

**AVALON BOROUGH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

The meeting opened at 7:30 with the pledge of Allegiance led by Ed Repp.

Roll Call: Bernstein, Cortese, Dixon, Lloyd, Klicker, Narcisi, Repp and Vetterly. Also present: Megan Ott, Dilmore, Police Chief Kokoski, Chester Engineer Representative, Shawn Rosensteel and Lorraine Makatura. Mayor Haslett, Vicky Donnelly were absent.

No Executive Session was held prior to the Regular Council Meeting

Vetterly moved:

“To accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 17, 2012”.

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Received a letter from Allegheny County 911 on the new Hazard Mitigation Plan. Forwarding copies to the Police and Fire Chiefs for their review on any changes to the above since the last one was put in 4 years ago.**
- Letter from the YMCA on their run. Mr. Gillingham to talk about that later.**
- Letter from Bellevue Avalon Baseball Association (BABA) regarding the Field Contract for 2012.**

Narcisi moved:

“To hire Walter Johnson as a full-time officer after successfully passing his probationary period”.

Lloyd 2nd

CARRIED

Walt Johnson thanked council for the opportunity.

VISITORS:

**Brandon Gillingham, 156 Riverview Avenue, Bellevue
Representing the NorthBoros YMCA 5K Race, scheduled
for Saturday, July 21, 2012, start 8:00 am walk 8:15 run.
This is the 5th year for the race, grown to 400 in 2010. Race
benefits the Northgate Cross Country Team.
Course is the same, notified Port Authority, fire departments and
volunteers for traffic control. Applications available for
distribution.**

Cortese moved:

**“To permit the YMCA Fun Run to be held on California
Avenue on Saturday, July 21, 2012”.**

Bernstein 2nd

CARRIED

**Michelle Smith, representing Enjoy Bellevue
Electronics recycling done last year at the lot at Frederick and
New Brighton Road was a success. Would like to schedule
again, in conjunction with Goodwill Industries, on April 28, 2012,
10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Goodwill will bring trucks for collection and
also do a shredding event. Requesting to use the Pool parking
area, up by the basketball courts, due to the method of loading
trucks.**

Conflict with opening day for BABA. Discussion and concern over pedestrians and traffic in the parking lot as well as crossing New Brighton Road for the baseball games and parking at the park. Chief Kokoski agreed to put a part-time officer on duty for the 4 hour shift to help with crossing.

Questions: Who benefits from this event – Goodwill Industries. Open to all of north boroughs. The event has been scheduled with Goodwill and cannot be rescheduled.

Coretese moved:

“To permit Enjoy Bellevue use of the back lot of the swimming pool for the 2012 Electronic Recycling Campaign including an officer on duty for traffic and pedestrian control”.

**Lloyd 2nd
Dixon Opposed**

CARRIED

Rob Powell, 814 Florence Avenue, Avalon, PA

As former finance committee chairman, concerned about the motion made last month to hire another police officer. You simply do not have this money. The police department is 1/3 of the budget, single most expensive part of the police budget is personnel. In round numbers, a police officer is approximately \$100,000/year.

Mr. Narcisi asked to address the question. He deferred to have Mr. Powell get an explanation from Chief Kokoski. Corrected that the motion was actually just to start the civil service testing. Mr. Powell restated that the motion was to hire a 7th officer.

Dilmore stated that we are testing the civil service and it is essentially two fold, if we hire and to upgrade the list.

After further discussion, Narcisi and Repp stated that Mr. Powell’s questions are getting into personnel issues and he is welcome to discuss them with Narcisi and Kokoski. Powell

restated his concern about hiring an additional officer in anticipation of making money, union issues as well as budget issues.

**Jackie Yurkovich, 649 Grandview Avenue, Avalon, PA
How are we doing on collecting the delinquent garbage?**

Dilmore stated that lists have now been forwarded to a collection agency. Updated lists for 2011 have been forwarded.

Now see rubbish not being picked up, is that because we now turned everything over to the rubbish company?

