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April 22, 2015

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

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 7:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

 Attendance: Public -------15------------- Reporters ---------3--------------

 The Meeting was called to order by Council President Covington.

Pledge of allegiance.

 Roll call: Council President Covington Present

 Council Vice President Dean Present

 Councilman Ellenberg Present

 Councilwoman Hudanich Present

 Councilman McCorristin Present

 Also present:

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator

James Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator

Stephen D. Barse, Esquire, Borough Solicitor

Paul Short, Code Enforcement Official

James V. Craft, Chief Financial Officer

Debbie Scott, Municipal Court Administrator

William Macomber, Director of Public Works/Utilities

William McCormick, Chief of Police

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 25, 2014. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

 Council President Covington read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Discussion regarding accepting credit card payments for Municipal Court Fines.

James V. Craft, Chief Financial Officer said he contacted Sturdy Bank and they gave the Borough a proposal of 2.65% for each transaction and $10.00 a month to have equipment accessible to their network. He explained there is also a one-time fee of $889.00 to purchase the equipment which includes new chip technology. He said Debbie Scott believes the service charge will be offset by the savings on postage and a greater collection of court fines.

Councilwoman Hudanich asked if the Borough can charge a processing fee for the convenience.

Debbie Scott, Municipal Court Administrator said they are governed by the Administrative Office of the Court and are not allowed to charge any fees to the public.

Council President Covington asked what percentage of fines are paid by credit card in Stone Harbor.

Debbie Scott, responded approximately 60%.

Councilwoman Hudanich suggested contacting the League of Municipalities concerning the ability for municipalities to charge a convenience fee.

James A. Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator suggested a letter endorsed by Borough Council explaining the Borough’s position could be sent to Administrative Office of the Courts to reconsider allowing municipalities to charge an administrative fee.

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Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing the renewal of a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Stone Harbor for Chief Financial Officer Services.

James V. Craft, said this will be a one year renewal of the existing Shared Services Agreement with a 2% increase over last year and everything else stays the same. He said it is working well and he enjoys it. He said there is a savings to both Boroughs of approximately $55,000 for each town.

Brief discussion followed.

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator added Tracey and Ann; Jim staff in Avalon have done a fabulous job for the Borough during the last year with the work load while Jim is in Stone Harbor.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Bond Ordinance providing for Various Capital Improvements.

James V. Craft, explained this Bond Ordinance covers everything listed in the Water/Sewer Capital budget and the total is just about 2.5 Million Dollars and the biggest project is the Ocean Drive Sanitary Sewer Main construction which is 1.8 Million Dollars and that puts Avalon ahead of the County paving of Ocean Drive. He said most of the projects included in this Ordinance were initiated by Hatch Mott MacDonald and Tom can explain in greater detail.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC indicated the County will be paving Ocean Drive as early as 2016/2017. He said the 78th Street stormwater pump station will hopefully be in Interlocal Agreement with the County since it will benefit the County Road and he has spoken to Dale Foster, County Engineer and Dale agreed the County may consider and agreement. He said the Borough would request in writing to the County asking for a share in the cost of both the design and construction of that project. He said this project will address the flooding in the area between 75th and 79th Street.

Councilman McCorristin asked what portion of Ocean Drive will be paved by the County.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., responded from 29th Street to about 42nd Street.

Brief discussion followed and Council agreed to proceed with the Introduction of the Bond Ordinance at the Regular Meeting this evening.

Further Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing participation in a cooperative pricing agreement with the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission.

Council President Covington indicated Council spoke about this issue at the last meeting and had requested some additional information.

William Macomber, Director of Public Works & Utilities stated he forwarded the additional information to Council on the COOP. He said it’s a free membership for the Borough but there is a cost for the vendors to pay 2% cost for smaller items and 1% for larger items.

Councilwoman Hudanich, indicated the cost is in the bid but it’s implicit and she wanted Council to realize that.

Discussion followed.

Council President Covington asked Mr. Barse if he had reviewed the paperwork.

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Stephen D. Barse, Esquire, Borough Solicitor responded yes. He said Middlesex has to have their Cooperative Pricing System approved by the State every five years and it is current until May 21, 2017.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution for the Regular Meeting this evening.

Discussion regarding Resolutions regarding Disbursement of Surplus Equipment.

