was turned over to the Parks Committee.**
- Letter from the YMCA on the 2011 5K run. This information was given to Council members for their review. A motion will be made this evening.**
- Letter fro the Northgate Winter Ensemble on the 2911 Home Show, requesting use of the swimming pool for their parking. The letter was forwarded to the Parks Committee for their permission to allow the request.**

- **Letter from Arcadia publishing on an Avalon book. They publish books on different communities. They do most of the work and there is no cost to the community. They collect the money when they sell the books.**
- **Letter from Senator Pippy's office on a town hall meeting on the State Budget. Posted on the board in office,**

VISITORS:

Linda Hudgins of 307 Fisk Avenue thanked Council for the clean up work that was done after her complaint at the January meeting.

Brandon Gillingham spoke on the 5K run to be held on Saturday, July 16, 2011. Narcisi asked Brandon to attend the Safety meeting to discuss the run. Brandon stated that the race is scheduled to coincide with the Bellevue sidewalk sales and the route will be the same as previous years.

Jeff Mouris, 320 California Avenue stated that the lot he complained about at the previous meeting is cleaned and he thanked Council for getting it done.

Jeff also commended police Chief Kokoski and the two officers that were mentioned in the Citizen a few weeks ago concerning their drug bust. The officers were injured and he appreciates all of the effort to get the drugs off the street.

He also asked questions about the gas company tearing up the streets and he had asked Dilmore what was going to be done about the repairs. Dilmore had told him that a temporary fix would be done until spring but the resurfacing would be done when the weather allows.

Jeff then asked about an article in the Citizen concerning a street opening ordinance in Emsworth and he stated that it would be a good idea if Avalon had such an ordinance. Repp stated that the utilities do have to patch the area they tear up according to Avalon's specifications and Dilmore stated that Avalon does have an ordinance that other municipalities have used as a template for their own. He stated that all of the companies working on the streets in Avalon are required to

submit a street opening application. Jeff asked what the specifications are for the openings and Dilmore stated that the companies are charged by the square foot and what type of work they are going to do after they dig up the street. The specifications are in place through an ordinance and are available by request.

Jeff asked if Avalon has a weight restriction similar to Emsworth for trucks traveling through the area. Chief Kokoski stated there is a weight restriction and he has registered two officers to attend a class hosted by the State Police. Avalon does not have the scales necessary to weigh these trucks but the class will be helpful to the department. Jeff stated that he thinks it would be worth looking into for the future of Avalon.

MAYOR:

NO REPORT

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- Dilmore stated that we are working with Maher-Duessel on the final stages of the 2010 audit. We need to schedule exit meetings with the Finance Chairman and the President of Council. The auditors will stay late so the Council can come in to speak to them if there are any questions.**
- Dilmore stated he is working with Bellevue and the Quaker Valley Council of Governments on the West Bellevue Road paperwork and preparing to set up advertising and construction meetings. Rob Arnold will speak about that in his report.**
- Dilmore stated he attended the 2011 Emergency Mitigation meeting with Allegheny County officials and need to meet with the Safety Committee and the Fire Department to update the current plan. The North Boroughs is grouped in with Neville Island and is in the stage two (2) category. He will keep Council informed.**
- Dilmore stated he is working on the CD36 grants for completion and assembling the CD37 work projects for April submission. Any ideas for possible projects would be appreciated.**

SOLICITOR:

Canciello stated that Dixon will present a resolution tonight that if passed will authorize Council President to sign off on an agreement with Bellevue Borough. This calls for a 50/50 split on any cost over-runs on the West Bellevue Road project. Grant money will pay for most if not all of the work but if there are any cost over-runs they would be split 50/50, however, he set it clear in the agreements that this will not set any precedence. Previously, it had been agreed upon that all costs would be split 50/50 but research shows that only 13% of the waste was from Avalon. With the grant, the split will not be an issue and if there are any cost over-runs, it is agreed that they will be split 50/50.

Canciello also discussed that 202 California Avenue is falling down and once it comes down completely, the Borough will be permitted to purchase the property for \$1.00. The Borough can then sell the property and put it back on the tax list.

Dixon asked if it would be possible to put a cap on any cost over-runs because Bellevue does have the greater percentage of usage. Narcisi agreed that it should be a consideration.

Dilmore explained that the grant was applied for and granted based on the 50/50 split so they cannot change it now.

