

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2011

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance led by Council President, Ed Repp.

Roll Call: Bernstein, Cortese, Donnelly, Lloyd, Narcisi, Powell, Repp, also present were Dilmore, Solicitor Megan Ott, Rob Arnold, Tax Collector, Ed Klicker, Police Chief Kokoski and Judith Brogan. Absent: Dixon, Sefick, and Mayor Haslett.

Lloyd moved to accept the Minutes of the September 20, 2011 Regular Council Meeting.

Donnelly 2nd

**CARRIED
(Repp Abstained)**

An Executive Session was held prior to the Regular Council Meeting and Solicitor Ott stated that it was in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Dilmore stated that he received a letter from the Auditor General's office and Mockenhaupt Benefits Group on the 2011 Municipal Pension Aid Allocations. The increase for the MMO is only a one year increase and should be budgeted.**
- Dilmore stated that the Halloween Parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2011. Registration forms are available at the Borough office. Halloween will be observed on Monday, October 31, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- The Northgate Annual Senior Citizen luncheon and show will be on Friday, November 18, 2011 at 10:45 a.m. The show will be at 11:30 a.m.**

- **Dilmore stated that he has been contacted by Paul Cusick for the November 11, 2011 (11/11) troop collection. It is unclear at this time what will be collected so there will be further communications on this.**

VISITORS:

Jackie Yurkovich of Grandview Avenue thanked the volunteers for their help on clean-up day. She also asked why there were not more volunteers from Council. She also stated that in the spring, they are going to schedule clean up day to coincide with Dumpster Day because more Council people show up for that. She also pointed out that there is blue tarp being blown all over the area from a covering on a roof on an abandoned building. She stated that two women were cleaning the tarp up for hours and when they had it cleaned up the wind would blow it around again. She asked if anything can be done to make the owners fix the problem.

VISITOR:

Ruth Lloyd of 225 S. Ohio Street thanked the Crew for trimming the trees and weeds away from the main street. The community looks nice and the chief is making the Borough safer, but she asked what Council has planned to bring businesses back into the Borough.

She stated that she has been in touch with the Chamber of Commerce and wants to know if there is any type of development plans for the future. Is there anyone the Borough can call on to help with this? She noted that there used to be a bakery, a dry goods store, two pharmacies and a bank on the main street but now it looks bad.

Repp stated that Council is concerned about the lack of growth in the area. He noted that the parking lot was built with that in mind but has not helped.

Ruth asked about networking and if the Quaker Valley Council of Governments (QVCOG) can help.

Donnelly stated that she would take this concern to the next QVCOG meeting and she will find out if they have any ideas on the subject.

Dilmore stated that he attends the Chamber of Commerce meetings and businessmen do not come to the meetings looking for buildings.

Mrs. Lloyd stated that if they had networking, they may have been able to show the people of Bellevue that we are not a dry town like they are and they can open a business in Avalon that would allow alcohol.

VISITOR:

Ms. Gordon of Pittsburgh stated that she is at this meeting because she has a few complaints against the Avalon Police Department. She had a list of numerous incidents she claimed to have witnessed. One of the incidents was that the police went to her niece's house at 805 Taylor Avenue and were rude and ignorant to them. Also, during a party for her nieces, the police came and told them to turn the "damn" music down. She stated that the police are even harassing them when they are driving, claiming that she and her sister were pulled over for stupid things. She stated that one time they were told their "blinker is broken." She asked how the officer could know that the blinker was broken and the officer should have said you failed to use your blinker.

But in her opinion, the worst complaint was about her twin nieces' sweet sixteen party. They had a DJ there and admittedly it was loud and the police came and said there was a complaint about the noise. Ms. Gordon stated that her sister, (the actual resident of the property) told the officer that they would turn the music down and if they are cited, they we will pay any fine.

She went on to say that the police used *EXPLETIVES* (Ms. Gordon used foul language stating that she was quoting the officers.) She said her sister asked the officer why he was swearing at them and the officers called her brother down to the street to fight. She stated that three policemen went into the house and pulled her brother –in - law out of the house saying he was resisting arrest. She stated they were never told they were under arrest so how could they resist.

