

July 10, 2019

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 4:00 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 Hudanich.

Pledge of allegiance.

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|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| <u>Roll call:</u> | Council President Hudanich | Present |
| | Councilman Deever | Present |
| | Councilwoman Juzaitis | Present |
| | Council Vice President McCorristin | Present |
| | Councilman Wierman | Present |

Also present:

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator
James Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator
Nicole Curio, Esquire, Borough Solicitor
William Macomber, Director of Public Works/Utilities
Police Chief Jeffrey R. Christopher
Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Mott Macdonald
Paul Miola, CPCU ARM Executive JIF Strategist
Dr. Stewart Farrell, Stockton's Coastal Research Center

Council President Hudanich read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Notice of this Work Session was included in the Annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 26, 2019. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

Discussion regarding Membership Renewal in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.

Scott Wahl announced Paul Miola, the Executive JIF Strategist from the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, is in attendance and is prepared to make a presentation to Council regarding Avalon's participation in the JIF. The time has come for Council to consider another renewal for membership in the JIF. Mr. Miola's presentation will show the status of the JIF, Avalon's participation and how Avalon is fairing compared to the overall JIF.

Council President Hudanich clarified the renewal would be for three years commencing in January, however the renewal must be authorized in advance of that date to allow for proper budgeting on behalf of the JIF.

Paul Miola gave a detailed presentation, a copy of which is hereafter attached to these minutes.

Council President Hudanich referenced a cover letter addressed to the Borough from the JIF and noted the JIF is giving discounts to renewing members with a favorable loss ratio. She expressed happiness at this initiative, and noted when the Borough first joined the JIF in the 1990s, she had trepidation about possibly being in a pool with high-risk towns that could negatively impact the premiums paid by the Borough regardless of its performance. She stated this initiative is remunerating the Borough for good deeds.

Paul Miola agreed and explained for each of the renewing members, the JIF completes a re-val to evaluate each municipality's claims history and exposures. Considering the good claims history of the Borough of Avalon, a reduction in premiums will be realized over time.

Council President Hudanich inquired what reduction the new contract will realize.

Paul Miola noted he cannot provide exact numbers, as the re-val is not yet complete.

Council Vice President McCorristin noted the safety initiatives implemented by the Borough with the help of the JIF have been successful and have helped maintain the Borough's safety statistics.

Councilman Deeever referenced the Cyber Security portion of the presentation and noted it is a real concern, not just in government but in the private sector as well.

Councilman Wierman also noted homeowners need to be made aware of cyber security risks as well.

Councilwoman Juzaitis mentioned her involvement in the Safety Committee and noted the meetings include JIF in the discussions at each meeting, and the recommended initiatives are constantly implemented and reinforced.

Scott Wahl added Avalon's culture of safety has shown approximately 646 training sessions participated in by the Borough of Avalon. At every Safety Committee Meeting, training is reviewed and encouraged.

Council agreed to proceed with Resolutions to be prepared for the July 24, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Presentation regarding recent Municipal Shoreline Surveys by Dr. Stewart Farrell.

Scott Wahl reported Stockton University conducts regular shoreline surveys to evaluate the sand within Avalon's shorelines in terms of movement, net gain, and loss. This presentation is being made due to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announcing their intent to solicit bids for a hydraulic beach fill that would benefit Avalon between November 2019 and March 2020. Dr. Farrell can speak to the condition of Avalon's shoreline to aid Council in deciding how best to move forward and if the Borough of Avalon is in any further need of participation.

Dr. Farrell noted Council is in receipt of an aerial photograph taken of the north end of the Avalon shoreline on April 23, 2019. The photograph is an advantageous visual aid, as it shows the sand deposit created by the backpassing operation this spring prior to it being grated out. The report submitted by Stockton University on June 27, 2019 showed data from the winter survey completed in March of 2019. In the table of values, it was determined that overall, the Borough's oceanfront beaches from the 8th Street Jetty to the Stone Harbor boundary showed a net loss of 74,000 cubic yards of sand, which happened to be concentrated entirely north of 35th Street. 104,000 cubic yards disappeared from 9th Street to 28th Street, and 27,000 cubic yards accumulated south of 28th Street, which explains the 74,000 cubic yard net loss. Those figures do not include the 50,000 cubic yards of material that was moved north and deposited during the sand backpassing operation during the spring of 2019. Surveys were conducted during May of 2019, and those reports are being compiled with the hopes to have them submitted to Council in the near future. Sand has been placed upon Avalon's beaches since 1987, and questions have been asked as to where that sand has gone. As a result, data gathered in 1997 was compared to the fall 2018 Municipal Shoreline Survey. By comparing the data, it was determined the beach profiles from 10th Street to 13th Street have maintained similar sizes up to approximately 2,000 feet from the shoreline. A large accumulation of sand was found offshore from the beach between 13th and 14th Streets moving south to the fishing pier. The accumulation measures to three feet of additional depth of sand deposited since 1997 in an area approximately 1,000 feet wide, which calculates to approximately 1.4 million cubic yards of sand. This new data can change the way beach nourishments are viewed, if it is in fact found that the sand is not migrating south to Stone Harbor. Another set of data reviewed by the report was how the beach reacts to sand backpassing. As Council is aware, there are two borrow areas permitted within the Borough of Avalon, with the two borrow areas being separated by an exclusionary zone from 40th Street to 54th Street to protect the Piping Plovers nesting area. Backpassing projects in 2006 and 2012 utilized sand from the more southern borrow area, however recent backpassing projects have harvested solely from the north end borrow area from 30th Street to 38th Street. Profiles were reviewed from each year spanning from 2013 through 2016 which showed the summer berm development. By way of background, waves deposit sand on the beaches. Every wave that comes on shore brings with it some sand which lays a thin layer at the top elevation the waves are able to reach. This action eventually builds a ridge of sand over the course of 6-8 weeks at

