

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

The meeting opened at 7:30 with the pledge of Allegiance led by Ed Repp. A moment of silence was held in honor of the passing Rae Fisher, long time Board Member of the Avalon Library.

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

**Klicker moved:**

**“To accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 19, 2012”.**

**Narcisi 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Donnelly Abstained**

**CARRIED**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- **Letter from Talx who handles our unemployment paperwork, forwarded to solicitor on the matter of a claim.**
  
- **Letter from ALCOSAN on the meeting for elected public officials to inform them of the new Consent Decree plans. Attending the one on 7/30/12 for managers. Should have some people attend the other meetings.**
  
- **Letter from the DEP regarding the MS4 Plan. Forwarded to Shawn at Chester Engineering form them to review. Other paperwork signed prior to the meeting.**

- **Request from Northgate Quarterback Club for an ad in the 2012 Program.**

## **VISITORS:**

**Ralph Worth, 614 Grandview Avenue**

**Appeal for the pedestrian facilities up to the north Avalon area; ie, the stairs at the bottom of Norwood Avenue. I have used them everyday when I was in school and neighbors use them daily to go to work. I have made a measure of the steps using hand tools, as a registered Civil Engineer of the State of Pennsylvania, I am qualified to do that. I have fitted stairs to the existing location. To the first landing would take 3,200 lbs. of steel, fabricated steel around \$2.00/lb. Each landing would take approximately the same amount of steel vs. concrete. It is essential to the neighborhood.**

**Repp comments: we have addressed the steps numerous times. Reconstruction, depends on ADA requirements at this time. The length of steps requires platforms and must meet specific codes and quite costly. Further discussion on ADA requirements and the resident wishing to fight the ADA to rebuild the steps.**

**Ryan Dearing, 18 Marie Avenue**

**Pictures of properties provided for council.**

**New to the borough, concerned about the properties with tires in the yards, overgrown grass, abandon homes. I have cleaned up my property and would like to see something done with other properties. How can I get involved, can we send letters, can we have a dumpster day? Council clarified that we do, in fact, have Dumpster Day. Repp suggested getting involved with the Quality of Life Committee, introduced him to Jackie Yurkovich and Ruth Lloyd in the audience. Next meeting the last Wednesday of the month, beginning September 26. Cortese also explained that we do have an inspector that does inspections and issues citations when we get complaints; it could be a long, drawn out process. We do have 23 demolitions for next hearing date. Further discussion on council's future actions on cleaning up the properties and dealing with landlords and tenants. Mr. Dearing has further concern about neighboring properties on Marie**

**Avenue. Comments from Dilmore on how costly demolitions are to the borough, getting grants for that purpose, and legal steps necessary in the demolition process. Ott commented on the fact that liens and other costs associated with the property are still the owners responsibility.**

**Ruth Lloyd, 225 S. Ohio Street**

**First, praise to the street crew and all the work being done in the Borough. Especially the main avenue.**

**Second, in representing the Friends of the Library, Touch a Truck is scheduled for September 15, 2012, 12:00pm to 4:00 pm. This is our biggest fundraiser, in the past it has generated \$3500 towards the collection and programming. We are in need of volunteers to help with this event. We could also use additional vehicles. If council knows of any other available vehicles, it would be greatly appreciated.**

**Rob Powell, 814 Florence Avenue**

**Thank you for fixing the 9:00 pm whistle.**

**Question about Autozone and Eat 'n Park. Dilmore commented that Autozone hit bedrock and are currently adjusting their plans for the retaining wall. Eat 'n Park is on it's own time frame.**

**They purchased the property but have not applied for a building permit to date.**

**Buildings issue – 818 Florence was purchased to flip but the new owner has run out of money. It has structural issues as well as yard issues. We cut the grass but there is concern about the back porch falling off. Dilmore commented on the temporary occupancy issues cited at the time of purchase but it is now back up for sale. Building inspector has issued a letter.**

**Jackie Yurkovich, 649 Grandview Avenue**

**We know the steps are not going to get fixed. Can the sidewalks be cleaned up – both summer and winter. The plan is to clean it while the road is closed during the core boring on N. Birmingham.**

**Additional comments from Mr. Dearing concerning the alley behind his home. Dilmore explained the work schedule currently being done on alleys.**

