

**AVALON BOROUGH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 19, 2011  
Date changed due to elections**

The meeting opened at with a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance led by Tom Lloyd.

**Roll Call: Bernstein, Dixon, Lloyd, Narcisi, Powell, Repp, Sefick. Also present were Solicitor Megan Ott, Chester Engineer representative, Jessica, Tax Collector, Ed Klicker and Judith Brogan. Absent: Cortese, Dilmore, Donnelly and Mayor Haslett.**

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

**Lloyd moved:**

**“To accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of April 20, 2010”.**

**CARRIED**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- **Dilmore stated that he received a letter from Allegheny County Emergency Servicing Unit concerning the CERT training classes to be held in June. The letter was forwarded to the Safety and Fire Committees.**
  
- **Received notification from Allison Park Contractors on the bridge work beginning on or around May 31, 2011 at the bottom of Birmingham Avenue. Information was sent to the Fire and Police departments.**

**VISITORS:**

**Linda Hudgins of 305 Fisk Avenue asked if anyone knew why her neighbors and other residents put their cut grass in the street. She asked if there is an Ordinance concerning what should be done with**

**cuttings. Lloyd stated that the leaves are allowed to be put in the street but grass cuttings are not permitted.**

**Linda also stated that some of these same people put their snow in the street after the plow has cleaned the streets. Repp stated that there is an Ordinance concerning the snow shoveling but he is not aware of one for the grass cuttings. Linda asked if the Ordinance is enforced and can she complain about it when she sees the snow being thrown in the street. She was told she can complain and should do so at the time of the incident.**

**Jackie Yurkovich of Grandview Avenue stated that she made an announcement at the April meeting about clean – up day and only one person showed up to help. She was disappointed that no one on Council cared enough to help.**

**She stated that the volunteers consisted of teachers, young children, and residents. She stated that the amount of garbage picked up was impressive and she could not believe how many bags were collected. She thinks Council members should have been there and asked them to take part in the clean up day next year. Dixon stated that he would have been there to help but he had to work.**

**Ruth Lloyd planted flowers and the teachers stayed through the day.**

**Jackie asked if it is true that the swimming pool is going to be closed for two weeks in August. If it is true she thinks it is wrong because they haven't even opened yet. Repp stated that he did not think that was the case and Brogan agreed with him that there were no plans to close the pool in August.**

**Jackie also stated that she had been informed from a reliable source that Ralph Cortese was the victim of malicious gossip at the Library on Election Day. She stated that she does not think that any member representing the Borough should take part in gossiping about other Council members. She stated that it was mean and unfair to Ralph since he was not there to defend himself.**

**Repp stated that he was unaware of the situation and he agreed with Jackie that it is unprofessional and wrong to attack a Borough employee in a public venue in a malicious manner.**

**Repp thanked her for bringing this information to Council's attention and Dixon stated that he respected her opinion and her wish to defend Ralph but because it is a blanket accusation, Council cannot act on it. Jackie stated that the person who overheard this gossip is ill and unable to attend the meeting and Dixon stated that it is hear-say and nothing can be done about it.**

**MAYOR:**

**NO REPORT**

**SECRETARY/MANAGER:**

**NO REPORT**

**SOLICITOR:**

**Ms. Ott stated that she looked over the existing files that Canciello had been working on and noted that three (3) out of the four (4) had been turned over to the insurance company.**

**Regarding the intended property donation to Avalon Borough located on Semple Avenue, there were no liens filed and she has asked Dilmore for a summary of what has been spent on the research of this property. After she receives the list, a lien can then be filed. That will wipe out any taxes owed on the property and allow the Borough to move forward with obtaining the property.**

**Ms. Ott stated that Police Chief Kokoski asked her to review the manual that will be voted on at this meeting. She did review it and stated that she puts her stamp of approval on the manual. Dixon asked if she actually read the manual and Ms. Ott stated that she has read it and approves of it.**

**Narcisi asked if Canciello has already filed the preliminary objections to the Kersting case. Ms. Ott stated that he had not done that and that as**

of April 20, 2010 a complaint against Avalon Borough had been filed but nothing has been done since May 2010.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:**

Jessica stated that the Allegheny County Economic Development and the Quaker Valley Council of Governments met with the contractor to discuss the necessary administrative requirements regarding funding.