Repp told her to get the form from the police department and file it through the police department. He stated that they cannot discuss these things at a public meeting because there are procedures to follow.

Ms. Gordon stated that she was told to come to this meeting to voice her complaints and again Repp told her to follow the process and file the complaints with the police department. Ms. Gordon stated that the Police were the problem, specifically, Chief Kokoski, and how the problem would be fixed if they gave the complaint form to the police.

Repp told her to file the complaint form and it will come before Council no matter who the complaint is against. He conferred with the Solicitor and was told that he is correct in telling her to follow the procedure.

She asked how long it would take to process the complaint after she files it and was told that it will go before the personnel committee and it would not take long to address it.

She and her friends left the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

MAYOR:

NO REPORT

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- Dilmore stated that the fire relief check was received and given to Jim Carol of Avalon Volunteer Fire Department on Thursday night at the Finance Meeting. Jim will get the paperwork filled out and return it to Dilmore.**
- The Engineer will report on the work on West Bellevue Road which is completed.**
- Dilmore stated that work on the 2012 Budget will begin on October 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers room.**

SOLICITOR:

Megan Ott spoke about the agreement with Columbia Gas Company and confirmed that the Executive Meeting pertained to a personnel matter.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Rob Arnold stated that the work on West Bellevue Road is completed and the final inspection is scheduled for next week with both Avalon and Bellevue.

The final cost was \$288,000 plus costs for unexpected digging, etc. which is in agreement with the grant of \$370,000. The clean up is scheduled for next week and Rob invited everyone to check out the work that was done.

FINANCE:

Powell stated that he is cautiously optimistic that the Borough will get through the year okay but he is still calling for discretionary spending.

Powell moved:

“To accept the Finance Report as submitted.”

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

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

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

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

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Powell stated that there are some debt issues that will be on the books next year and the DPW and the Fire Department must watch their spending.

There are a few items being negotiated with the new contract for the Department of Public Works.

SAFETY:

Narcisi stated that negotiations between Avalon and Ben Avon Heights are going well and there should be a contract next week. He confirmed this with Dilmore.

Narcisi moved:

“To hire Sean Kirley as a full time police officer of the Avalon Borough Police Department having successfully completed his probationary period.

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

STREETS:

Lloyd stated that they are getting ready for the snow season with the salt supply and road equipment.

He also made a comment on the Quality of Life Committee that worked on the clean-up day cleaning garbage, tires, etc. He also noted that the Girl Scouts planted tulip bulbs in front of the Borough Building and commented on the painting around the trees. The weather kept the painting from being completed but he is anticipating it will get done as soon as the weather allows.

Lloyd also thanked the church members who helped feed the volunteers after the work was done.

Powell asked if there is an Ordinance regarding signs on the telephone poles in the Borough and Dilmore state that Duquesne Light has a new

set of guidelines concerning this but Avalon does not have an Ordinance to address this issue.

He stated that the Quality of Life put signs up and he feels it is against the work of that Committee. Dilmore stated that Duquesne Light does not allow nails or staples on the poles. This is to protect their workers who have to climb the poles.

Lloyd stated that the signage in the Borough is being addressed by the Municipalities in the valley area. This covers Sewickley, Leetsdale and others in that area.

PROPERTY:

NO REPORT

Repp asked about the Stringert Company and Dilmore stated that they have been paid.

HEALTH:

Donnelly moved

“To have the secretary give the first and second reading of Ordinance NO. 1334 securing a five (5) year contract with Waste Management for garbage and recycling collection.”

Lloyd 2nd

Repp asked Dilmore if this contract is with Quaker Valley Council of Governments and it was confirmed.

Dilmore stated that it is an Option A or Option B choice and Dilmore stated that he is urging Council to choose Option B which, in his opinion is the better choice for the Borough. He noted that most of the municipalities with the Quaker Valley Council of Governments are choosing Option B.

