

**AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 21, 2011**

The meeting opened with a moment of silence for Willard Mecklenburg who passed away on June 16, 2011. Mr. Mecklenburg served on Avalon Borough Council from 1976 thru 1980 and 1990 thru 1992. The moment of silence was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Tom Lloyd.

Roll Call: Bernstein, Cortese, Donnelly, Lloyd, Narcisi, Powell, and Repp. Also present were Dilmore, Solicitor Megan Ott, Lindsey Jewart representing Chester Engineering, Police Chief Kokoski, Tax Collector, Ed Klicker and Judith Brogan. Absent: Dixon, Sefick, Mayor Haslett.

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

Lloyd moved “to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 19th and the Special Meeting of May 31, 2011.”

CARRIED

Powell seconded

Donnelly abstained from the Regular Council Meeting Minutes and the Special Council Meeting Minutes.

Cortese abstained from the Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Dilmore stated that he received the proposal from Walt’s Landscaping on skyline clearing of trees in alleys. The program to clear trees hindering emergency equipment access and brighten the area has received a good response from most of the residents. A list of streets and alleys will be given to the Streets Committee for their recommendation for financial reasons.**

- **Letter and received from Paul Kokoski of the Auditor General's Office on the 2008 - 2010 Pension Audit. Mr. Kokoski is scheduled to begin work on July 5, 2011.**

VISITORS:

Tom Demengone, 736 Center Avenue, a representative of the Friends of the Library Group stated that the Group will again be hosting the "Touch a Truck" event from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. and he is requesting that California Avenue between S. Chestnut and Josephine Streets be closed from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He also requested that the Municipal Parking lot be closed. Dilmore stated that he will notify Port Authority and the streets will be closed.

Jackie Yurkovich stated that she is representing Linda Hudgins who is unable to attend the meeting. Jackie stated that Linda has tried to call the contractor several times regarding the removal of debris left behind by them, but she is not getting a response. The company worked at 308 Fisk Street and she has spoken to Dilmore about the dangerous wood and stakes left behind. Dilmore stated that he spoke to the company working there and although they are not the company that did the work last year, they will remove the debris.

Jackie thanked Tom Michalow and the students and volunteers for the success of the Dumpster Day on June 18, 2011. Her only recommendation at his time is that there should be more advertising because too many people did not know about the Dumpster Day. Dilmore stated that the ad was on the web site, however, due to a computer glitch, the ad did not get published in the Citizen as planned.

Everyone agreed that even though the advertising was minimal, it was a very successful event.

Donnelly stated that she talked to Tom at the pool and he has a few recommendations for next year.

Jackie stated that there are rodents on Grandview Avenue and asked who she can contact to complain and/or get some help. She stated that she has been terrorized for the past week by them and asked who she can call and what she and her neighbors can do to get help.

Dilmore stated that he will call the Health Department for her and they will have to bait the area.

MAYOR:

NO REPORT

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- **Dilmore stated that he met with John Jakiela of the Quaker Valley COG regarding the CD37 Grants which were for the handicap walkway ramps and benches on California Avenue. Dilmore stated that he can get six (6) benches that he wants to place in various spots on California Avenue. He will work with the residents to place them in areas that will be beneficial to everyone.**
- **Completed the CD38 project pre applications and submitted them to the Quaker Valley Council of Governments.**
- **Completed all of the paperwork associated with the 2011/2012 Salt Contract. Waiting for the bid results.**
- **Met with the Engineer on the West Bellevue Road Project. Lindsey Jewert will give her report at this meeting.**
- **Contacted and met with the Teamster Business Agent on setting negotiations for the Department of Public Works contract which ends this year.**

SOLICITOR:

Megan Ott stated that the Borough Manager referred to her office a notice he received regarding a Pension Account being put in bankruptcy. She suggests that the Borough file a claim which is basically a document stating that the Borough received a notice of the bankruptcy by July 20, 2011.

Megan stated that she also discussed with the Manager, the collection of the ongoing sewage bill for the Avalon Motel. She stated that Dilmore has the situation under control.

The third issue she is reporting on is the Order of Court for the property donation that has been ongoing and the court is now allowing the Borough to proceed.

Lastly, there is a parking resolution litigation matter that will be discussed at an Executive Board Meeting following the Regular Council Meeting.

Powell asked what the Borough's status is at this time and Megan stated that she is not sure how much the Borough will get but she believes the paperwork should be filed.

Donnelly asked what state the Pension Class Action suit was filed and Megan stated that it was filed in Chicago but she is certain that it is not necessary to hire a lawyer in Chicago to handle the matter.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Lindsey Jewert of Chester Engineering reported on the West Bellevue Road Project stating that the winning bid Contactor met with Shawn Rosensteel of Chester Engineering and they will be ready to start the project within the next two weeks.

Repp asked if everything is under control with the contractor and Lindsey stated that it is at this time.