She also stated there will be a pre-construction meeting at the Borough Office with the Quaker Valley Council of Governments, Bellevue and Avalon to discuss the requirements of the contractor. Work is scheduled to begin in mid June and is expected to last approximately forty-five (45) days.

She stated that the requirements for the work being done on Route 65 are within the Penn Dot requirements.

Repp asked if everything is going well on the West Bellevue Road Project and Jessica stated that to the best of her knowledge the project is on schedule.

**FINANCE:**

Powell stated that his exuberance from last month has waned because the EIT tax has not been coming in at the rate expected.

The Tax Collector, Ed Klicker spoke and stated that the first wave of taxes have been sent to Keystone Tax but some companies are still sending the taxes to the Borough Tax office. Ed stated that the DCED had the wrong information on their web site and he called them to inform them of their error. People are confused about how to pay their taxes but it is slowly coming into place.

Dixon stated that he is being questioned by senior citizens about the letters they are receiving regarding their quarterly bills. Klicker explained that Keystone was sending letters to everyone and anyone who thinks they are receiving letters incorrectly should call Keystone and have their name removed. Keystone is being cooperative about this so Klicker is not expecting any problems.

**Powell moved “to authorize the Secretary’s submission of the AIM Loan application in the amount of \$70,000.00.”**

**CARRIED**

**Narcisi thanked Sefick for his work on the loan application.**

**Powell moved “to accept the Finance Report as submitted.”**

**CARRIED**

**Repp asked if the last check to the Administrative office is included in this report dated May 19<sup>th</sup> and Klicker stated that it is not included.**

**“To accept the Treasurer’s report as submitted.”**

**CARRIED**

**“To accept the Tax Collector’s report for April 2011 as submitted.”**

**CARRIED**

**“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”**

**CARRIED  
(Dixon voted no)**

**SAFETY:**

**Narcisi noted that the Fire Company bought a new shed with the grant money and they want to donate the old one to the Streets Department.**

**Narcisi stated that several of the Borough Police have been injured in the line of duty. He stated that the Union has agreed to allow more part time officers to work more hours to accommodate the needs in the police department at this time and will cut back on the overtime. He thanked the part-time workers and Bob Espy in particular for helping with this situation.**

**Narcisi moved “to adopt and approve the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Avalon Police Department.”**

**Dixon asked Narcisi if he read the new manual and he stated that he did read it and he found some interesting stuff in it.**

**Dixon asked if this motion will relieve the Borough of any problems that occurred prior to this manual being adopted.**

**Narcisi stated that he does not see that as being a problem stating that although he does not normally approve of manuals, he feels this one will be good for the Borough and the officers.**

**Repp then called for a vote on Narcisi’s motion which was...**

**CARRIED**

**Narcisi thanked Ms. Ott for her quick response regarding the manual.**

**STREETS:**

**Lloyd stated that Yurkovich’s daughter headed the clean – up day and he thanked her and Mr. & Mrs. Mauris. He also stated thanked the Trinity Church for preparing lunch and the Girl Scouts and teachers for staying so long and working so hard.**

**He stated that there were approximately forty (40) people cleaning and planting. He thinks it went well and hopefully it will be carried over to next year with more participation.**

**State Representative, Dan Deasy held a Town Hall meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> and eight people were in attendance. Lloyd stated that he found the meeting informative and interesting. He stated that Dan Deasy has a representative in the Borough office two days a week. Julie meets with people to answer questions and help with any forms or applications.**

**The Planning Committee is working on the wording of an Ordinance for signs in the area. This will address the size and placement of signs including billboards.**

**Lloyd noted that people need to cut their grass which is growing excessively because of the frequent rains. The high grass causes visibility problems as well other infestations.**

**He asked the President to select a committee to open negotiations for the upcoming street contract negotiations.**

**Repaving on California Avenue has been delayed because of the rain. The contractor is working on other things in the area until the weather allows the paving to be done.**

**He reminded Council that Dumpster Day is on Saturday, June 18, 2011.**

**Lloyd asked the President to select a committee to open the contract talks with the street committee to negotiate the contract.**

**Lloyd moved “to hire up to three (3) part-time crew workers for the summer.”**

**Dixon asked “if we can’t pay our bills now, how can we afford to pay \$25.00 an hour for a couple of street crew workers?”**

**Powell agreed with Dixon and although we need the help through the summer but he can in now way guarantee the results of hiring more people.**

