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January 14, 2015

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

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:04 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

 Attendance: Public -------------------- 9 Reporters ----------------------- 2

 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

William Macomber, Director of Public Works/Utilities

Sue Ellenberg, Interim Recreation Director

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.

Presentation of Proclamation to Claudia Kammer for her assistance in the Borough Clerk’s Office.

Council President Covington explained Claudia has been working in the Borough Clerk’s office while the office has been transitioning and her assistance has been invaluable. He read and presented the proclamation.

Claudia Kammer, thanked Council for the opportunity and said it has been a pleasure working with everyone in Avalon.

Presentation of conceptual design for 28th Street Parking Lot.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC, reviewed the existing parking lot at 28th Street currently with 230 spaces and presented Council with two possible plans. He said both plans provide for improvements with regard to access from Avalon Avenue, adequate and consistent fire lane, drainage, landscaped islands and lighting. He said both plans result in loss of parking spaces. He indicated the main benefit of concept no. 2 is a concrete sidewalk that extends from Avalon Avenue all the way to the boardwalk from both the North and South end of the parking lot.

Councilwoman Hudanich, asked if there is a way to capture parking for compact cars or motorcycle parking?

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E. responded he will look into that idea. He said aesthetic appeal will be lost without landscaping, but it could certainly allow for a few more spaces.

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Councilwoman Hudanich, prefers parking over aesthetics because parking is a necessity.

Brief discussion followed. Council was in agreement with concept no. 2 for safety reasons and investigating the possibility of the landscape islands to be utilized for some type of vehicular parking.

Discussion regarding Beachfill Project.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E. reported there has been significant sand loss. He said after Hurricane Sandy in 2013 the Army Corp restored the beaches and the following spring the Borough completed a backpassing project. He indicated repairs cannot be made on what has been eroded through another backpassing project; there is not enough sand at the south end. He said trucking in sand is not the preferred method due to damage to the Borough’s infrastructure and inconvenience to the public. He stated unless a beachfill project occurs there will be damage to the Borough’s infrastructure and homes in that area will be vulnerable to damage from a series of major storm events. He has provided a proposal to complete the permitting and design phase of a beachfill project if Council decides to pursue that course of action. He indicated the cost for a beachfill is estimated at $7.3 Million Dollars; according to recent estimates mobilization will cost approximately $4 Million Dollars; estimated cost of $11.00 per cubic yard for sand with an approximate volume of 300,000; $3.3 Million Dollars. He said the estimate of 300,000 cubic yards is not based on restoring the beach to the Army Corp template. He said Stockton College beach monitoring results have been reviewed and through September 500,000 plus cubic yards had eroded from the North end and a report today indicates the amount has increased to 630,000 cubic yards. He said 700,000 cubic yards would add another $4.4 Million Dollars to the project, if the Borough wanted to try to achieve the Army Corp template. He said the project would extend from 8th Street to 26th Street. He included in the letter the scope of services Hatch Mott will provide which include design, surveying, prepare plans, specifications and bidding services.

Councilman McCorristin asked if dredging companies are available and if so, are they willing to bid?

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E. responded the companies are reluctant to say. He said they are in high demand which does not help from a cost perspective and said there is interest but no one is willing to commit.

Discussion followed.

Council President Covington questioned the sand in the borrow zone.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., said the survey shows approximately 1.4 million cubic yards. He said that is for an Army Corp project; which will be due in 2016 to perform the three year renourishment. He said there never been a periodic renourishment but there is always a possibility.

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator indicated in recent weeks Bill Macomber had to close several beach paths in the North end due to safety reasons. He said he reached out to Stone Harbor before the holidays to see if there is any interest for a beachfill to help with mobilization and at this time they indicated no, but would revisit if Avalon is seriously considering a beachfill. He said both he and the Mayor spoke with officials from the DEP as to the possibility of a cost share agreement with the State of New Jersey with no promises being made but a possible opportunity of a funding partnership.

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Councilwoman Hudanich suggested contact with the Army Corp to see if they are on the 2016 cycle and present a narrative of cost sharing for future reference.

Scott Wahl, mentioned that may be possible through Howard Marlowe, the Borough’s consultant. He said he is meeting with him next week.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., commented he spoke with Jim Craft concerning the budget and the best case scenario would be to authorize a contract in late March. He said the project would go beyond Memorial Day into June and possibly early July.

Council President Covington suggested putting the specifications together for the 300,000 with an alternate for the balance to get back to the Army Corp profile and pursue discussions with the Army Corp regarding funding and committing to another beachfill in 2016. He said with that commitment the Borough would not have to take the alternate for the balance.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution authorizing Hatch Mott MacDonald to be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution to cancel balances in General Capital and Water/Sewer Capital

 funds.

Council briefly discussed the proposed cancellations and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to

be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution establishing change funds for the 2015 Season.

Council briefly discussed this matter and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

 Discussion regarding Resolution designating protected bathing beaches for 2015.

Council reviewed the date changes from Beach Patrol Captain Murray Wolf and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing the release of certain rental bonds posted with the Borough of Avalon.

Council briefly discussed this matter and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing the Tax Assessor to file cross appeals and/or municipal appeals for the year 2015.

Council had no problem with this annual item and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing renewal of shared services agreement with the County of Cape May for use of County equipment.

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator, explained the Borough has a fleet of equipment but this agreement covers larger County equipment if needed it would be available.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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Discussion regarding Resolution approving the certified list of 2014 Length of Service Program Credits.

Council President Covington, indicated there are 31 members of the Avalon Volunteer Fire Department who benefit from this program.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

Martha Wright, 632 7th Street, asked if the 28th Street parking lot will be asphalt or a

type of pervious material.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., responded asphalt will be used and said pervious material

often gets clogged over time in a sandy environment.

Martha Wright, said she would like to see the Borough explore either solar or led lighting

to reduce utility bills. She also expressed concern over light pollution if the lights are on

all night and the potential disruption to birds and wildlife.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., responded solar lighting has not been researched but led

lighting has and he believes timing equipment could be worked into the program.

Motion made by Councilwoman Hudanich, 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 8:03 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

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 Marie J. Hood, Borough Clerk

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 Charles P. Covington, Council President