Dr. Farrell (continued) the high-tide line. Sometimes, this ridge is as much as two feet higher than the back beach area between the berm crest and the dune tow. If there is an event with serially larger waves, the area of lower elevation fills with water and becomes what is known as a berm top pond. While parents and children prefer to swim in these ponds due to warmth and shallowness, the bacteria counts tend to be very high and pose a health hazard, therefore they must be properly maintained. Along with the data compared from 2013 through 2016, photographs of the beaches were reviewed dating back to 2002. It was determined berm top ponds were commonplace well before any backpassing was ever attempted. As Council may recall, berm top ponds were excessive in 2016 on the beaches around 32nd Street to 38th Street, with many residents and visitors were unhappy with the state of the beaches. Those berm top ponds were eradicated by no action of the Borough, but by natural patterns by September of that year. A study known as “Avalon Backpass Sustainability” was recently done by a student at Stockton University, which compared location of the dune tow and the zero elevation position between high and low tide of various beaches throughout Avalon in relation to a constant reference marker. The two data sets used in the study were from 2005 and 2015. The data collected is as follows:

| Beach Location | 2005 Dune Tow | 2015 Dune Tow | 2005 Zero Elevation Position | 2015 Zero Elevation Position |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 35 th Street | 552 feet | 620 feet | 925 feet | 1,017 feet |
| 44 th Street | 220 feet | 485 feet | 759 feet | 802 feet |
| 58 th Street | 361 feet | 481 feet | 796 feet | 820 feet |
| 70 th Street | 424 feet | 483 feet | 700 feet | 734 feet |

The study also evaluated the accumulative sand volumes from 35th Street to 80th Street. From 2005 to 2015, the cumulative additional material amounts to 575,000 cubic yards added to the southern beaches. Profiles of the beaches taken in 2005 and 2015 also show beach advancement in these areas when compared.

Council President Hudanich asked where the dune tow is considered to begin on the beaches.

Dr. Farrell explained the dune tow begins with the grass on the beach, and as the dunes grow, the roots travel. American Beach Grass, which is the plant seen in Avalon’s dunes, creates new plants every six or eight inches, and those plants colonize.

Council President Hudanich inquired if these plants will keep advancing and if the Borough will need to do something about the vegetation eventually to prevent it from encroaching on the beach.

Dr. Farrell noted Stone Harbor is facing that very issue at 112th Street where the dune is now occupying over half of the width of the design beach that the Army Corps of Engineers permitted, and the Army Corps is not granting permission to make the beach wider to accommodate the dune. One of the measures proposed to be done in Stone Harbor is to harvest sand from the ever-growing dunes to provide sand onto the beaches while the CBRA issue with harvesting sand is ongoing.

Council Vice President McCorristin questioned if it is possible to harvest the sand that has accumulated offshore.

Dr. Farrell indicated the sand is within New Jersey State waters, therefore the application to harvest the sand from that location would be made to the DEP. A suggestion for harvesting that sand would be using a dustpan dredge, which shoots water at a high psi into the accumulated sand, and suctions all the floating slurry into a pump, which pumps the material onto the beach. This method is environmentally docile in terms of digging holes, however this method tends to gather creatures living within that top layer within the system, which is considered a habitat disturbance.

Council Vice President McCorristin asked if the dustpan dredge method is the same that is used in Oregon Inlet to keep the navigational canal open.

Dr. Farrell responded no, and explained the dredging used in Oregon Inlet is called side-casting, which is being used in an attempt to keep the channel from shifting south.

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Councilman Wierman asked Dr. Farrell to clarify that the berm top ponds are a natural occurrence as a result of constant wave action and are not a result of backpassing.

Dr. Farrell confirmed and explained berm top ponds will be created and eradicated naturally multiple times per year. In the event the berm top ponds become too large or last too long, measures can be taken to eradicate them manually.

Discussion regarding a handicapped parking space to be located at 127 34th Street.

Councilwoman Juzaitis spoke in support of granting this application, however expressed concerns that other residents and visitors could use the parking space instead of the applicant.

Chief Christopher confirmed any licensed driver with a valid handicapped placard would be permitted to park in that space, however he is unaware of any such activity occurring to the hindrance of the applicant in the past.

Council President Hudanich inquired if handicapped parking spaces can be granted for the use of a specific individual.

Chief Christopher noted he is unaware of such a possibility, however he would be happy to look into it if Council wishes for him to do so.

Bill Macomber indicated the Public Works Department has not received any complaints about other drivers parking in handicapped spaces granted by Council.

After brief discussion, Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be considered at tonight's Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

None.

Council to check over the agenda for the Regular Meeting

Council President Hudanich noted Council has elected to no longer hold separate Agenda Sessions specifically for this agenda item, and this item will be done at the conclusion of the Work Session from this meeting going forward.

The Councilmembers proceeded to go over the agenda for the Regular Meeting.

Motion made by Councilwoman Juzaitis, seconded by Councilman Wierman to adjourn the Work Session.

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| <u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u> | Councilman Deever | Aye |
| | Councilwoman Juzaitis | Aye |
| | Council Vice President McCorristin | Aye |
| | Councilman Wierman | Aye |
| | Council President Hudanich | Aye |

Work Session adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Danielle Nollett
C. Danielle Nollett, Borough Clerk

Nancy M. Hudanich
Nancy M. Hudanich, Council President