**Repp agreed that the Borough needs the help but he also agrees that they cannot afford to hire anyone now. He also stated that scheduling would have a lot to do with how new hires would be used.**

**Sefick noted that part-time help would have to be really part-time.**

**Bernstein noted that part-time could be a few hours a week to 30 hours per week.**

**Repp also stated that Dale Regrut would have to be in touch with Harry on a daily basis to determine the part – time hours and how the workers will be used.**

**Repp then called for a vote on the motion to hire up to three (3) part-time crew workers and the motion was...**

**CARRIED**

**(Bernstein & Dixon voted no)**

**Lloyd also stated that the Street Crew has begun filling the potholes**

**Lloyd stated that last year there was a motion made to repair the Birmingham Avenue steps and it was going to cost over \$10,000. Since we do not have the money I move “to rescind the contract with Intex Construction Inc. for the repair of the Birmingham Avenue steps.”**

**CARRIED**

**Lloyd stated that the Street Crew will work to repair the steps for the time being. Yurkovich stated that the steps cannot be used and she thinks it is a waste of money to have the Street Crew work on them when the money could be used to fix the sidewalk. Repp stated that the steps will be blocked off so they cannot be used until they are repaired.**

**Dixon asked if the responsibility for the homeowner to repair the steps and Repp stated that it is Borough property that is in question at this time.**

**Repp called for a vote on the motion to “rescind the contract with Intex Construction Inc. for the repair of the Birmingham Avenue steps.”**

**CARRIED**

**PROPERTY:**

**Sefick moved “to authorize the acceptance of Stringert, Inc. bid of \$67,000 on the roof replacement at the Municipal Garage building.”**

**CARRIED**

**There was some discussion with Dixon asking about cancelling the job if the loan does not go through and further maintenance. Sefick explained that it would not be necessary to cancel the job.**

**HEALTH:**

**Dixon stated that the Fire Department is selling the shed they are replacing. There us no set price and the buyer must take it down and haul it away at their own expense.**

**Dixon moved “to purchase a Vantage floor scrubber at a cost of \$3,600.00.”**

**Powell stated although the promise was made and he would like to keep that promise, but not at this time. Money is tight right now and he doesn’t think it is a wise move.**

**Sefick noted that it was already postponed twice and he doesn’t think it is a wise move to postpone it again.**

**Narcisi stated that it is now a safety issue – the floor needs to be cleaned.**

**Powell asked if it would be possible to rent a scrubber for the time being and Dixon stated that this issue was discussed in December 2010 and again in January 2011. He stated that he has a Citizen at home that states that it would be done this month. He also stated that he will not jeopardize the safety of his men.**

**Powell stated that he is not disputing that it was promised; only the cost and only the timing.**

**Dixon stated that the loan for the garage roof was for \$70,000.00 and the roof is going to cost \$67,000.00. That is \$3,000.00 that can be put toward the scrubber.**

**Powell stated that if all of the committees stay within their budget and overtime is cut back that would make it easier to purchase the scrubber. He apologized for asking for another delay but the reality is that there isn’t enough money at this time.**

**The discussion started to get loud and Repp called for order reminding members that it is a question and comment segment.**

**Lloyd stated that he agrees that the scrubber was promised but if the Street Crew has to hire fewer part-time summer employees and necessary overtime has to be cut back then the scrubber should be postponed.**

**Sefick asked if this motion will be made again next month and Repp stated that if he wants it made next month he can make the motion himself. He also asked if the purchase is in the budget that was approved.**

**Powell explained that it is a “working budget” and is therefore flexible.**

**Dixon stated that bottled water is still being purchased and he finds that an unnecessary expense.**

**Repp then called for a vote on the motion made by Dixon to purchase a Vantage floor scrubber at a cost of \$3,600.00 and the motion was...**

**CARRIED**

**(BERNSTEIN, DIXON, REPP, NARCISI: YES  
(POWELL, SEFICK AND LLOYD: NO)**

**Repp made a statement concerning the meeting with the Quaker Valley Council of Governments which he attended for Vickie Donnelly while she is on medical leave.**

**Repp stated that John Jakiela announced that the QVCOG received correspondence from Wasted Management regarding the new contract which should be in the Municipal offices soon. Jakiela told the members that something that was supposed to be included in the contract was not and therefore new bids will be accepted. He will be in touch with the Borough Managers.**

**Dixon stated that he went through the contract and found some things he found interesting. Repp stated that new contracts would be forthcoming.**

