

**AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2012**

The meeting opened at 7:30 with a prayer and the pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Lloyd.

Roll Call: Cortese, Donnelly, Lloyd, Narcisi, Vetterly, Repp and Klicker. Also present: Megan Jones representing the Borough Solicitor, Dilmore, Police Chief Kokoski, Chester Engineer Representative, Rachael and Judy Brogan. Mayor Haslett, David Dixon and Bernstein were absent.

No Executive Session was held prior to the Regular Council Meeting

Cortese moved:

“To accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 20, 2011.

Donnelly 2nd

Cortese moved:

“To accept the Minutes of the Clean - Up Meeting of December 29, 2011.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Cortese moved:

“To accept the Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 3, 2012 as submitted.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Dilmore stated that the Borough Solicitor, Megan Ott, will speak about the on-going Reassessment Communications from Allegheny County and the Solicitor.**
- **Received letter from John C. Fuller, Esq. on a property located on Marie Avenue. Letter to be forwarded to the Solicitor.**
- **Letter from Lois Cummins of Spencer of Friends on the 2012 Agreement regarding Animal Control. Letter forwarded to the Safety Committee.**
- **Letter from the Allegheny County League of Municipalities on the 2012 Spring Convention from March 29th thru April 1st. Those interested can read the information posted on the Council Board in the Administrative Office.**
- **Received the Lien List from Jordan Tax Service for Real Estate and Sewer. Both to be accepted by Council at this meeting.**
- **Letter from the Engineer on completion of the handicap ramp project for 2011.**
- **Letter from the Bellevue/Avalon Baseball Association regarding the use of the Municipal Building for registration.**

VISITORS:

NONE

MAYOR:

NO REPORT

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- **Dilmore stated that he completed the Exit Conference with the State Pension Auditor and the report appears to be cleaned up and will be received sometime in April.**
- **Completed the paperwork work with All State and the Kellys regarding their property located at 434 N. School Street. Work will begin within two (2) weeks.**
- **Dilmore stated that the 2011 Audit with Maher-Duessel has begun and everything seems to be going well.**
- **Completed all of the paper work on the 2011 audit and catalogued all of the documents getting them ready for storage.**
- **Received and reviewed the 2012 certified value CD obtained from the County and will turn that over to the Tax Collector.**

SOLICITOR:

Megan Ott stated that the reassessment problem was the main topic everywhere. She stated that once the City (Pittsburgh) is done, the rest of the County should get caught up with their reassessments.

She stated that owners will receive notices of the new assessment number and appeals will be allowed so as to challenge the assessments. There will be an informal and possibly a formal appeals process which will allow the people to present their case.

These final numbers will allow the Boroughs and Municipalities to better set up their budgets going into 2013.

Repp asked if the numbers they are going to receive in June or July are before the appeals process and Megan stated that is correct. Repp asked how realistic the numbers will be if used in October or November to set the budget.

Megan stated that in 2000 they learned that the City had a 10% drop overall in values and that reduction in value was over a two or three year time period. She suggests they use the numbers available in October or November.

Repp asked if the City was able to get through a full wave of appeals before October or November and Megan stated that in 2002 they were back in court and Judge Wettig stripped out the political element of the process making Mr. Flynn personally responsible and if he does not enforce all of Judge Wettig's orders he will be held in contempt of court.

It will be no defense to say that Mr. Fitzgerald told us to disobey the order. Ms. Ott stated that she sees this as another political move by the Executive Branch trying to leverage what they can and cannot do and there is a communication from the County regarding this.

Dilmore stated that he did receive that communication but they chose not to discuss it at the last Finance meeting because it was a moot point at this time.

Repp stated that something needs to be done about Allegheny County being the only county having their taxes reassessed but he also agrees that to throw the numbers out now would be a dire waste of money.

Lloyd stated that the people will be receiving two (2) bills from the County. One (1) will be the new tax bill and the second will be the new reassessment. The first one will have to be paid and then you can appeal.

Tax Collector Klicker stated that we will only get one (1) bill which must be paid and the second correspondence will actually be a notice of the value of the property.

Lloyd stated that when the notices are sent out Council will host a question and answer forum. They are planning to have someone from the County and a Real Estate Lawyer available. This will allow people to ask their questions directly and understand that Council has nothing to do with these increases. Council only wants to assist the citizens of Avalon with filing their appeals.

Megan stated that she will be happy to answer any questions concerning the reassessments.

Megan stated that she has been working on the Killed in Service Ordinance. There will be a 1st and 2nd reading at this meeting.

She stated that the actual benefits are funded by the state as of late 2007 unless the Municipality has an Ordinance where they take responsibility. This does not take the liability off of the Borough for the original fees.

She has offered her list of legal bills for Harry to include with the escrow amount for closing of the property located at 841 California Avenue.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Rachael represented Chester Engineering for this meeting.

The handicap ramps project is complete and recommendation of payment was made to the QVCOG.

The Main Street Benches Project: Chester Engineering is in the process of soliciting quotes for the benches. When the quotes are received, they will be presented to the QVCOG.

West Bellevue Sanitary Sewer – The project is complete. Close-Out Documents have been prepared for signature by the Contractor.

Avalon Arms – This project is nearing completion. The majority of the piping has been installed and Manhole #1 and #2 have been set. A cleanout and a trap have been installed in the storm line perpendicular to California Avenue. The Contractor is to complete the tie-in and hopes to be finished by the end of the week, weather permitting.

