

AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 18, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Edward Repp with a moment of silence for the children and adults of Sandy Hook Elementary followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Bernstein, Cortese, Dixon, Donnelly, Lloyd, Narcisi, Repp, Vetterly. Also present Sattler and Makatura. Due to Kilbuck meeting at same date and time, Rosensteel and Dilmore arrived at 8:25. Absent: Klicker, Haslett

Vetterly Moved:

“To accept the minutes of the November 20, 2012, Avalon Borough Council Meeting.”

Donnelly 2nd
Donnelly Abstain

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Letter from County Executive Fitzpatrick’s office related to the West Bellevue Road sewer line. The letter was received by both communities and was forwarded to engineers to review.
- Letter from PENNDOT on 2013 work on Ohio River Blvd. Attended a meeting this morning with the project coordinator outlining the scope of the work on catch basins and ADA corners. Will keep Council abreast of other communications.

- Received 2013 ALCOSAN rates and Council will take action on setting those rates this evening.
- Letter from the Pennsylvania DEP pertaining to the MS4 permit application submitted to them. They reported that the application was administratively complete and forwarded on for further review.
- Letter from the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations regarding the Library Preservation Board. Indicates the library failed to complete its registration for 2011 fiscal year. Donnelly to look into this problem.

VISITORS:

Jackie Yurkovich

Grandview Ave.

Thank you to everyone for helping with Brighton the Season. Harry and Lorraine, Santa and Mrs. Clause, the street crew for decorating the avenue and decorating the tree. The event allowed a few school groups to do some additional fundraising as well.

Ruth Lloyd

225 S. Ohio

Would like to encourage Council to take a look at the Avalon NOW Facebook page that is now available for review.

Rob Powell

814 Florence Avenue

A house next door, 818 Florence Avenue, has been an eyesore for quite some time. It was sold to a flipper that could not make

the repairs and it is now up for sale. Recently, the house has been occupied by gentlemen that are from out of town. The roof is now being worked on, but there is no dumpster and roofing material is being thrown into the yard. There is heat and electricity in the house, not sure about water. No garbage pickup, they take the garbage elsewhere. Questioning occupancy of the property since it was conditional upon the original purchase of the home. Donnelly questioned the Solicitor regarding the occupancy of the home. Solicitor to follow up with Dilmore to determine what is needed. Further discussion on roofing permit, what the owner was planning for repairs and who is living in the home currently as the repairs are being done.

MAYOR: No Report

MANAGER/SECRETARY:

- Attending a FEMA organizational class at County 911 Headquarters on flood-plane mapping and management. New regulations were discussed and maps were given out for our area.
- Attended a GASB 67/68 Pension class on new requirements and accounting procedures for year end audits. New rules will take effect in 2013.
- Obtained information NIMS classes for FEMA certification of Council persons. A majority of Council persons must be certified to be eligible for PEMA/FEMA funds in case of a disaster. I will schedule a workshop class and make available tests to get a proper number of people certified.

- Completing the year end paperwork for the closeout meeting on December 27. The TAN loan is in process of final review by Fidelity Bank and will be in place for the first of the year.

SOLICITOR:

Would like to bring everyone up to speed on the reassessments and how it effects the budgeting process. Judge Wettick signed a Consent Order giving municipalities breathing room to pass their budgets by January 31, 2013. Also gives municipalities the ability to levy your tax milage rates by January 31, 2013 or until 10 days before your tax bills are mailed. If levied by January 31, you can modify it up to the 10 days before your tax bills are mailed so that you do not violate the anti-windfall statutes. The reason for the court order is because Property Assessments advised that they could not certify the reassessments values by December 17. They are hoping to have as many as possible delivered by December 20. The County, will mail December 21, the list of certified values to the municipalities. There are, however, many properties under appeals. A list of appeals should have been received this week. Residential appeals are approximately 95% complete. Commercial appeals are delayed. Does not include those appeals to the Court of Common Pleas and the School District. Solicitor strongly recommends waiting until the appeals are more complete in January before passing your budget. You are able to take advantage of a 5% windfall. If you feel you would take in more than 5%, we recommend escrowing that money because you will refunding that money on appeals.

Further discussion followed on what the county will be sending, when to set the budget and/or waiting to levy the millage rate in January or February or 10 days for the bills are mailed.

