**7476**

January 27, 2016

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 7:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

Attendance: Public -------------------- 6 Reporters ----------------------- 1

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Dean.

Pledge of allegiance.

Roll call: Council President Dean Present

Councilman Burns Present

Councilman Covington Present

Council Vice President Hudanich Present

Councilman McCorristin Present

Also present:

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator

James A. Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator

Stephen D. Barse, Esquire, Borough Solicitor

William Macomber, Director of Public Works/Utilities

Captain of Police Jeffrey Christopher,

Joe Lomax, Lomax Consulting Group

Harry deButts, Office of Emergency Management

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC

Notice of this Work Session was included in the Annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 24, 2015. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

Council President Dean read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Discussion regarding the Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP).

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator gave a brief overview before introducing Joe Lomax of Lomax Consulting Group. He said the plan would be in effect for 5 years from 2016 through 2020. He said at the November 2015 Environmental Commission meeting, Joe discussed the plan with the Commission and no large substantive changes were made, subsequently the plan was approved at the December meeting. He said the draft plan was placed on the Borough’s website on December 22, 2015. He said he reached out to Dr. Reynolds, the chairman of the Commission, and Dr. Reynolds confirmed the plan is an important part of Avalon’s Sustainable Jersey program as well as establishing the Borough to maintain the trees. He highlighted the benefits of the Community Forestry Management Plan which are grant opportunities and insulation from liability. He said the 5 year plan outlined the Borough’s goals and objections for trees and how the Borough manages them. He said the plan is a guidance document for managing trees in our community.

Joe Lomax, Lomax Consulting Group, explained the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act was passed in 1996 and provided liability protection to participating municipalities and ensured that Shade Tree Commissions are in place to provide more livable communities through management of trees. He said the Borough initiated the process in 1999 until 2004 and there was a hiatus from 2005 through 2009 when the State encouraged the Borough to return to the plan. He reported by 2010 the Borough had updated and approved the Community Forestry Management Plan. He said the Borough received a reimbursable $3,000.00 grant to upgrade the plan, reimbursable upon approval. He said the Borough opted to make the plan from 2016 through 2020 because they are working with the Environmental Commission to optimize the plan. He said the plan consists of components dictated by the State Forestry Department and then walked through the plan such as:

**7477**

January 27, 2016

* Inventory the Community Forest Resources within the Borough
* Develop a plan for tree resource enhancement within the Borough
* Develop outreach initiatives that encourage public awareness and support of community Forestry Programs
* Provide educational opportunities in support of the CFMP
* Develop a plan for sustaining and enhancing forestry resources in the Borough
* Develop a natural tree destruction response plan addressing tree damage

He spoke of the benefits of the plan and reiterated that trees are an asset that require careful selection, care, and maintenance and this plan looks at the process and assists the Borough in making decisions as well as being a planning tool. He said it is an approved plan that opens the Borough to community stewardship incentive programs and also grants. He spoke of the $24,000 grant obtained to address the cost of hazardous trees.

He said a budget was important for the CFMP for the management of diseased trees before they become a hazard and talked about different components of the budget. He said the CFMP is a valuable tool that is flexible, limits liability, section, care, removal and replacement of trees. He also said there was a small budget for training.

Council Vice President Hudanich thanked Mr. Lomax and said he has highlighted the importance and components of the plan which is a major importance to our sensitive environment.

Councilman Covington commented the plan is comprehensive and ambitious. He questioned how many resources it would take to implement the plan. He said it appears to be a lot of work. He appreciated Mr. Lomax’s budget comments and said he would speak with the CFO about the tree budget. He expressed the barrier islands is a harsh climate for shade trees and wondered if we were fighting a losing battle. He said some trees received proper attention and did well while others did not. He feels it will be a high maintenance plan to keep it successful. He asked Mr. Lomax to address the budget, resources and the climate.

Mr. Lomax spoke about the secondary dune system and the trees that survive well. He said selection relative to location was key to selecting the proper trees. He said the Borough would have to make decisions to put the right trees in the right places.

Council Vice President Hudanich pointed out the plan was a guiding tool, which is an enhancement to the original plan. She added with experience over time, the Borough is now looking for indigenous and hardy trees.