**MAYOR:**

**NO REPORT**

**SECRETARY/MANAGER:**

- **Preparations for the N. Birmingham core boring drillings. They completed survey work .**
- **Met with representative from the DEP on monitoring devices that they would like to put in the ground on Erdner and Sedalia. This is necessary following the gas leak last year. They are required to have 8 clear tests in a row in order to clear the site. On Borough property, they want to put 6-8 monitors, 20 ft holes, with steel case pipe that is perforated to collect the water.**
- **Completing and forwarding paperwork on CDBG39 Applications due July 25, 2012, for demolitions.**
- **Following up on insurance paperwork on 2 fireman injured in the last month.**
- **Question on cost of demolishing a house – Dilmore commented that it depends on the size and what is in the the house. The School Street house a burn out, costing about \$9000. Normally a grant request is about \$15,000, estimates usually come in amount \$12,000 even if they have to take it to a special land fill. \$9000 is a little too low and where they might be dumping the debris. New zoning rules also limit what can be built in the lots once the home is demolished. Demolition is not always the best way to solve the problem. We are limited on how many demolitions we can apply for.**

**SOLICITORS REPORT:**

- **The Borough Code was amended and signed into law in May of 2012. The effective date was July 16, 2012. The Boroughs Association has a summary of highlights of the changes. Neither DCED or Boroughs Association are planning on publishing a new version. It is available online or at the PSAB site.**

- **Joint Planning Commission is having a public hearing on the Friary Zoning Amendment. Effects land of a certain size in Ben Avon. August 7, 2012, 7:00 pm. Zoning overlay in Ben Avon only, that would allow a low-impact commercial use of residential property. This would be a change to the Joint Zoning Plan but only will effect Ben Avon.**

**Councilman Lloyd recognized Megan Ott for her achievements for being rated an Up and Coming Lawyer in Pennsylvania for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Congratulations.**

#### **ENGINEERS REPORT:**

**Shawn Rosensteel represented Chester Engineering for this meeting.**

- **Semi-annual report completed and signed. States that the Borough is in compliance with the Consent Order and we need to complete the dye testing of 40 homes on Route 65 before the next report.**
- **MS4 Report (storm water discharge) completed and signed. We will need to reapply for the permit 9/9/2012.**
- **Feasibility reports are due to ALCOSAN. As reported last month there work completed on the Spruce Run interceptor. Surveys were done, televising completed. Two manholes were identified to be raised. Preliminary models were run based on the information collected and it does not appear that this line has any capacity issues. At this time, we need the remaining information and review the video to complete the report to ALCOSAN.**

#### **FINANCE:**

**Lloyd moved:**

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

**Cortese 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CARRIED**

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

**Cortese 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CARRIED**

**“To accept the Finance Report as submitted”.**

**Donnelly 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Donnelly asked if the Finance Chairman felt the Borough was doing well at this time. Lloyd commented that we still need to tighten our belts considering the additional aspects we picked up at this time that was discussed in the finance report.**

**Repp questioned payment of the TAN Loan. Dilmore confirmed it is on the List of Bills for this month.**

**CARRIED**

**“To pay the List of Bills as submitted.”**

**Narcisi 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**NO REPORT**

**STREETS:**

**Vetterly reported that things are going extremely well.**

**PROPERTY:**

**NO REPORT**

**HEALTH & SANITATION:**

**NO REPORT**

**CORP/PLANNING:**

**NO REPORT**

**INTER-BORO:**

**Quaker Valley COG office is being painted and updated. POD being used for temporary storage.**

**LIBRARY:**

**Clearances will be sent Borough office as requested.  
Electrician completed work July 17.  
Sign requested for “Do Not Feed the Fish”.**

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

**Would like to take \$500 from the fundraiser to help fund the water line break repair.  
Donation requested from Council and Dilmore to fund a full page ad for the Northgate Quarterback Club 2012 Program.  
The pool is doing well. As of last week the pool was up around \$11-12,000 and the refreshment stand up \$700. Yurkovich reported the refreshment stand is doing well and enjoys helping and providing new items.**

**4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY:**

**Many people stuck it out with the rain. It will be interesting to see how we stand for next year with losing all the fundraising at the event.**

**Additional motion needed for Friends of the Library fundraiser.  
Bernstein moved:**

**“To close California Avenue between Josephine and Chestnut from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on September 15, 2012, for Touch A Truck.”**

**Cortese 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CARRIED**

**Cortese: Motion to adjourn: 8:29 pm**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Harry W. Dilmore  
Manager**