**7245**

March 11, 2015

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

 Attendance: Public - - - - - - - - - - 8 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

Stephen D. Barse, Esquire, Borough Solicitor

Paul Short, Code Enforcement Official

James V. Craft, Chief Financial Officer

Captain Jeffrey Christopher

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

Monica Coskey, 7 Mile Publishing

Norman Gluckman, Library Director

 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.

 Power Point Presentation of the annual State of the Avalon Free Public Library by

Norman Gluckman, Library Director.

Norman Gluckman, Library Director thanked Borough Council for the opportunity to talk about the library accomplishments in 2014 and where the library is headed in 2015. He thanked the Borough for their support to make their accomplishments possible. He highlighted new hires in 2014 as well as new resources like Freegal, an MP3 download service, Hoopla, a video/audio book music database, Flipster an online magazine resource, as well online services and direct print; which allows patrons to use their mobile device to print to the library network. He added the Library launched an application for mobile devices. He said the library system has been migrated off-site to protect against power loss or disaster. He described the Summer Author Series, the Symphony by the Sea, Bay Atlantic Symphony and Quartet programs. He stated the Library received national rating. He explained building a website for the History Center in the coming year, finding more space for the library, upgrading the network infrastructure, using 3D printing and paying fees and fines using credit cards. He gave a very informative power point presentation, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Councilman Ellenberg asked about the possibility of the library staff developing a summer program to educate people about the park between 72nd and 74th Streets.

Norman Gluckman said a program could be available through video equipment, YouTube or other social media.

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Council President Covington thinks Avalon has a lot to offer environmentally and would like to get that message out.

Norman Gluckman recommended advertising the event by way of the Library and Borough websites as well as social media.

Council President Covington said it is more than the park, it is the Back Bay and the dune system.

It was noted that David Ellenberg would be the point person.

Council President Covington asked if other libraries saw the same circulation trends.

Norman Gluckman said that statewide circulation is down except in Cape May County, where two libraries have been built and two renovated causing circulation to rise. He said there are concerns because residential homeowners are being replaced by non-residential homeowners and that has implications for both business and the library. He noted that virtual resources are getting bigger. He said there is a virtual library and print library but only one budget.

Councilwoman Hudanich asked if there was a comparison of the budget between the virtual and print side. She said she estimated the virtual side is 60% of the budget.

Norman Gluckman replied it is not and said the problem is many patrons are not technologically savvy and will not use the virtual content.

Council President Covington asked if there were any questions from the public.

James Lutz, 2539 Ocean Drive, questioned if the Avalon Library is duplicating what the other libraries in the county are doing since they service the same people.

Norman Gluckman responded his mandate is to service the population of Avalon. He said he wanted to make sure services are top notch for Avalon residents. He said Avalon is a municipal branch, not a county branch and does not look at what the county does to set standards.

Council President Covington said it was a good question and one that should be asked of the County. He noted Avalon is an independent library funded by tax payers.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing Professional Services Contract with 7 Mile

Publishing and Creative Group for Public Relations and Advertising Services.

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator said 7 Mile Publishing has presented a proposal for 2015 services which is very consistent with the approved 2014 proposal except for a contingency line added for Snow Fest Saturday, if needed.

Mickey Coskey, 7 Mile Publishing discussed the Information Guide and the popular trends from year to year. She said using technology allows statistics from year to year to see trends and adjust accordingly.

Councilwoman Hudanich commented the work is excellent.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 25, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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Discussion regarding Interlocal services agreement between Avalon, Sea Isle City and

Stone Harbor for Comcast Local Access Channel.

Scott Wahl, Public Information Officer commented there are no changes to the existing agreement and Sea Isle City and Stone Harbor are on board for 2015.

Brief discussion followed and Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 25, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Bond Ordinance for various capital improvements.

James V. Craft, Chief Financial Officer, said this bond ordinance will appropriate $590,000 for four projects including the improvement to roads, the 28th Street parking lot for $480,000 and three other projects in connection with the engineering costs with the Army Corp., NJDEP and the Back Bay dredging.

Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC explained three projects were the CDF access road permitting as well as to obtain permits for removal of stone from Inlet Drive Beach.

Council President Covington noted that the permitting for the Army Corp. to use the CDF would allow the Borough to recover the costs and pay for access. He said this Ordinance will be introduced at tonight’s Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding resolution granting a 2015 Amusement Games License to Two Bits Amusements, Inc.

Council reviewed the application along with the memo from Detective Sergeant Gaughan and

determined the application is in order and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for

the March 25, 2015 Regular Meeting

Discussion regarding Resolution opposing Senate Bill S2076/Assembly Bill A3358 concerning Unprofitable Landfill Gas to Electricity Facilities.

Council President Covington, explained the purpose of the bills which would provide renewable energy certificate credits for private companies, not municipalities, for generating electricity out of gas from land fill facilities. He said private companies want to use that money to replace failing equipment that they did not invest properly in preserving.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 25, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing membership of Austin H. Blood to the NJ State Fireman’s Relief Association.

Paul E. Short, Sr, explained that Austin joined the Fire Department at 16 as a junior fire fighter. He said he is now 18, in fire school and is eligible for membership in the NJ State Fireman’s Relieve Association.

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

Public Comments:

Martha Wright, 632 7th Street, asked is Council was contemplating some kind of hiking in Armacost Park.

Council President Covington explained there was discussion with the Library creating an environmental program about the environmental areas in Avalon to educate the public about the resources and their value.

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Martha Wright shared with Council that she consulted with the Vice President of the Tropical Audubon Society Board of Directors in Miami, Florida, Elizabeth Smith, who is a friend and an Avalon summer resident. She said Elizabeth confirmed that brush and thickets are critical to bird habitats, nesting, safety and survival. She added the best time to clear invasives from any habitat is the fall, after the birds have left and when the leaves are still on the vines so that they can correctly be identified. She protested the tree planting in the spring. She referenced a study that said trees do better when planted in the fall and urged Council to postpone the planting of the saplings until the fall.

Frank McLaughlin, 261 47th Street and 7278 Ocean Drive – agreed with Ms. Wright to postpone tree planting until the fall. He also referenced an editorial in the Press on March 7, 2015. He suggested Armacost Park be renamed.

Councilwoman Hudanich thought it was worth considering a name expansion to Armacost Park and Refuge for education about our delicate ecosystem.

Elaine Scattergood , 75 30th Street, said she thinks the name should be changed to Armacost Refuge.

Sally Davis , 256 22nd Street - said she thought Armacost Park would designate the playground part and would be in favor of Refuge in the title. She said she thought the natural part should be left alone and asked for Council’s consideration.

Mary Broadhurst , 286 46th Street said she was here to support the birds and the natural refuge.

Council President Covington said this morning was his first opportunity to visit Armacost Park with Mr. Lomax since the snow to see what has taken place. He said he noticed how thick the vines were that had to be cut. He said they were to be cut 5’ up so that the vine was high enough up for when the vine started to grow it wouldn’t wrap itself around a vine already there and continue up the tree. He said it was very discouraging to see how many dead cherry trees in the park, apparently because of the vines and that was a shame. He stated he knows the project is controversial to a few people, but believes the Borough is interested in being good stewards of this park. He said they will take Ms. Wrights recommendations to heart. He said the idea of planting in April was to see growth in one season to measure the success of the pilot project.

Motion made by Councilman Ellenberg, seconded by Councilman McCorristin 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 8:12 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

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 Marie J. Hood, Borough Clerk

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 Charles P. Covington, Council President