Rob Arnold of Chester Engineers stated that they strive to put together a representative yet conservative cost estimate so when the bids come in the cost will be representative of the amount and the grant or conservative amount will be enough to cover the cost.

Cortese asked if Chester Engineers fee is included in the total and Dilmore stated that some of their fee is included. Arnold stated that something very ineffective would have to occur for the cost to go over the grant amount.

Dixon asked how long Chester engineers numbers/figures are good for – for example if the study was done in September and it is now going into March – are the figures or estimates still good. Arnold explained that although John Jakeila received the letter allowing the grant, the engineering company has not finalized anything yet. As soon as the bids

are completed work will be started. Dilmore reminded them that they are under a court order to do this work. Without the grant it would be out of pocket and the Boroughs cannot afford it. The fact that we got the grant was because we had a shovel ready project. There were a lot of people who applied for the stimulus money but they did not have a project ready to go and that is why the bids and studies were done in advance.

Dixon asked if the Resolution is passed tonight will that be the last of the problem. Dilmore stated that it would be unless Council wants to fight over any over costs for the 13%. He stated that the bids are coming in and they are hoping this will resolve the problem.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

NO REPORT

FINANCE:

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 as submitted.”

Klicker thanked Council for putting a freeze on the delinquent taxes last month which allowed him to collect more taxes than was anticipated.

The motion was then....

CARRIED

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

**CARRIED
(Dixon voted no)**

Powell stated that the Borough Committees need to slow down on the spending because they are going through the Tan Loan and its still the first quarter.

He also stated that the names for delinquent garbage accounts will be sent to Jordan Tax Service for collection. Jordan Tax will have the authority to do what needs to be done to collect the delinquent accounts.

They also have the authority to send report to the Credit agencies.

Donnelly stated that Jordan tax Service will still have the authority to take them to court and put liens on the property.

SAFETY:

Narcisi moved to purchase a new police patrol vehicle under the SHACOG purchasing agreement.

Dixon asked which vehicle will be replaced and Dilmore stated it was not a replacement purchase.

Cortese asked if the payments will be deferred and Dilmore stated he is working on that.

Dixon asked if it was going to be a car or another Explorer. Dilmore stated it would be a car.

Narcisi asked Chief Kokoski if he had anything to report and Kokoski stated that he will have actual numbers for the next meeting and he will show that property crimes have dropped since the drug busts began.

Narcisi moved to raise the parking fines from \$4.00 to \$10.00.

Donnelly asked if the increase is for street sweeping or for both sweeping and meter parking. She also asked if the fine would be \$10.00 every hour the vehicle is illegally parked.

Kokoski stated that they cannot give tickets every hour because of the manpower it would take. He stated that the parking issue has to be about enforcement and they do not have the manpower to travel the length of the Avenue giving tickets. In response to a question about the city coming into the area to boot or ticket vehicles he stated that the city has the power and the resources to boot and ticket in the city but they cannot cross city line into the suburbs to ticket or boot; however, the state can tow, ticket or boot in any area.

After further discussion, the motion was....

CARRIED

Narcisi move to approve a handicap parking space at 304 Fisk Avenue.

CARRIED

PROPERTY:

Narcisi moved to authorize the Secretary to advertise for prices for the roof on the DPW/Fire Department service building.

CARRIED

STREETS:

Lloyd moved to authorize the Secretary to advertise for the sale of old motor vehicles.

Donnelly asked if they are inspected and was told the sale would be in “as is” condition.

Dixon asked why they don’t put the Suzuki in on the sale and was told it already is included.

The motion was then.....

CARRIED

Lloyd asked if a motion had to be made to approve Laurel Mountain Leasing Company for the purchase of the dump trucks and Dilmore explained that the Finance Committee had already accepted the rates with Laurel Mountain Leasing. Dilmore asked the Solicitor if it would be necessary and Canciello stated they should put it on the floor as a motion.

Lloyd moved to accept the proposal of Laurel Mountain Leasing Company for the loan for the two new dump trucks.

CARRIED

Dixon asked why they are putting a motion for Laurel Mountain Leasing Company if they do not have all of the figures yet and Dilmore explained that they do have the figures needed to make their decision but Laurel Mountain told him they may be able to give them a better rate than previously stated.

After discussion the motion was...

CARRIED

Lloyd asked if it would be possible for the Quality of Life would be permitted to put flowers or mini gardens in the empty lot on California Avenue. Dilmore stated he would have to check with the County and the State for permission.