Powell asked if the timeline for the project is within the construction season and Dilmore stated that the time line scope is forty-five (45) days and the contractor thinks they will need thirty (30) days and they will use the last two (2) weeks for final grading and for clean-up in the area. He stated that they will lay new pipe as they take out the old pipe and they will be by-pass pumping the entire time.

FINANCE:

Powell stated with the success of the Dumpster day, he thinks a second dumpster is needed.

Powell moved:

“To accept the Finance Report as submitted.”

CARRIED

Bernstein 2nd

“To accept the Treasurer’s Report of June 21, 2011 as submitted.”

CARRIED

Bernstein 2nd

“To accept the Tax Collector’s Report dated May 27, 2011 as submitted.”

CARRIED

Bernstein 2nd

“To accept the Finance Report as submitted.”

CARRIED

Bernstein 2nd

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

CARRIED

Bernstein 2nd

Powell spoke about the possibility of adopting a dress code for Avalon Council for public meetings. He stated that he did some research and found a memo for Avalon Borough dated June 2, 1983.

The memo states that jogging suits, sports wear, T-shirts and the like are not suitable for Council meetings. Also, feet up on the desk are not necessary.

Repp stated that Powell could “suggest” a dress code. Megan Ott stated that it would be a Policy and that Council could not remove anyone for not adhering to the dress at meetings.

Repp stated that Powell could address the Personnel Committee regarding the Policy.

Klicker stated that he is getting a lot of tax money coming in at this time but it is the end of the discount period. He feels the income may drop after the discount period ends.

Klicker stated that there is a timeline for Keystone taking over and he is putting a data base together for them. Klicker is planning on closing off any acceptance for tax filings on June 30, 2011. Everything will be turned over to Keystone sometime after that.

Klicker is not anticipating any over-pays credited to the following year and refunds over \$1.00 must be refunded. He believes it will be a good thing when Keystone takes over and he will keep Council updated.

Dilmore stated that opting in early with Keystone has given the Borough an advantage because the Borough gets more attention and the numbers are more accurate. He believes that they made the right decision by going with Keystone Collections Group.

Repp asked how it is going so far with collections and Dilmore stated that they already received \$600.00 for the month.

SAFETY:

Narcisi stated that he has a request for a handicap parking sign in the vicinity of 546 Marie Avenue.

Narcisi asked Chief Kokoski for a recommendation for a request for a handicap parking sign for the end of Marie Avenue.

Kokoski stated that Marie Avenue is a long street and there are a lot of cars on the street. There are two signs on the street already.

Donnelly asked if the address on the application is for his home and Narcisi affirmed that it is for his home.

Narcisi moved:

“To approve a handicap parking space in the vicinity of 546 Marie Avenue.”

Powell stated that in the past, Council has approved handicap signs to people who do not drive, stating that the spouse of family member drives and he wonders if that is fair. Narcisi explained that oftentimes, people who are driving the handicap persons live in the home and/or have a placard in their car already.

Bernstein asked if there are supposed to be one or two handicap signs on a street and Narcisi stated that it is two signs in one block.

Dilmore stated that the signs are for anyone needing a handicap parking space not just for the person applying for the sign and that was confirmed.

Narcisi stated that he is not sure that the sign by the former Avalon Pharmacy is necessary and Dilmore stated that if the sign is removed there won't be any handicap spaces available in that area.

Donnelly stated that the system needs to be “revamped” to bring it up to date.

After further discussion the motion was...

**CARRIED
(Powell voted no)**

Narcisi noted that there has been a lot of tension within the Police Department regarding parking on public streets in Avalon. He suggested that Council should consider amending the Ordinance for towing unregistered cars and dangerous cars being parked on the street.

He asked that Megan Ott, Borough Solicitor, look into the legality of towing cars that are in disrepair, unregistered and otherwise dangerous, even though the cars may be parked on private property.

Narcisi stated that these cars are accessible to children and therefore dangerous. Also animals are living in them which are another danger to consider and the cars should be towed.

Narcisi stated that the Quality of Life Committee attended the Streets Meeting and has been granted approval for two street fairs – one on Grandview Avenue and one on Hemlock Street.

He noted that a motion is not required for this but he is making Council aware that the Committee is following through on their projects.

Narcisi asked Chief Kokoski about the grant the Police Department received. Kokoski stated that they had applied for and received a grant that enabled them to receive \$1,000.00 with a 10% matching grant. This means that if the department spends \$100.00 they get \$1,000 in merchandise. Therefore, they were able to get the portable breathalyzers.

Narcisi noted that the police department secretary, Ericka Anthony, did the paperwork to apply for the grant and Kokoski stated that the department is very pleased with Ericka's work.

Kokoski stated that Officer Sean Kirley attended the class on tagging over-sized and overweight trucks and has been certified.

Narcisi asked about the two injured officers who have been on short term disability and worker's compensation.

Kokoski stated that Officer Bob Espy has been released to return to work and is on the schedule for July 11, 2011 and Walter Johnson, who has been on worker's compensation is scheduled to see the doctor again on July 18, 2011. Kokoski is not sure when Johnson will return to work.