Cortese asked if they had to put a larger pipe underground from California Avenue to Elizabeth Avenue and Dilmore explained that they did not have to dig on California Avenue because the tie in was made at the catch basin so they didn't have to cross the street. The 18" pipe is more than sufficient to handle the water capacity,

FINANCE:

Lloyd stated that the new tax system is in place and anyone owing local tax should send it to Keystone Tax Service.

Lloyd moved:

“To accept the Real Estate Lien List form 2011 and have the Secretary contact the proper persons to file.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept Resolution No. 1078 authorizing the 2012 Tan Loan.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept Jordan Tax Service Lien List for Delinquent Sewer Bills.”

Donnelly 2nd.

CARRIED

“To accept the contract of Maher-Duessel as independent auditors for 2012.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Dilmore stated that after some restructuring of the contract, it will be about \$2,400 less this year. Repp commented on how long Maher-Duessel have been doing the audits and Dilmore stated that it has been twenty (20) years and the Borough is very pleased with their work.

Lloyd moved:

“To accept the Finance Report as submitted.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

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

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Donnelly 2nd

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

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept Jordan Tax Service Lien List for Delinquent Real Estate taxes.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To have the Secretary give the 1st and 2nd reading of the Killed in Service Ordinance and assign it a number.”

Cortese 2nd

Dilmore read Ordinance NO. 1335 (later changed to 1337)

- **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF AVALON AMENDING ORIDINANCE NO 1293, AS AMENDED, TO ADJUST CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE POLICE OF SAID BOROUGH TO PROVIDE FOR A KILLED IN SERVICE BENEFIT IN ACCORDANC E WITH ACT 51.**

Repp asked if there are any questions on the motion and bearing none a vote was taken and the motion was...

CARRIED

Lloyd moved:

“To authorize the Secretary to advertise Ordinance No. 1335.” (later changed to 1337)

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

SAFETY:

Narcisi moved

“to enter into an agreement with Spencer and Friends as provider of animal control services.”

Donnelly stated that she is confused on the additional fee. Repp asked if the Solicitor checked the Ordinance and she stated that she had. Dilmore stated that it is the same as the prior agreement.

Cortese 2nd

After a short discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was...

CARRIED

“To authorize the Secretary to advertise and start the process of accepting applications for a full time police officer.

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

STREETS:

Klicker moved:

“to accept the 2012 to 2014 bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 249.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“to authorize the Secretary to advertise for the position of Street Superintendent for the Avalon Department of Public Works.

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

“to accept the proposal from Searight Excavating for demolition of the house located at 434 N. School Street and use the escrow money for the demolition.”

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

Dilmore stated there is a clarification on Ordinance No. 1335. That number has been assigned to setting the tax rate for 2012 which will be done at this meeting.

Lloyd moved:

“to approve Ordinance No. 1335 setting the Avalon Borough Tax rate at 9.05 mills.

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

Lloyd thanked Megan for seeing the mistake and having Council correct it.

PROPERTY:

Vetterly moved

“to permit the Bellevue/Avalon girls athletic association use of the Council Chambers on Sunday, January 22, 2012 and on Sunday, February 19, 2012 for registration from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

Vetterly asked about the late fee for Waste Management for a Dumpster. Dilmore explained that the fee was for a dumpster for dumpster day and the money has been reimbursed by a private party to the Borough and the bill has been paid in full.

Repp asked about the sanitary sewer in the building garage. Dilmore explained that they are flushing it out everyday until they get the permit from PennDOT.

HEALTH:

NO REPORT

CORP/PLANNING

NO REPORT

INTER-BORO:

Donnelly stated there will be a Quaker Valley Council of Government meeting in the Council Chamber room on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

She stated there is a sign up sheet in the Administrative Office for the Allegheny County Borough Association Banquet which will be held on February 4, 2012 at the Sheridan in Station Square. Anyone interested should sign up as soon as possible because the reservations are due on or before January 23, 2012.

Dilmore reminded Vickie to make her motion regarding the Seven Springs function because it will be held earlier this year than in the past.

Donnelly moved

“to allow two (2) Council persons to attend the Seven Springs Allegheny County Borough Association Conference.”

Cortese 2nd

Repp explained that the Conference is a learning and informative experience and Donnelly will give a report on her attendance.

After some discussion, Repp called for a vote and the motion was...

CARRIED
(Lloyd voted no)

PARKS:

Cortese stated there will be meeting for the spaghetti dinner fund raiser on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. They dinner is a fund raiser for the Avalon Pool. They hope to raise enough money to pay for

flowers and other items that will improve the area. They are also in need of volunteers so anyone interested should attend this meeting.

Cortese moved

“to authorize the Secretary to read the 1st and 2nd Reading of the waste container ordinance and assign it a number.

Donnelly 2nd

Dilmore read:

An Ordinance of the Borough of Avalon, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Ordinance No. 1336:

- **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF AVALON, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, REGULATING THE PLACEMENT OF WASTE DUMPSTERS AND THE STORAGE OF OTHER ITEMS WITH THE RIGHT – OF – WAY OF ANY PUBLIC STREET IN THE BOROUGH.**

Cortese explained that there were too many complaints about the garbage and dumpsters in the area and there is a problem with people leaving their garbage and dumpsters out long past the pick up times.

CARRIED

LIBRARY:

4th JULY:

Connie Rankin and Ed Klicker stated that they are looking for volunteers for their planning committee.

Cortese moved to adjourn.

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8: 30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

**Harry W. Dilmore
Manager**