Dilmore stated that Waste Management will also provide locked disposal boxes for people who need to throw away old medicines or used syringes.

At this point, Dilmore asked Council President to proceed with the Tax Collector's statement while he (Dilmore) went to his office to get the complete Ordinance for Council.

TAX COLLECTOR:

Ed Klicker gave a streamlined report of the printed report Council members already received in their packets.

Klicker stated that he gave Dilmore a list of properties that have been re-assessed in the Borough and Repp asked if the list was of current assessments. Klicker confirmed.

Klicker stated that the Earned Income Tax (EIT) is approximately 52% of the budget revenue.

He also stated that Avalon is approximately 89% within the budget revenue and he believes it was a wise decision for the Borough to enter the Keystone System a year earlier than required.

HEALTH (CONTINUED)

Dilmore returned and read Ordinance No. 1334:

“The Borough of Avalon, Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, securing a five (5) year contract with Waste Management for garbage and recycling collection establishing the weekly rate trash pick up and the bi-weekly rate for recycling and to advertise the same.”

Repp then read Donnelly's motion as amended:

“To have the secretary give the first and second reading of Ordinance No. 1334 securing a five (5) year contract with Waste Management for garbage and recycling collection and to advertise the same.”

CARRIED

CORP/PLANNING:

Bernstein reported that the Planning Commission is at a standstill on how to market Avalon at this time. People seem to like the Borough but they do not want to have their businesses here.

He stated that Avalon needs to have a marketing plan to bring businesses to the Borough.

INTER-BOROUGH:

Donnelly stated that there is a dinner at the Shanopin Country Club on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 for the communities that are part of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments.

She also stated that she was proud to represent the QVOG at the North Hills Quaker Valley Council of Governments last month.

Donnelly stated that she will be attending a general membership meeting for Allegheny County at the Church Hill Country Club on Thursday, December 1, 2011.

Donnelly moved “to accept the bid of \$16,925.00 from Joseph Palmieri Construction, LLC for the ADA ramps project.

Cortese 2nd

Dilmore stated that the grant Avalon received is for \$15,500.00 so if Council passes the motion, Avalon will be responsible for the remaining \$1,425.00. It won't be done until next year but he needed to let Council know before they vote on the motion.

He stated that he applied for the full amount of \$15,000 and although it was granted, there is a balance that Avalon will be responsible for paying.

Repp then read the motion again and called for a vote. The motion was...

CARRIED

PARKS:

Cortese stated that he met with Chuck Berie of the Avalon Volunteer Fire Department and Chuck has asked permission to use the Avalon Pool building on January 9, 2012 for educational training.

Powell asked Cortese about an update on the gas line at the pool area. Cortese stated that the findings showed there was a gas the leak in the gas line under the creek.

Cortese stated that Columbia Gas made a proposal to eliminate the gas line under the shelter and replacing it with propane tanks. This would save between \$6,700 to \$7,000. Cortese suggested to Dilmore that if they do that they should not take the money but use it to have the Gas Company repave the parking lot.

LIBRARY:

Donnelly stated that she did not attend the last library meeting but Ruth Lloyd did and Donnelly asked Ruth to give a report.

Ruth stated that they are getting bids for cameras. She also stated that the problem they thought was caused by the electricity was actually just the timer which was corrected.

There will be a "Friends of the Library" meeting on October 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and the officers that were approved at the last Council meeting will be approved.

Repp asked when is the Executive Board meeting and Ruth stated that it is the first Tuesday of every month.

She stated that there are two members whose terms are up in January and they are looking at replacing the positions. Dilmore asked if they can be reappointed and she stated they can.

Ruth also stated that they are considering allowing the two non voting members to vote so they can continue without interruption.

4th of JULY/FESTIVAL

Connie Rankin reported that they are meeting with Pyro Tech-ni-co for the fire works and she will get back to Council with progress. Cortese asked when they will celebrate the 4th and Connie stated that it will be on June 29th.

Cortese moved “to adjourn.”

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Harry W. Dilmore