Narcisi suggested that Council consider making changes to the burning ordinance. No further discussion at this time.

STREETS:

Lloyd thanked Tom Michalow, the student volunteers, the Street Crew and Harry Dilmore for helping to make the dumpster day a success.

Lloyd stated that the roof on the fire station garage is almost complete, the Street Crew is working on street repairs and patching and the next Quality of Life meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

PROPERTY:

NO REPORT

HEALTH:

Dilmore spoke for Dixon and reported that they are working with the Quaker Valley Council of Governments on the new garbage contract. They are anticipating that it will be put out for bid the first week of July and discussing it at the July meeting.

He stated that Avalon signs a separate contract even though it is worked out through the QVCOG. He also noted that Avalon will be switching to Waste Management for billing and collection based on previous Council decisions.

CORP/PLANNING:

Repp asked Bernstein if he knows if the Planning Commission or the Tri-Boros received anything on the billboard. Bernstein stated that he does not know and Dilmore stated that Mr. Means had forwarded everything to him.

Chuck Means is handling everything for Ben Avon and Dilmore will report to Council when he has more information.

INTER-BORO:

Donnelly stated that she did not attend the May meeting for the Quaker Valley Council of Governments so she had no report.

Donnelly moved “to accept Resolution No. 1074 authorizing the application for funding for a municipal government efficiency services grant through the Allegheny County Department of Development.”

Bernstein 2nd

Repp asked for questions and/or comments on the motion and Dilmore explained that this is a grant that Katy Hale is encouraging the Boroughs to apply for and she made a presentation at the Quaker Valley Council of Governments.

Avalon is taking part and if the grant is received, the Borough will be responsible for \$1,600.00. Dilmore explained that a group of students from Carnegie Mellon University did a study that showed the value of the signs. He also stated that the signs will be posted to point out pedestrian walkways, historical monuments and specific buildings such as the Library and Municipal Building.

Repp called for a vote and the motion was...

CARRIED

PARKS:

Cortese moved “to permit the use of the Avalon Athletic Fields on Sunday, June 26, 2011 for a special event held by the Bellevue/Avalon Boys and Girls Baseball Association. This event will be for the benefit of the Timmer Family.”

Donnelly 2nd

Dilmore stated that the Avalon Contract is with the Boys Baseball Association but he is aware that the boys and girls are doing the event together and the motion is valid as read.

Repp called for a vote and the motion was...

CARRIED

Cortese stated that there have been complaints about speeding at the pool and he found out that there is no time or space to clock the speeders. He asked the Police Chief about new signs with 5 (five) mile an hour limits.

Police Chief Kokoski stated that there are speed bumps but there are no lights to slow the cars down. He can send a car to try to slow the cars.

Donnelly asked if it would be possible to borrow a machine that would clock the cars. Dilmore stated that the machine is being used at this time.

Kokoski promised to have the police do their best to get the drivers to slow down in that area and to get new signs.

Yurkovich stated that people are amazed at Avalon's pool prices compared to surrounding areas.

Cortese stated the rates for 2011 are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 5-7 and \$1.00 for children 2-4, compared to Bellevue's \$7.00 flat rate.

Cortese stated that the income for the pool is \$2,000 over last year on the shelter rentals, and \$3,000 to \$4,000 over on pool passes.

Yurkovich stated that she was at a picnic at the shelter and the kitchen was spotless. She stated that the Crew workers are doing an excellent job keeping the park and picnic areas clean.

Lloyd noted that Bellevue is in the closing phases of doing the dog swim.

Narcisi asked Connie Rankin how the dog park is coming along. Connie stated that they are trying to raise the money thru fund raisers. Lloyd

asked when it will open and Connie stated that it depends on the volunteers and they are hoping to have it open to dogs by the end of summer. It may take longer to get the water and agility course and she thinks it going to be really “cool.”

Connie stated that the park is privately funded and donations can be sent to the Bellevue Dog Wood Association.

LIBRARY:

Donnelly stated that she attended a Library meeting where they discussed old and new business. They also discussed AFIB and safety classes. She stated that the Library has a full agenda that is seasonably booked. They raised \$493.85 in pennies and have other activities planned.

Bernstein pointed out that you can follow the Library activities on Facebook and Donnelly noted that the children are taking advantage of the Library services.

4th JULY:

Connie Rankin announced the 4th of July celebration will be held on Friday, July 2, 2010. The celebration will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the fireworks will begin at dusk. The rain date is July 10, 2011.

The company doing the fireworks is Pyrotechnics’. The fireworks will be set to Patriotic music and they are promising a great new show.

Bob Arnold’s band, the Uptown Rhythm and Brass Band will perform again this year and there will be a hot dog eating contest as well as other activities.

Connie asked for volunteers to help again this year.

Powell moved:

“To adjourn to an Executive meeting.”

Bernstein 2nd

CARRIED

The meeting ended at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

**Harry W. Dilmore
Manager**