

**AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

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

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

There was no Executive Session held prior to the Regular Council Meeting.

Pat Narcisi, substituting for Council President, Ed Repp, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Lloyd moved “to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of August 16, 2011.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Dilmore stated that he received a letter from the One Call Systems regarding the Safety Day on September 22, 2011. Dale Regrut of the DPW will be attending the class at no cost to Avalon Borough.**
- Returned the contracts from Cargill, Inc. for the 2011-2012 salt. We will be meeting on October 4, 2011 to discuss the 2011 season.**
- Received letter from the North Hills Chamber of Commerce asking permission to permit the annual Halloween Parade on October 29, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.**

- **Presented two (2) letters to Council at the Finance Meeting for consideration.**
- **Received the 2011 License fee check from the Liquor Control Board and the listing of the Avalon Bars.**

VISITORS:

Jackie Yurkovich of Grandview Avenue asked what the Borough is going to do about the gravel along Grandview. She stated that a man came along and shoveled the gravel after a heavy rain and he took the gravel with him. She stated that she is not going to shovel the gravel any more because it is a hard job and she should not have to do it.

Dilmore asked the Engineer, Shawn Rosensteel to go to the site and give his recommendation. Yurkovich stated that the residents want grass or cement and Shawn stated that he would go to the site later in the week and he will be in contact with Dilmore.

MAYOR:

Mayor Haslett stated that the Elementary School will be holding the Fall Festival on October 14, 2011. They asked if it will be possible to have a fire truck and an EMT vehicle for the event. Haslett stated that he spoke to Police Chief Kokoski and he agreed that it would be possible as long as the fire department is in agreement.

Dixon stated that he will pass the request onto the Fire Chief.

Haslett stated that Officer Lucas of Bellevue asked if Avalon can or will reinstate the DARE program in Avalon. The Mayor agrees with Officer Lucas that it will be better to have it in Avalon rather than have Bellevue come into Avalon to do it.

Police Chief Kokoski stated that he will look into the situation and get back to Mayor Haslett.

Haslett stated there is concern that the police car repairs and the Crew vehicles repairs are being done outside of the Borough. He asked if the repairs can be done in the Borough. He stated not only is it more convenient to have the work done locally, is it less expensive. Haslett stated that Council needs to address this situation.

Haslett stated there is a safety issue concerning the Birmingham steps. The barricades have been kicked down by the kids, there are no signs posted and the area at the bottom of the steps is dangerous. He believes it is important to get this corrected as soon as possible.

Haslett suggested that the barriers be put back and signs should be posted alerting pedestrians of the hazard.

Dilmore suggested that if the Borough is not going to fix the steps then the bottom section should be taken out. Haslett stated that until that decision is made the barriers and signs should be put back as soon as possible because the steps are being used on a regular basis.

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- **Dilmore stated there is a report on the West Bellevue Road Project and he will allow Shawn Rosensteel of Chester Engineering to give that report at this meeting.**

Dilmore attended the 911 Meeting at the Emergency Meeting Headquarters, in Lawrenceville, Pa. last week. This meeting discussed how the residents of the area would be permitted to get flood plane insurance. The flood plane has increased from the swimming pool valley down to Spruce Run Road. FEMA spent a lot of money on new maps to help explain where the flood plane areas are located.

The agency is creating new regulations so nothing can be built in the flood plane areas. The program will not allow any new buildings or renovations to be done in the flood plane areas as determined by their new regulations and maps.

Dilmore stated that some mortgage companies are demanding that buyers have flood insurance to protect their interests. He also stated there will be public hearings scheduled so the public can know what they will and will not be permitted to do in the flood plane areas and if they can purchase flood insurance.

SOLICITOR:

Megan Ott stated that the closing on the property located in Avalon at 619 Norwood Avenue will be completed next week.

Megan stated that the Reassessments should be a main focus at this time because of the upcoming budget plans. She stated that last Friday, Judge Wettick issued an Order of Court to the County to complete the City and School District reassessments on time and have them certified by January 5, 2012 so the School District can send out their taxes at the usual time in early January.