Two Mowers to Ocean City for an amount of $5,000.00

William Macomber, explained these mowers were originally on Govdeals online auction but Ocean City expressed interest so the pulled them off the site. He spoke with a local vendor of the same equipment and said it was a good price.

Two Ambulance Stretchers and mounting rails to Hopewell Township Fire District for a nominal consideration of $1.00.

Chief William McCormick indicated the stretchers have no value to the Rescue Squad.

Sale of Radio Controller on Govdeals.com

Chief McCormick said the radio system has been upgraded and there is no need for this antiquated equipment.

Council agreed to proceed with Resolutions at the Regular Meeting this evening.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing approval of participation in the federal 1033 program concerning surplus federal property.

Chief McCormick explained this Law Enforcement Support program has been in place for three years but now the program requires a Resolution of Council to participate in this program to acquire equipment. He said in the three years the Borough has been in the program they have acquired 14 different items; 8 vehicles, 1 trailer and 5 flood lights at no cost.

Council President Covington asked if the Resolution allows for the Chief to bring the items to Council’s attention.

Chief McCormick responded, no it does not require Council’s attention for each item selected. He said the Borough does not always get what they select.

James A. Waldron stated the way the program has worked up to now is a municipality can participate without knowledge of the governing body. He said the law was passed last month which indicates the municipality may continue to participate in the program but only with the consent of the governing body and a designee to acquire such equipment; in this case it is the Chief.

Brief discussion followed.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution approving the application for a Taxi License submitted by Oleg Pismennyy.

Council agreed the application is in order and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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Discussion regarding Resolution appointing Class I and II Special Officers for the Borough of Avalon.

Council briefly discussed this annual item and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing the creation of a certain parking space

reserved for Handicapped Only at 2089 Fourth Avenue.

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

prepared for the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

Kenneth & Joan Wensel, 237 49th Street, thanked the Avalon Rescue Squad for saving

Joan’s life during an emergency call on October 1, 2014. He told Council that both

the Avalon Rescue Squad and the Avalon Police Department responded promptly and

provided immediate assistance. He thanked Rick Dean and Bill Cripps, the two

emergency medical technicians who assisted in her immediate treatment and as an

expression of gratitude presented a generous financial donation to the Avalon Rescue

Squad.

Jim Lutz, 2539 Ocean Drive, commended the Council on the ability to use credit cards to

pay Court fines and suggested looking into a system called Square which would be at a

lower cost to the Borough. He expressed concern over boats in the mud at dead low tide

at the Avalon Sport Fishing Center and provided pictures to Borough Council. He would

like to see something done.

Councilman McCorristin said he had a chance to look at the situation over the weekend

and contacted Tom Thornton. He asked Tom to fill Council in on what he discovered

and what options if any the Borough may have.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC, responded both the Sport Fishing Center and the Bay Park Marina have similar problems. He said unfortunately due to the federal prohibition on dredging due to the winter flounder restriction and the bird restriction the Borough has no recourse until September 15th.

Council Vice President Dean asked Tom if that area is scheduled to be dredged.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., responded the dredging will resume in September; finish Princeton Harbor then to Sterbeck Harbor as a requirement of the permits and then back to Avalon down Pennsylvania Harbor and work north by the Sport Fishing Center.

Council President Covington asked if the Borough could ask for relief from the restrictions.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E. responded the Borough can always ask and raise the safety concerns. He said the question was raised in the past and the answer has been a clear no. He said the problem is that it’s a federal requirement and the National Marine and Fisheries provides the recommendation to the agencies and the agencies don’t have any latitude to override the recommendation.

Discussion followed concerning possible solutions and Council President Covington asked Mr. Thornton to assist in any way possible for relief.

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Elaine Scattergood, 75 30th Street asked why the cost of the work at Armacost Park to

Bayshore was $14,500. She said it seems excessive.

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator responded two competitive quotes were received for

the work and Bayshore had the lowest price.

Motion made by Councilman McCorristin, seconded by Councilman Ellenberg to adjourn the Work Session.

 ROLL CALL VOTE: Council Vice President Dean Aye

 Councilwoman Hudanich Aye

 Councilman McCorristin Aye Councilman Ellenberg Aye

 Council President Covington Aye

Work Session adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

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 Marie J. Hood, Borough Clerk

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 Charles P. Covington, Council President