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September 9, 2015

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 4:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

Attendance: Public -------------------- 10 Reporters ----------------------- 2

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:

James Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator

Stephen D. Barse, Esquire, Borough Solicitor

William Macomber, Director of Public Works/Utilities

Paul E. Short, Sr. Code Enforcement Officer

Scott Taylor, Taylor Design Group

Jim DeSandro, ACE Transmission Engineer

Jason Tucker, ACE Engineer

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 Proposal from Hatch Mott MacDonald for engineering services in connection with the Hazard Mitigation Plan to maintain CRS status.

James A. Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator, stated in the last several years Avalon’s Community Rating System has been depended on Avalon’s participation in the Cape May County All Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan. He said the plan has expired and the County has awarded a contract to revise and update the County plan; which is due January 16th. He said the Mayor is concerned and the Office of Emergency Management that the County plan may not be completed by January. He said there could be consequences to the Community Rating System and the discounts Avalon receives under the flood insurance program. He said a suggestion has been made that Avalon should proceed on a parallel track with the County and develop its own plan. He said Sal DeSimone has consulted with FEMA and it was determined that Avalon is a Class 5 community; by developing Avalon’s own plan it is possible that Avalon’s point system could increase; and the potential would be to take Avalon from a Class 5 to a Class 4 designation by FEMA with benefits including further reductions in the flood insurance premiums. He indicated Hatch Mott MacDonald was asked to prepare a proposal and there is a schedule of meetings which need to be conducted and a committee appointed which involves a public official and private individuals within the community by the Mayor and confirmed by Council and a Resolution will be prepared for consideration at the September 23rd Council Meeting. He said Hatch Mott’s proposal includes a detailed schedule of activities that will take place between now and the end of the year. He said that schedule has been presented to FEMA and it is consistent with Section 510 of the handbook for the Community Coordinators and Avalon would adhere to that to preserve its present status with no jeopardy to the current discounts and the possibility of getting significantly more discounts.

Councilman Covington asked what role Sal DeSimone will play in the committee.

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James A. Waldron said his role under this program will be enhanced. He said Sal recommends this course of action and will be providing additional services as the coordinator of the committee and hopefully move Avalon from a 5 to a 4 designation.

Councilman McCorristin asked if the County finishes by January 16th will Avalon still follow its own course or still come into the same program.

James A. Waldron responded both can happen. He said assuming the County plan is in place by January 16th, Council will make a decision at that point whether Avalon will have a standalone plan or be an ancillary to the County Plan. He said dependent on the discussion with FEMA from now till then the Borough will have a clearer picture of whether Avalon will go from a 5 to a 4 designation and if that can happen it would benefit Avalon to go standalone. He said Avalon will not get a 4 designation being a part of the County Plan.

Councilman Burns asked for a rough number on the savings.

James A. Waldron said the Borough now has a discount of 30 percent.

Councilman Covington said he thought it 5% per level.

Council Vice President Hudanich, agreed it was 5% that would bring the discount to 35%.

James A. Waldron, stated if Avalon goes to a Class 4 Community it will be the first and only seashore community on the east coast with that designation.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be voted upon at the Regular Meeting this afternoon.

Further discussion regarding granting easement to Atlantic City Electric for installation of a new utility pole at 30th & Ocean Drive.

Scott Taylor, Taylor Design Group, explained the handout shows the new plant layout. He said the crape myrtle was shifted forward in front of the pole at Councils’ request to address the issue of the site triangle. He said they also updated the height with some other plant materials and have shown a detail of the sign bracket to be constructed as part of the restoration. He said the remainder of the issues were addressed in correspondence from Mr. Wahl and Mr. Waldron to Council. He said as of yet, he has not had a chance to speak to Atlantic City Electric. He expects everything to be in order as previously discussed.

Councilman McCorristin said he was happy with the change in diameter of the pole. He asked about the size of the poles between the sidewalk and the curb going South on Ocean Drive.

Scott Taylor said the majority of the poles being installed in the public right of way between the sidewalk and curb will be 22 to 23 inches.

Jim DeSandro, Transmission Engineer, and Jason Tucker, Supervisory Engineer for Atlantic City Electric introduced themselves.

There was a brief discussion about the sign in front of the Chamber being lit.

Councilman Covington noted the handout represented well what one might see when they enter Avalon at 30th Street and Ocean Drive.