This puts a burden on the Boroughs and Townships because their reassessments will not get certified until some time in May and then the Tax Bills can be mailed out. This will interfere with budgets because millage rates cannot be determined and the tax bills will be mailed out late. Allowing for the discount amount period, tax returns may be received in August.

Megan stated that Avalon was wise when they entered into an early agreement with the employers and businesses in the area.

She stated that she is among a group of attorneys scheduled to meet and hopefully intervene with Judge Wettick. Hopefully, they will be able to infuse common sense into the situation. She will continue to keep Council updated on the situation.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Shawn Rosensteel stated that the West Bellevue Road Project is nearly complete and the contractor did a final testing on the line. They are anticipating a \$5,000 to \$7,000 change in cost due to the location of the Bellevue sewer coming into West Bellevue Road.

The maps showed the line coming off of Starr Avenue straight to the manhole on West Bellevue Road. This was incorrect and they had to do more digging than anticipated. The line that was shown as 4 feet deep was actually 12 feet deep thus the costs increase.

Shawn confirmed with Dilmore that there is enough in the project budget to cover the extra charge and Dilmore stated there is \$14,000 for unforeseen problems so the \$7,000.00 will be covered.

FINANCE:

Powell moved to accept the Finance Report as submitted.”

CARRIED

Donnelly 2nd

“To accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted.

CARRIED

Donnelly 2nd

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

CARRIED

Donnelly 2nd

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

**CARRIED
(DIXON VOTED NO)**

Donnelly 2nd

Powell stated that the financial situation is making it necessary to get permission from Mr. Dilmore and/or the Finance Committee to spend over \$500.00. Committees need to be aware that we are in financial trouble again at this time and we still have another quarter to get through the year.

Donnelly stated that the government will be taking out the wage taxes from our salaries next year and that should be considered when working on the budget.

Powell stated that the budget is a working document and just because you may be under budget that does not mean you are entitled to spend more. He asked the Committees to use discretion when spending.

SAFETY:

Sefick moved “to hold Avalon’s official Halloween Day on Monday, October 31, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Powell 2nd

CARRIED

Sefick moved “to allow the North Suburban Chamber of Commerce to hold their annual Halloween parade on California Avenue, from the Elementary school to the Bellevue border, on October 29, 2011, starting at 11:00 a.m.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Sefick moved “to pass Ordinance No. 1333 to increase the Borough’s indebtedness by \$70,000 for the replacement of the roof on the Municipal department of public works and fire department.”

Powell 2nd

CARRIED

Sefick moved “to appoint Jonathan Bernstein to the Friends of the Library Board.”

Donnelly 2nd

Donnelly asked if Council should have the resignation of the current chairs before appointing anyone.

Megan asked if Council has any of the resignations and was told no and Bernstein stated that they are going to accept them with his motion at this meeting.

Narcisi stated that the motion to appoint Jonathan Bernstein to the Friends of the Library Board is tabled according to protocol.

Donnelly read her resignation to Council President, Ed Repp, as follows:

Dear Mr. President,

I am resigning from the Friends of the Library Board effective immediately. I hope the time served was productive for the future of the Library.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Donnelly

Sefick moved “to place an ad in the Northgate Band Festival Program at a cost of \$40.00 for a full page ad.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Powell asked what the ad will say and Dilmore stated that he will come up with something to place in the ad.

STREETS:

NO REPORT

CORP/PLANNING

Lloyd announced that The Tri Boro’s Community Association has asked if we would budget \$1,500 to \$2,000 for each community event planned. The reason for this is because they have to start planning for the 2014 review and the money needs to be allocated.

He also stated that the Quality of Life Committee is planning a clean-up day on Saturday, October 10, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. This event was a success in the spring and they are hoping for a bigger turnout this time.

He will have a motion later in the meeting to have Dumpster Day in November.

Lloyd moved “to enter into an agreement with Allegheny County Port Authority to salt the Avalon Bridge for the 2011-2012 winter maintenance season.”