Councilman Burns asked if the trees that were recommended in the past, which are now raising the sidewalks should be used or will they have new recommendations.

Mr. Lomax confirmed those types of trees should not have been planted in such a small space. He said one of the grants will be used to deal with the current conflicts and will address those issues and different trees will be recommended. He added in terms of the budget, it would be up to the Borough to decide to fund this level or not, one of the things he is looking for is if there are tree related expenses that they are captured in this budget and matching for the State grants.

Councilman Covington commented there currently is not a line item in the budget but it is encompassed in other budgets.

Mr. Lomax spoke to the human resources component. He said Lomax works closely with the Environmental Commission and Public Works and shares responsibility of various types of works. He said many tasks are short term and some are repeated yearly. He said this is a shared work effort that is well tuned and he doesn’t see a need for additional personnel.

Councilman McCorristin asked for clarification of the two areas designated for commemorative plantings.

**7478**

January 27, 2016

Mr. Lomax said park settings such as Armacost West Side and Grace O’Brien Park were possibilities.

Mr. Macomber added that there were Dune Drive island trees lost from insects or weather as well as 10th Street and those areas could be utilized for plantings.

Council thanked Mr. Lomax for his very comprehensive presentation.

Discussion regarding Resolution for annual Avalon Garden Club Yard Sale.

Council briefly discussed this annual item and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the February 10, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution granting a 2016 amusement games license to Two Bits Amusements, Inc.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the February 10, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing Hatch Mott Macdonald to provide engineering services for the following:

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC explained there were a two proposals before Council for consideration, Fifth Avenue Water Main Replacement Project and Sanitary Sewer Replacement-Dune Drive. He said the Fifth Avenue Water Main Replacement Project was authorized by Council a couple years ago at the same time the reconstruction of Fourth Avenue was approved, but they were very large projects so they were broken up into two projects. He said the design of both are finished but in the reconstruction of Fourth Avenue they encountered a situation with the asbestos cement pipe that was brittle and under the heavy load of the reconstruction of the roadway, and repairs had to be made. HMM felt it prudent in the case of Fifth Avenue to go in and replace the ACP pipe. He said the first proposal is for the replacement of the water main on Fifth Avenue from 42nd Street South to the cul-de-sac replacing the existing water main along with all the water services and hydrants. He said it will also include the storm water drainage structures on Fifth Avenue as well. The design will occur now and the construction will occur in the fall which will allow construction of Fifth Avenue in spring of 2015.

Councilman Covington asked when the residents would be notified.

Mr. Thornton said they have been noticed but it will be helpful to notice them again because there is about a year before the paving will be done.

Council Vice President Hudanich asked if the new pipes will be susceptible to heavy roads.

Mr. Thornton said the pipes will not be susceptible to heavy roads and he explained the process of replacing the pipes.

A brief discussion ensued.

Sanitary Sewer Replacement- Mr. Thornton said the second proposal, Dune Drive is similar. He said the Dune Drive sewer main needs replacing between 78th and 80th Street. He said there has been significant maintenance problems over the years and that section of pipe will be replaced. He said currently, between 78th and 80th, the pipe extends underneath the island instead of the

South bound lane like the rest of Dune Drive, so it will be relocated to be consistent with the rest of Dune Drive and will try to improve the grease situation in that area.

There was a brief discussion about the area in question.

**7479**

January 27, 2016

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be adopted at the Regular Meeting this evening for the Sanitary Sewer Project. The Fifth Avenue project will be authorized when funding is in place and the adoption of the 2016 budget.

Discussion regarding refunds for pre/post dredge survey for 2014/2016 Dredging project.

Council briefly discussed this matter and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for

the February 10, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

Councilman McCorristin commented on the great job Public Works and the Police Department did after the storm. He said cleanup has gone well and bulk pickup is a great idea. He said he has spoken to neighbors and people are very happy for that opportunity and he thanked them.

Motion made by Council President Dean, seconded by Councilman McCorristin to adjourn the Work Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Council President Dean Present

Councilman Burns Present

Councilman Covington Present

Council Vice President Hudanich Present

Councilman McCorristin Present

Work Session adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marie J. Hood, Borough Clerk

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Richard E. Dean, Council President