Dilmore stated no, the only thing that changed is the collection process. The office is getting numerous phone calls on missed pickup and e-waste.

Yurkovich stated the garbage men told her she had to mark her recycling can “recycling”.

Dilmore stated we are meeting with Mike Christ at Waste Management to discuss the problems and make any corrections.

MAYOR:

NO REPORT

SECRETARY/MANAGER:

- Final work on the 2011 audit with Maher Duessel is being completed. All the submittals are done and completed. Awaiting a draft copy to be turned over soon.**
- Working with the Pension auditor and an outline for pension work. As we discussed on Thursday, we need to meet with the pension committee, motion for tonight to follow. Everything is good with the pension, we are all caught up, let's keep up and hold regular pension meetings.**

- **Looking at the possibility of refinancing the bond issue. Meeting with our custodian to discuss the 10 year options of that.**
- **Assembling 2012 information on house demolitions and paperwork for the upcoming CDBG applications. Let us know if you have information on homes that should be torn down.**
- **Working on 2012 Pool Season and related issues.**

SOLICITOR:

Megan Ott reported that Avalon Arms came to a conclusion and both the engineering fees and the attorney fees were remitted to the owner to be paid. Avalon received payment and Avalon Arms is compliant.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Shawn Rosensteel represented Chester Engineering for this meeting.

Upcoming deadlines for the Consent Order:

- **The semi-annual report was submitted in January and the Borough is in good standing.**
- **July, we need to submit an Interim Feasibility Study required by the Consent Order which is due to the Health Department by July of 2013. However, we need to comply with the request of ALCOSAN and give a preliminary study by July of 2012. This means making ALCOSAN aware of any necessary repairs required by Avalon to ALCOSAN. Before submitting, it will be forwarded to Council for review.**
- **Met with Allegheny County Health Department. Avalon must submit an Operations and Maintenance Plan for your sanitary sewer system. One was submitted over a year ago, keeping things bare bones. The health department is requiring more, letter forthcoming with explanations of what we need to update. Will forward to Council for your review.**

Rosensteel stated Avalon will probably have to budget more for internal inspection and televising of the sanitary sewer system, to be done over the course of years. As seen in other communities, the mainlines, the interceptors and bigger pipes every 5 years, collector sewers, 10 inch and smaller every 10 years. Then if you find a defect, determine how to fix it and budget for it.

Dixon asked about the responsibility of the sewage system – it is the Borough’s responsibility not ALCOSAN.

Further discussion about ALCOSAN charges, disconnecting the rainwater from the sewage system, City of Pittsburgh and their requirements. City of Pittsburgh is now under a large study. 10% of homes in Avalon, most on Ohio River Blvd., is the only area left in Avalon not disconnected from the sewage system. Federal EPA is mandating these changes. Part of the feasibility study also is the shared line with Avalon and Ross Township.

In summary, the Feasibility Study outlines the defects in Avalon and 83 other communities, including Pittsburgh, determines the costs plus what ALCOSAN requires. This is turned over to the EPA to determine what we need to do regardless of cost.

FINANCE:

Assessments for 2013 are to be mailed out by the county on Monday, March 12, 2012.

Ott stated that anyone can file an appeal for either 2012 or 2013 by April 2, 2012. Short window, can file an informal appeal, formal appeal or both.

Lloyd moved:

“To accept the Finance Report as submitted”.

Bernstein 2nd

CARRIED

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

Bernstein 2nd

CARRIED

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

Dilmore stated the fire escrow account for the house on N. School Street which has been demoed will be disappearing from the report and all monies were used in the demolition and repair of sidewalk.

Bernstein 2nd

CARRIED

“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”

Discussion, Dixon questioned:

\$110 to wash windows in January. Will be researching this.

Old Field Industries – Orange Degreaser, budgeted between multiple accounts. Fire Department billed for something they do not use. Dilmore explained use in DPW garage, Kilbuck (which is billed) and Fire Department use. Dixon stated the Fire Department purchases their own degreaser.