Donnelly 2nd

Donnelly asked if the agreement is in compliance with the Quaker Valley Council of Government’s agreement and Dilmore stated that it is the same agreement as in prior years.

CARRIED

Lloyd moved “to hold Dumpster Day on November 5, 2011 and purchase signs alerting the public to the upcoming event. This event will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon or 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Actual time to be decided.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

PROPERTY:

NO REPORT

HEALTH/SANITATION:

NO REPORT

CORP/PLANNING

Bernstein moved “to accept the resignations of the following Friends of the Library Board members: Ellen Gamble and Vickie Donnelly.”

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

Bernstein moved to “recommend that Avalon Council approve the nominations for the Friends of the Library Board including:

Todd Demagone – 2 year term, Rae Fisher – 3 year term, Annie Bedison – 1 year term and Lisa Elliott – 2 year term.”

Lloyd asked when the terms will become effective and Megan explained that these terms will become effective today and go to January. In the future, the terms will be reviewed every January.

Sefick 2nd

CARRIED

Sefick moved “To appoint Jonathan Bernstein to the Friends of the Library Board.”

There was some discussion including the length of the term and Dilmore stated that Council President, Ed Repp, would decide how long Bernstein’s term will run.

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

CARRIED

Bernstein stated that he updated the facebook page to welcome the new board members and Donnelly stated that Bernstein is doing a good job with the facebook page for the Borough.

INTER-BORO

Donnelly stated that there will be a Manager's meeting on Wednesday afternoon and a Board of Director's meeting in the evening. There will also be a QVCOG meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2011.

She attended a meeting with candidates Mr. Raja and Mr. Fitzgerald. They would like to see the municipalities come together for various concerns such as transportation and flooding. They also have concerns about abandoned homes and how to get them re-furbished.

Donnelly stated there is a booklet that she will try to bring to Council, showing the breakdown of how the QVCOG money has been used.

There is also a need for new fire equipment but the cost is over a million dollars and the County Council has been urged to get organizations together to help with the purchase of this equipment.

Lloyd stated that the Touch a Truck event sponsored by the Avalon Library was a big success. The weather cooperated and there were enough volunteers to help make it a success.

PARKS:

Cortese thanked the pool manager, Cati Makatura, and her staff for at the pool and the concession stand, for the wonderful job they did this year. He stated that the concession stand made a profit of \$2,634.22 and the swimming pool only lost \$4,542.00. Dilmore stated that was the best year for the pool. Cortese stated that prior year losses were over \$17,000.

Dilmore stated that the only time the pool did better than this year was the year they were closed.

Cortese stated that August was a bad month for the swimming pool for various reasons; the water main break, the bad weather and they had to close for the last week of the month. All of these things contributed to some of the loss but overall, Cortese stated, it was a good year for the pool and concession stand.

Cortese also stated that West View Water is telling the Borough that the water main break is the Borough's responsibility because it is a dedicated line and they are charging \$17,000 for rental of the fire hydrants. Solicitor Megan Ott is looking into the situation and will report to Dilmore and Council.

Lloyd and Sefick and Dixon stated that Cortese did a good job with the pool and concession stand this year.

Cortese asked about the medical and pharmacy needs for the pool that had been donated by Frank's Pharmacy in past years. Dilmore explained that in the past, the hospital donated those items and then Franck's Pharmacy. This year the Borough replaced what needed to be replaced and purchased the necessary items as needed. He stated although it was appreciated when the items were free; it is not a hardship for the Borough to take care of it.

LIBRARY:

Donnelly attended the Executive Meeting and it went well in the sense of what is being accomplished at the Library. The lighting has been fixed again. One of the items on the agenda is security and they are getting quotes from different companies for cameras. She noted that you cannot have cameras if you don't have lights and they are looking into why they are having problems with the lights.

4th of JULY

NO REPORT

Cortese moved to adjourn.

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

Meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

**Harry W. Dilmore
Manager**