Scott Taylor confirmed the pole diameter was reduced 11 inches at the ground line which was a 20% reduction.

Council Vice President Hudanich asked about the transformer.

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Scott Taylor described the necessity of the structure and its function.

Councilman Burns asked for confirmation that the planting will draw the publics’ eye.

Scott Taylor discussed how the color seasonally will be best during the summer season.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be voted upon at the Regular Meeting this afternoon.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing the creation of a handicapped parking space at 273 60th Street.

Council briefly discussed this matter and agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the September 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Ordinance Amending Chapter 7 regarding Impounded Vehicles to clarify the owner is responsible for tow company charges and storage fees.

James A. Waldron explained Chief McCormick reviewed Chapter 7 and discovered when a motor vehicle is impounded the section does not provide that the owner has to pay the tow charge and if the vehicle is impounded by a third party storage company there is not currently a provision in the Ordinance for the storage charge to be paid that third party in lieu of the Borough. He said the Chief is asking Council to consider clarifying the tow charge and the tow impoundment fee is included within the fees payable by the owner of the impounded vehicle.

Councilman Burns asked if the third party fee is regulated.

James A. Waldron said it is regulated by statute which indicates an entire fee schedule for motor vehicles that are towed and impounded.

Council agreed to proceed with an Ordinance to be prepared for Introduction at the

September 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolutions authorizing sale of surplus property to the City of Sea Isle City and govdeals.com.

James A. Waldron, explained the fire department has a number of self-contained breathing tanks, which have been replaced with a 45 minute capacity. He said OSHA has a requirement that places a life span on firefighting equipment of this nature of 15 years. He added four have expired and even though they are expired for firefighting purposes, they may retain a value for non-firefighting purposes. He said the Fire Department would like to transfer 10 of those tanks to the Sea Isle City Fire Department and dispose of the remaining equipment with the clear notation that for firefighting purposes these have no useful life by auction

Councilwoman Hudanich asked if there is any liability transferring the tanks.

James A. Waldron responded no.

Brief discussion followed. Resolutions to be prepared for the September 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

Frank Wellock, 120 16th Street, asked for the status of the swimming pool ordinance.

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James A. Waldron, responded a fifth draft of the ordinance has been prepared and

believes Paul Short and Bill Macomber have signed off on the changes and are still

waiting for a sign off from Middlesex in terms of the dewatering activities at the site. He

said it is anticipated it will be on Council’s Work Session Agenda for the 23rd of

September. He said at that point if Council is in agreement there would be another

meeting with the pool contractors. He said the thought is to have a January 1st effective

date to give the pool contractors the opportunity and lead time to get the equipment they

need to comply with the Ordinance.

Discussion followed concerning the possible changes. It was recommended that a termination date be enforced for dewatering.

James A. Waldron said this topic will be on Council’s Agenda for review on September 23, 2015 and if there is preliminary approval, there will be another meeting with the contractors.

Frank Short, 1849 Ocean Drive, had some questions and comments concerning the new

Electric poles. He commented arborvitaes are year round and there are about 10-20

different varieties. He wanted to know what the centers are on the 70 foot poles and said

it looks like the centers are between streets and asked if Comcast and Verizon will be

able to tap into the poles.

Jim DeSandro, said the question regarding the span lengths ACE does have the capability for much larger spans than they are currently proposing on the island. He said there are distribution tabs at every transmission pole currently on part of the transmission line that needs to be maintained by ACE as part of the rebuild. He said from ACE’s perspective the best way is to have a pole at every single existing pole location. He said ACE also has a safety mandate in the ACE operating region that they don’t put distribution mid-span poles underneath transmission lines for safety clearances for their crews because of past safety issues. He said they can span longer where they don’t have distribution tabs, but with having to maintain all the feeds to the houses and businesses ACE is limited from the number of poles they can eliminate from that perspective. He said they met with Comcast and Verizon today to discuss the transfer process and what ACE provided to them both to make their attachments.

There was brief discussion about grounding the poles, the height of the Comcast and Verizon poles and the height of the lowest wire of the poles.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Burns Aye

Councilman Covington Aye

Council Vice President Hudanich Aye Councilman McCorristin Aye

Council President Dean Aye

Work Session adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marie J. Hood, Borough Clerk

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Richard E. Dean, Council President