Fire Hall, Telephone Service, Earthlink. Dixon states Fire Department pays Comcast for cable and phone. They do not have internet. Dilmore explained they do not pay for phone service on the Comcast bill. Earthlink also includes the phone at Carney’s home. Verizon portion covers the DPW side of the building.

DPW gas vs. diesel, \$1500 in gas and less in diesel. Klicker stated they were looking into why they are taking the sweeper for fuel when it is not in season for use and why so often.

Why are we paying for the phone at the pool when it is not in season. Dilmore stated it costs more to disconnect/reconnect. Can the seasonal phone be discussed with Verizon in the contract with the franchise fee.

Gas bill at the pool building, why are we heating the pool building and the pump house. Dilmore stated that the pump house and the pool building is used throughout the winter for storage and pipes are not completely drained.

**Bernstein 2nd
Dixon Abstained**

CARRIED

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Narcisi moved:

“To approve a handicap parking spot on Marie Avenue for a resident on N. Ohio St.:

Kokoski stated they are able to move an existing handicap spot on Marie Ave for a deceased resident to the new location. Dixon questioned if there was off street parking available – no.

2nd

CARRIED

“To approve a handicap parking spot for resident of 321 Harrison Avenue.”

Dixon questioned if there was off street parking available – no.

Cortese 2nd

CARRIED

STREETS:

Klicker stated we closed the applications for the open position. Dilmore has the applications and we will be scheduling a work session to review.

PROPERTY:

Dixon stated that he is in a learning process. Question as to the problem with the drain at the fire hall – is it working properly. The Monte Carlo night to be held Friday, good test.

HEALTH:

Vetterly restated list of bills.

CORP/PLANNING:

Bernstein stated he is still expanding Facebook. Reporting 15000 views.

INTER-BORO:

Lloyd stated to please support our fire department with the Monte Carlo Night Friday. Please support the men and women of our volunteer fire department.

PARKS:

Cortese moved:

“To have the secretary advertise for the 2012 pool season employees, workers, life guards and staff”.

Bernstein 2nd

CARRIED

“To permit the Avalon/Bellevue Little League Association use of the athletic fields from April 2, 2012, through July 31, 2012, pending completion of contract”.

Dixon questioned if we are satisfied with the way the football organization repaired the field.

2nd

CARRIED

“To permit the secretary to submit the application for the 2012 Allegheny County Summer Lunch Program”.

Bernstein 2nd

CARRIED

“To authorize the Secretary to give the 3rd and final reading of Ordinance #1336 Regulating Placement of Waste Dumpsters.”

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.

Dixon questioned the length of time the dumpster is permitted to be in the street. Thought it was 15 days. Repp and Cortese explained it is 30 days.

Lloyd 2nd

Dixon Opposed

CARRIED

“To have the Secretary give the 3rd and final reading of Ordinance #1337, Killed in Service.”

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.

**2nd
Dixon Abstained**

CARRIED

“To purchase an ADA chairlift for the Avalon Swimming Pool at a cost not to exceed \$5000.00”.

Narcisi 2nd

CARRIED

Cortese stated the article in the Citizen regarding the Avalon Pool and Bellevue comments. He has no problem with the manner in which Liesl Klicker and Catie Makatura run the pool. Patrons are happy with both ladies running the pool. When we shared the manager, there were more issues at Bellevue and we still paid \$6000 for less service. Just leave us out of their business. Dilmore stated when they had to close their pool it was safe enough to come to Avalon.

LIBRARY:

New board member: Susan Riebling, to be appointed next month. Friends of the Library to have a Wine Event at Mia Madres next month.

4th JULY:

Connie Rankin stated there is a KISS Tribute Band that they could possible get for the 4th of July Celebration.

Repp stated one final motion required.

Lloyd moved:

“To approve the engagement letter of Maher-Duessel for the 2011 through 2014 Audits at the established price”.

2nd

CARRIED

Cortese moved to adjourn.

2nd

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

**Harry W. Dilmore
Manager**