

**AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2014**

Klicker opened the meeting at 7:35 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call: Cortese, Donnelly, Klicker, Lloyd, Narcisi, Nelson, Pascale.
Also present: Mayor Haslett, Solicitor Ott, Engineer Scally, Chief
Kokoski, Dilmore and Makatura. Absent: Neal, Vetterly, Mayor
Haslett, Tax Collector Klicker.**

Nelson moved:

**“To accept the Minutes of the September 16, 2014, Avalon
Borough Council Meeting.”**

Pascale 2nd

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Letter from FEMA acknowledging the floodplain update.**
- **Communication from Cohen Law Group regarding the renewal of
the Comcast cable agreement negotiated through QVCOG.**
- **Financial statement from ANTCC (tax collection group) 2015
budget available for review.**
- **Appeals for sheriff sales for the solicitor to review.**
- **Waste Management Recycling Collection report.**

Pascale moved:

**“To accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted for October 21,
2014.”**

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

**“To accept the Tax Collector’s Report as submitted for the month
of October 2014.”**

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept the List of Bills as submitted for October 21, 2014, in the amount of \$123,632.49.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

**Clark Edenhart
603 Hemlock Avenue**

Question to council regarding the sewage leak occurring on Florence Avenue. The leak was reported to the Allegheny County Health Department 5 weeks ago by Mr. Edenhart. Nothing has been done to correct the situation. Discussion followed.

**Joan Csaszar
117 S. Chestnut Avenue**

**Jill Gorze
115 S. Chestnut Avenue**

**Cindy Smith
741 Hemlock Avenue**

**Myrtle Luther
745 Hemlock Avenue**

All spoke regarding the Church home at 221 S. Chestnut Avenue. Mr. Church was at the home over the weekend, stated the sale was in limbo due to the Borough requesting the buyer to post a bond. The Solicitor commented that the buyer is no longer interested in the property and the bank has foreclosed and is

looking to demolish the property. Discussion followed over the concerns of the property.

Additional discussion followed regarding the condition of resident sidewalks as she (Mrs. Smith) walks the community.

MAYOR:

- No Report

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- Continued information gathering for the renewing of the employee health care package.
- Attended the 3RWW Conference
- DPW contract negotiations still have not begun.
- Post construction work on Florence Avenue and the Columbia Gas project.
- Letter regarding the 2015 Liquid Fuels allocation will be \$97,000
- Received the specification book for the possible purchase of a new fire truck. Additional page required for garage access requirements.
- Zoning Board Hearing held for the variance request on the purchase of 940 Ohio River Blvd.

ENGINEER: Report submitted.

- Further discussion on the Florence Avenue sewage leak.
- FEMA letter received regarding the Floodplain amendment
- Discussion regarding the Zoning Board Hearing on 940 Ohio River Blvd and Penndot's minimum requirements for sight distances when exiting the property.
- 719 Ohio River Blvd demolition complete. Requiring a filter sock to control stormwater runoff.
- Orchard Avenue repair of catch basin completed before paving of the Columbia Gas project. All sidewalks and paving completed for the project on Fisk, Cleveland, Orchard and Florence.
- Requested a quote for the storm sewer at the ballfield. Twenty foot section is approximately \$12,000.

- **Avalon does have an MS4 Permit and must meet specific requirements. Plan to meet with public works to review current procedures vs. requirements.**
- **Birmingham Guard Rail**
- **Semple Avenue guard rail needed by the dump.**

SOLICITOR:

No Report.

FINANCE:

Pascale moved:

“To have accept Ordinance #1359, an Ordinance increasing the Borough’s indebtedness by the issue of a general obligation note in the amount of \$100,000.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept Ordinance #1360, an Ordinance extending the sanitary sewer surcharge fee and establishing uses for that fee and fines and penalties.”

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

“To authorize the Secretary to complete paperwork for participation in a municipal healthcare plan with Simpson & McCrady pending approval of Avalon Police Association.”

Donnelly 2nd

Discussion followed regarding the wording of the motion and the Police Association’s approval. Further discussion followed with the Solicitor regarding the urgency and need for the motion with the police association have a seat at the healthcare negotiations table. Motion reworded as follows:

“To authorize the Secretary to complete paperwork for participation in a municipal healthcare plan with Simpson & McCrady pending discussions with the Avalon Police Association.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Pascale report:

Thanked the Finance Committee and other Council Members for attending the recent Budget meeting. The following meetings have been scheduled and advertised for 2015 Budget work: October 22 – Revenue analysis, November 12 – Expense analysis, November 19 – Budget Work, December 6 – Finance Budget meeting.

The Finance Committee and several other members of Council, with the help of the Borough Office, had recently conducted a through analysis of the current 2014 Budget. Every line item of the Budget was reviewed from both the revenue and expense side to date, in conjunction with projections through the end of the fiscal year. This analysis has concluded that Fiscal Year 2014 will end with a budget short fall, which is a result of project cost overruns, unbudgeted pension payments resulting from a mid-year audit, and previously report 2014 Budgeting clerical errors. The Borough is now taking several steps to minimize the impact of this deficit.

A spending freeze memo to Department Heads – This spending freeze does not apply to payroll or other fixed costs...only for new expenditures.

In addition, in reference to the 2013 property lien list, which outlines the status of delinquent tax collections in the Borough. The amount of money owed is significant and it is the responsibility of every property owner in the Borough to meet their tax obligations. Council wishes to express that every effort will be made to work with Owners that are having difficulty meeting these obligations, however, on November 15, 2014, a list of tax delinquent properties will be posted in the Borough Building for public display. Hopefully, Property Owners that are

having difficulties will contact the Tax Office prior to this date in order to make arrangements to enter into a payment plan.

Discussion followed. Owners contacting the office prior to November 15 can avoid having their name on this public list.

SAFETY:

Narcisi moved:

“To grant a handicap parking spot to resident of 216 Locust Avenue.”

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

“To grant a handicap parking space to resident of 221 Belva Avenue.”

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

“To hire Lesley Kelly, as part-time Secretary in the police department office at a rate of \$10.00 per hour.”

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

STREETS:

Cortese moved:

“To authorize the Secretary to sign agreement with the Port Authority of Allegheny County for salting and snow removal on the Avalon Bridge.”

Nelson 2nd

CARRIED

PARKS/RECREATION:

No Report.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Cortese moved:

“To accept Resolution #1107, a Resolution for multi-municipal application for grant monies for the Comprehensive Plan.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

- **QVCOG Dinner was held October 16, thank you for attending.**
- **Allegheny County Boroughs Association Meeting will be November 13, elections will be held.**
- **Banner Community Application**
- **Allegheny county crime lab may be relocated out of Pittsburgh, this is a concern.**
- **Bill SB1023 PA Construction Code Act**

Question regarding Halloween – Trick or Treat is October 31 from 6-8pm. The parade is scheduled for October 25.

Cortese moved:

“To adjourn at 8:15 pm”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

**Harry W. Dilmore
Manager**