HEALTH:

Dixon refused to make the motion on Resolution No. 1071.

Powell moved to accept Resolution No. 1071, entering into an agreement to split the cost of West Bellevue Road 50//50 on any cost over-runs on the project.

CARRIED

CORP/PLANNING

Bernstein stated that he has satisfied his delinquent garbage account.

He also stated that he is looking into an energy program for the Borough through Energy Savings Inc. He stated that this company worked for Hampton Township and he is looking into this and other ways to reduce energy costs.

He stated that if the Borough takes part in the program offered by Energy Savings Inc. they offer 25% off of the electric and gas but they will have to commit to a three year contract.

Donnelly asked if there would be a change in the usage of light bulbs and Dilmore stated that the lighting inspection has been completed by the county.

Repp asked if there is anything from the Tri Boros and Powell asked if all of the seats are filled. Bernstein stated that there is no alternate for Avalon Borough.

INTER-BORO:

Donnelly stated that she is still the President of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments and there will be a meeting on February 16th in Emsworth.

She stated that Recycling Day is scheduled for May 7th.

The QVCOG has extended an invitation to the West View Water Authority to attend one of their meetings. She believes they will be interested on the new plans for the Quaker Valley Council of Governments.

Donnelly moved to join Allegheny County in submission of proposed local ordinances for a three year period starting January 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2013.

Narcisi asked her to explain it and Donnelly stated that it is for informational advertisements on the County web page.

The motion was then...

CARRIED

Donnelly moved to purchase a floor scrubber for Avalon Volunteer Fire Department at a cost of \$3,900.

Powell stated that he is concerned with the timing and he is not saying “no” to this purchase but he is saying “not now.”

Narcisi stated that it is important for the fire department to have this because there is a need since the one they have is broke.

Donnelly stated that they could change the motion to have the scrubber purchase approved to be purchased at a later date.

Powell asked if a scrubber could be rented as opposed to purchasing it and Narcisi asked if he knew how much it would cost to rent as opposed to purchasing. Powell did not have that information at this time.

Lloyd asked if the Fire Department can purchase a scrubber and submit a bill for repayment in May.

Dixon stated that the scrubber they have is between ten (10) and fourteen (14) years old and they have been “nickel and diming” it for the past three years. They asked for a new one last year and was told to ask again this year.

Dixon stated that the building needs a lot of work and if the scrubber is not approved they will not clean up when the hall floods. He stated that the creek there floods the hall and the scrubber is not a luxury but a need. He stated that it is not a threat but they need the scrubber now.

Repp asked if Donnelly would amend the motion and Dilmore asked when it would be purchased if approved and would it be on the List of Bills for March.

Donnelly moved to remove her motion to purchase a floor scrubber for the Avalon Volunteer Fire Department at a cost of \$3,900.00.

**CARRIED
(DIXON ABSTAINED)**

Narcisi asked Donnelly to allow Dixon to make the motion for the floor scrubber and she declined.

Repp asked what Council wants to do about the motion.

There was some discussion about when the scrubber would be purchased and when it would be billed. Dilmore stated that they can purchase it anytime but bill the Borough at a later date.

Donnelly moved to purchase a floor scrubber for the Avalon Volunteer Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$3,900.00 on or after May 1, 2011.

Dixon asked if they were sure they were going to go through with the purchase and was assured that they would vote on it tonight and it could be purchased any time but not billed to the Borough until May 1, 2011.

The motion was then...

**CARRIED
(CORTESE ABSTAINED)**

PARKS:

Cortese thanked Ron Franke for the donation of \$5,000 for the work and the flowers for the California Avenue Park.

Cortese moved to permit the organizers of the 5K race/walk on Saturday, July 16, 2011 to use the Avalon Borough public streets.

CARRIED

Cortese moved to authorize the Secretary to advertise for the positions at the Avalon Pool for the 2011 season. These positions to include pool manager, life guards, pool clerks and concession stand operator.

CARRIED

Cortese moved to have the Secretary submit the paperwork for the Allegheny County Summer Lunch Program for 2011.

CARRIED

LIBRARY:

Cortese moved to appoint Ed Klicker as a member of the Library Preservation Board with a term running until 2014.

CARRIED

Cortese stated that he was going to resign from the Library Board but he has reconsidered and will not resign.

4th JULY:

Connie Rankin stated there is progress on the plans.

Powell moved to adjourn

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

**Harry W. Dilmore
Manager**