April 12, 2017

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 4:04 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

Attendance: Public ----- 4 Reporters ----- 2

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Hudanich.

Pledge of allegiance.

Roll call: Council President Hudanich Present

Councilman Covington Present
Councilman Dean Present
Councilman Deever Present

Council Vice President McCorristin Present

Also present:

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator
James Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator
Stephen D. Barse, Esquire, Borough Solicitor
William Macomber, Director of Public Works/Utilities
Police Chief William McCormick
Paul E. Short, Sr., Code Enforcement Officer
Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC
Jeff Hesley, Zoning Officer
Scott D. Taylor, Municipal Planner, Taylor Design Group
Edward Dean, Fire Chief

Council President Hudanich read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Notice of this Work Session was included in the Annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 22, 2016. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

<u>Presentation by Scott Taylor, Taylor Design Group regarding Open Space Funding for Surfside Park.</u>

Scott Taylor explained the property known as Surfside Park is located at the boardwalk between 29th and 30th Streets where currently there are playgrounds, restroom buildings, and a skate park. Over the last several years this area has fallen into disrepair and the lifespan of the playground equipment and several other features have reached their useful life expectancy. A concept plan to reimagine the site has been drafted. There are approximately 900 parking spaces in the area. which allows adequate access and circulation through the area. It is necessary to raise the restrooms above base flood elevation, and in consideration of preserving the views of the dune and the ocean for the property owners across the street, that building has been relocated as close as possible to the existing arcade. There are entry features coming in off of both the parking lot as well as off of 29th Street. Decorative paving patterns are included which reflect the ecosystem of the barrier island that includes the beaches and water features as well as decorative sign and entry features. There is an open lawn and play area that sits about five feet below the restroom building. On the back half of the restroom building, there's a five foot change in elevation. That change in elevation created a great opportunity for an outdoor small stage for some performances or similar events. There will also be decorative signage throughout the site, playground equipment, access point handicap accessibility, and handicap improvements, both of the ramp leading up to the boardwalk as well as throughout the playground, and accessibility into the playground itself. There also will be able to access the playground from the boardwalk elevation by either sliding directly from the boardwalk into the playground or walking down a set of stairs to access the playground directly. Drip and smart irrigation will be used as has been done for all recent projects. Interpretive signage about the ecosystems of the barrier island will also be included as well as rain gardens and other sustainable features to minimize the carbon footprint and the impact of the site. A preliminary meeting was held with representatives from the County

Scott Taylor (continued) Open Space to discuss the project. Those representatives encouraged Avalon to submit an application for funding. An application will be submitted on Monday, April 17, 2017 for an Open Space Park Development Grant from Cape May County with Council's approval.

<u>Councilman Covington</u> inquired if the design phase will move forward regardless of whether funding is received from Open Space.

Scott Taylor explained the County requests that the match from the local municipality be identified, so a preliminary estimate for design services was drafted and it was noted that the benches and other features as well as the design services will be borne by the Borough. Once the application is filed, Council will receive formal proposals from Taylor Design Group as well as Mott Macdonald to be reviewed at a subsequent meeting. This process is being moved forward now with the preliminary cost estimates in order to file by the April 17, 2017 deadline for the County Open Space budget. Actual scope of work and proposals for the actual design and permitting work will be submitted at a later time at which point Council can make a determination. He stressed the current design fee associated with the project is an estimate to be used as a placeholder in order to make the application. The Borough is not obligated to authorize that spending, which would be considered at a subsequent meeting based on the scope and the fees.

Councilman Deever inquired if real grass is being used in the designs of the redevelopment.

Scott Taylor responded yes, and explained there are many issues associated with using synthetic turf, however that option could be evaluated. There would be a higher cost associated with synthetic turf.

Councilman Covington asked why synthetic turf would be considered.

Councilman Deever mentioned that it has been difficult to maintain the natural grass at the parks located at 10th and 12th Streets.

Scott Taylor explained the park was envisioned to have natural grass for budgetary reasons. In order to guarantee the most success of natural turf, a species selection for the turf grass would need to be comprehensive, as well as amending the soil to increase the organic matter, which will improve nutrient and water holding capacity of those soils. It would also be crucial to have a proper watering regimen. He added this park will not be subject to the same level of abuse that the sports fields go through on a repeated daily basis.

<u>Council Vice President McCorristin</u> asked if water coming from the rinse stations will be used as part of the irrigation.

<u>Scott Taylor</u> responded yes, the water from the two rinse stations will be collected and used as part of both the irrigation and the rain gardens as a sustainable feature.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be considered during tonight's Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding 2016 Final Report on the Condition of the beaches.

Stewart Farrell reported work on the annual report was completed based on what has occurred up to the point of the current Army Corp pumping project which is suspended at the moment. Since Superstorm Sandy, the loss rates on the northern beaches of Avalon have been pretty high. The work done by the Army Corp in 2013 lasted approximately 11 months. By 2015, Avalon took upon itself to place approximately 640,000 cubic yards of sand on its beaches. Due to storm events in the fall of 2015 and the winter of 2016, the loss rate was about 50% of the sand Avalon placed on the beaches in 2015, which then triggered an attempt to stabilize the beaches with a backpassing program that was done during the spring of 2016. Approximately 54,000 cubic yards of sand was moved north from the northern borrow area around 35th Street and placed in the most erosional parts of the shoreline. The recovery was pretty complete on the beaches south of 35th street. While this was going on the Ludlam Island project, under the auspices of the Army Corp, was going to completion. That project was finished in early 2016. After Winter Storm Jonas, additional sand was pumped onto Strathmere and Sea Isle due to storm losses. The