## **PARKS**

**Repp asked Bernstein to read the motions that Cortese was scheduled to read.**

**Bernstein moved to “approve the following 2011 pool personnel:**

**Lifeguards: Alison Gusew, Emily Gusew, Jonathan Gusew, David Haupt, Aaron Makatura, Matthew Miller, Amanda Silay, James Silay and Christa Vanvolkenburg.**

**Cashiers: Maxine Berry and Laura Hanahan.**

**Concession Stand: Leah Mantick, Emily Persia, Kelsey Sozanski and Evan Yester.**

**Powell stated that last year the Borough did not have anyone to run the concession stand and this year we do have someone. He asked who is going to run the concession stand.**

**Bernstein stated that he is on the Committee and he has no idea who is running the concession stand.**

**Powell stated that the Borough did it two years ago and the Borough lost money. Lloyd stated that he was told that the pool manager will be making the schedule for the concession and Cortese will do the purchasing. One employee will be there to “keep an eye on things.”**

**He also stated that he was told that Jackie Yurkovich and her friends will “keep an eye” on things but he knows if that is true the telephone in the office will “never stop ringing.”**

**Yurkovich stated that she and her friends are not doing anything at the concession stand.**

**Repp stated that Cortese will be managing it and Lloyd stated that in light of the negative weather predictions he thinks it would be unwise to have the concession stand open at all.**

**Bernstein asked Council to approve the lifeguards and the cashiers now and decide later on the concession stand.**

**Repp stated that the motion will need to be amended and Megan Ott stated that Powell will need to remove his “second” to the first motion and Bernstein will then have to make the motion for the lifeguards and cashiers again.**

**Bernstein moved “to hire the following lifeguards: Alison Gusew, Emily Gusew, Jonathan Gusew, David Haupt, Aaron Makatura, Matthew Miller, Amanda Silay, James Silay and Christa Vanvolkenburg.**

**Cashiers: Maxine Berry and Laura Hanahan.**

**Dixon asked if all background checks have been made on all of the new hires and he was informed that the minors do not need to have the clearance and the cashiers do have their clearances.**

**Repp asked for a vote on the motion to hire the lifeguards and the motion was...**

### **CARRIED**

**Bernstein asked about making a motion about the concession stand. Repp stated that a motion can be made so Bernstein moved “to hire the following as cashiers: Maxine Berry and Laura Hanahan.”**

**Lloyd stated that he does not think the Borough needs the concession stand.**

**Dixon asked about the feasibility of using vending machines and Repp stated that this is an option. Cortese did go to the vending machine companies and he looked at all of the options and the most feasible option is to have the Borough do it.**

**Bernstein moved to table the motion until a meeting can be held with Ralph Cortese present. There was a question as to whether a new motion can be made without voting on the first one. Megan Ott stated that the motion can be tabled even though it was seconded by Sefick.**

No vote had been taken and the results to the motion are obvious. It can be tabled.

Dixon asked for clarification if he votes no to table the motion will the original motion pass. Repp stated that it will not pass automatically.

Repp called for a vote on Bernstein's motion to table the original motion until a meeting can be held with Ralph Cortese present.

**CARRIED**  
(BERNSTEIN VOTED NO)

**LIBRARY:**

**NO REPORT**

**INTER-BOROUGH**

Ed Repp again stated that he attended the QVCOG meeting in Vickie's absence. He stated that a group called the Pittsburgh Group is trying to ban electronic billboards and signs.

There is a resolution that the QVCOG may want the Council to vote at next month's meeting regarding the CDGB funding resolution. They want to cut about 62% and because the municipalities get a lot of funding from them there may need to be some discussion.

Vickie will be back next month and have more information. We all wish her well and a quick recovery.

**CORP/PLANNING:**

**NO REPORT**

**4<sup>th</sup> of JULY**

**Connie Rankin stated that they still need \$2,000 for the celebration festivities.**

**The festivities will be held on Friday, July 1, 2011.**

**There was some discussion deciding whether to hire concession stand help for the opening Memorial Day weekend and it was decided not to do that.**

**Megan noted that they have to advertise the special meeting and allow time to have it published and read.**

**Powell moved “to have the Secretary advertise that there will be a special meeting to discuss the concession stand operation and hiring personnel on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.”**

**CARRIED**

**Powell moved “to adjourn.”**

**CARRIED**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Harry W. Dilmore  
Manager**