ENGINEER:

Auto Zone – no progress being done lately. During the excavation process, they struck the sanitary and storm sewer lines. We are working with their engineers to redesign both utilities and bring them into borough standards. Also, due to the large retaining wall necessary behind the building, the utilities will be going under the retaining wall. We recently received a final set of plans, that look good. We worked with them to provide a design that should something happen they will not have to touch the wall for repair. The utilities will be encased in a large pipe under the wall to allow for easy access. Series of manholes coming over the hill for proper angles of discharge.

Final review to be completed to tomorrow and any recommendations will be forwarded to Auto Zone. Because of the complexity of the wall and utilities, the recommendation is that one of our staff engineers to be on site during the building of the wall, costs to be paid by Auto Zone. A portion of the intersection of Howden and Home will be affected and a retaining wall below Howden that will be involved. Further requirements are due as to how these things will be protected and/or affected during this installation.

Dixon questioned the closing the Howden and the ability to get firetrucks down if necessary.

FINANCE:

Lloyd commented the presence of police at the elementary school due to the Sandy Hook incident. The superintendent also sent information home regarding how questions from your children should be handled regarding this matter. Information also available on the school web page.

Lloyd moved:

“To accept the Treasurer’s Report for the month of December 18, 2012, as submitted.”

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To accept the Tax Collector’s Report for the month of October 18-November 20 as submitted.”

Comment that the month on the report is incorrect as October. However, the DCED report shows the correct month.

Bernstein 2nd
Dixon Abstain
Not voting on
wrong dates.

CARRIED

“To accept the Financial Report for the month of December 18, 2012, as submitted.”

Bernstein commented on the Financial Picture for the finance meeting December 13, was incorrect. Noted that report was for the finance meeting, not this meeting.

Donnelly 2nd

CARRIED

“To pay the List of Bills for the month of December as submitted.”

Bernstein 2nd

Dixon questioned a \$0.93 bill. Makatura explained late fee.

CARRIED

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Nacisi deferred to Cortese for comment on the parking issue in front of the elementary school. The Safety Committee and Mayor is in full support of Chief Kokoski’s decision to eliminate parking in front of the school as well as on School Street. Three years ago we allowed permits, but that fell through and it is now a safety concern about emergency vehicles. Parking lot is available before and after school for drop off and pick up. The first week will be warnings followed by tickets.

Chief Kokoski stated that this was planned for February but with the Sandy Hook incident occurring it brought it to the

fore front. Working with Bellevue for the last 4-5 months getting training and doing additional training at the high school. All signs have been removed and replaced with No Parking Signs and an officer will be visible every day. Additional changes coming. Repp questioned if the parents will be notified that permit parking is eliminated. An official announcement will be made to all parents. Permits have not been sold in the last 2 years, more for lack of police enforcement. Further questions regarding parking on Josephine and Chestnut. School Street and the front of the school is most important.

Narcisi commented regarding Paul Springob, who lives on Elizabeth and concerned about the truck traffic and the improvement that has happened. Narcisi wanted to thank John Vetterly for helping to rectify that problem.

STREETS: No Report

PROPERTY: No Report

HEALTH & SANITATION: No report

Lloyd stated that the police department got called to rescue a cat at the Avalon Motel. Once there, they called Lois Cummings to get the cat, however, the room was infected with bed bugs. The health department was called. They have been called numerous times but when they go to the room it is free of bed bugs. Gave them a specific room number to investigate.

CORP/PLANNING: No Report.

Bernstein moved:

“To accept the 2013 rates from ALCOSAN for Avalon Borough. The rate will continue at \$4.32 per thousand gallon and a service charge of \$9.07 per bill.”

Lloyd commented that this is strictly ALCOSAN and nothing to do with the sewage surcharge fee that was voted on in 2010 to extend from March 2012 to March 2014.

Donnelly 2nd

Dixon – NO

Cortese – NO

CARRIED

INTER-BOROUGH:

Donnelly reported that she and Cortese attended the ALOM function and was sworn in. Donnelly is the Delegate, Cortese is the Alternate. They are doing a collection for the Children’s Institute. Next meeting in February, more information to follow. Judge Gallo attended. New board to be elected in February.

No meeting in December for the COG. Next meeting in January.

LIBRARY:

Bernstein reported that Friends of the Library will be have to open positions at the end of the month. Looking for possible candidates.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Cortese moved:

“To have the Secretary advertise for a clerk position in the Administration Office.”

Dixon questioned who and when. Cortese stated Judy is retiring, Looking at March 1.

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

4th OF JULY: No Report.

Cortese moved:

“To suspend and continue the meeting to December 27, 2012, at 7:00 pm here in Council Chambers.”

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Makatura
Recording Sec.