Stewart Farrell (continued) total amount of material moved onto the beaches on Ludlam Island was approximately 3.2 million cubic yards of sand that was brought in from offshore dredge sites between 2 1/2 and 3 miles out to sea. All of Avalon's sand comes from the inlet borrow area, which is a combination of sand from mostly Ludlam Island, however either barrier island supplies the sand into the inlet shoals where it collects and is then redistributed to the beaches. Townsend's Inlet has been mapped twice within the past year. The additions to the borrow site that is used traditionally for Avalon's beach fill, was approximately 750,000 cubic yards of sand derived from Ludlam Island shoals. That sand will be pumped by the Army Corp to Avalon's beaches as a result of the issues related to the CBRA problem in Hereford inlet. As discussed previously, the lawmakers in Washington decided that adjoining coastal communities could not materially benefit from federal funds spent pumping sand out of the CBRA zones either to North Wildwood or to Stone Harbor. As a result, the State agreed to pump the sand onto Stone Harbor while the Army Corp pumped from Townsend's Inlet. Unfortunately, the State ran out of money before they finished the allotment for Stone Harbor, so more sand is being taken by the Army Corp to the finish Stone Harbor's portion of the project from Townsend's Inlet. Eventually, the goal is to see natural bypassing begin to occur again as it did in the 1960s and 1970s. The borrow area within Townsend's Inlet has been in place since 1987. Backpassing operations typically come from the two borrow areas that are permitted, one between 32nd and 40th Streets and the other south of 56th Street, and that work concluded as of June 2016. The profile completed at 35th street clearly shows the excavation and the beach face. By September of 2016, the entire excavation was completely filled in with surplus material. By December 2016, the beach was wider and higher than it had been a year earlier by a substantial amount. That sand comes from the northern beaches. The shore face from 30th Street down to 58th Street is accretional. A 30 year evaluation of New Jersey Beaches from Sandy Hook to Cape May Point is being compiled for the State of New Jersey. Included in that report are the four Avalon profiles outlined by a spaghetti plot where every profile is put on the graph. A spaghetti plot essentially creates an envelope of deposition or erosion that occurs. By looking at that information, Avalon's mid island beaches have clearly advanced seaward through time. He noted he is unable to predict exactly where the sand from the Ludlam Island beach fill will travel to, however it will travel to the shoals in Townsend's Inlet. As of now, the beach fill is going to take most of the material from Townsend's Inlet and mechanically place it on the beaches in

<u>Council Vice President McCorristin</u> asked if the north end will see sand accumulation from Sea Isle's beaches.

<u>Stewart Farrell</u> responded that some percentage of the 3.2 million cubic yards of sand placed on Ludlam Island will migrate to Townsend's Inlet. There are hopes that it will continue to travel across the inlet shoals and onto Avalon's northern beaches.

<u>Scott Wahl</u> informed Dr. Farrell that there have been comments at prior Council Meetings regarding the previous backpassing project with property owners coming to Avalon and noticing a gully formation on the beach. He asked Dr. Farrell if there is a connection between the backpassing projects and the gullies being seen at the beaches in the borrow areas.

Stewart Farrell reported there is a cross-section of the 35th Street beach included in the annual report. In the cross-section, five plots are included starting with December 21, 2015. Data is included from June 15, 2016 where a depression is evident as a result of the backpassing project. The next profile is dated September 9, 2016 which shows the entire excavation being filled in. However, the peak of that beach face is higher than the land further landward towards the tow of the dunes. By December 2016, a vastly improved writ of the berm and beach is visible, however there is a gully between the dune tow and the berm that's higher in elevation which is the legacy of an overly wide beach. These gullies are called berm top ponds. The waves wash the sand up, and the sand piles up at the wave limit, so the berm crest is physically higher than the flat area back towards the tow of the dunes, especially in the summer, because there's no storms to flatten it out. High tides tend to wash over the berm into the gully, and the water sits there as a pond. On narrow beaches, there is no room for a pond. It's a natural and accretional shoreline process in this part of the shoreline where sand is there in surplus. The sand can be mitigated by finding the lowest area on the berm and clearing a channel which is allowable under the general permit allocation.

Councilman Covington questioned if the berm top ponds pose any health concerns.

<u>Stewart Farrell</u> responded health concerns do not arise until those ponds have been on the beach in excess of 2 to 3 weeks, when seagull droppings can increase coliform counts to unsafe levels. Historically, berm top ponds on Avalon's beaches seldom last more than 3 or 4 days.

Council thanked Dr. Farrell for his time.

Discussion regarding release of rental bonds.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the April 26, 2017 Regular Meeting.

<u>Discussion regarding Resolution Appointing Class I and Class II Special Officers for the Borough of Avalon.</u>

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the April 26, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding sale of abandoned and unclaimed property on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the April 26, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

Mark Papineau, 189 34th Street, addressed the top berm ponds in the vicinity of the 34th Street beach and stated the ponds were full from May through September of 2016. He referenced the recent backpassing project that utilized sand from the beaches between 33rd and 35th Street, which could have exacerbated the condition. He added the quality of life for property owners and beach goers in that area was severely impacted and expressed hope for a resolution to the problem.

<u>Council President Hudanich</u> assured Mr. Papineau that the Borough Engineer and Dr. Stewart Farrell will look into the problem.

Motion made by Councilman Covington, seconded by Councilman Dean to adjourn the Work Session.

ROLL	<u>CA</u> LL	VOTE:

Councilman Covington Aye
Councilman Dean Aye
Councilman Deever Aye
Council President Hudanich Aye
Council Vice President McCorristin Aye

Work Session adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Marie J. Hood, Borough Clerk

Respectfully submitted,