

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 4:03 p.m.

Attendance: Public ----- 10

Reporters ----- 1

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Hudanich.

Pledge of allegiance.

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

Also present:

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator  
James Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator  
Nicole Curio, Esquire, Borough Solicitor  
Jeffrey R. Christopher, Police Chief  
Paul Short, Code Enforcement Officer  
Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Mott Macdonald  
Brian McPeak, Executive Director, Bay Atlantic Symphony  
Dr. Stewart Farrell, Stockton University Coastal Research Center

Council President Hudanich read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Notice of this Regular Meeting was included in the Annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 27, 2019. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board, as required by law. Notice of the change of meeting structure to a telephone conference call was included in a Notice of Meeting Change dated March 31, 2020. That notice was given to the news media, posted on the doors of the municipal building, and posted on the Borough website, as required by law.

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

James Waldron explained the Boroughs of Avalon and Stone Harbor have had a Shared Services Agreement for the shared use of the Chief Financial Officer, which is currently up for renewal. It is recommended that Council look favorably upon an extension of the Shared Services Agreement, as it is in the best interests of both municipalities. Council may recall implementing a policy in recent years that requires a document with monies received or paid out when participating in Shared Services Agreements. The Borough of Avalon has an agreement with this particular officer or employee as to what funds are passed through and what funds are retained by the Borough. The Borough is subject to an automatic cost of living increase, which will affect the Salary Ordinance approved by Council. Due to these reasons, the compensation amounts are still being reviewed. The final numbers will be presented to Council when the payment is finalized and ready to be signed.

Scott Wahl reaffirmed this agreement will be effective in May 2020 for an additional 3 years. Officials in both municipalities are ready to move forward with this Agreement.

James Waldron added there is a termination clause built into the Agreement, whereby should Avalon or Stone Harbor decide the continuation of this Agreement is not in the best interest, either municipality may, with appropriate notice to the other, withdraw from the Agreement.

Councilman McCorristin expressed his opinion that this Agreement has operated well and asked if all parties would agree with that statement.

Scott Wahl replied yes and explained the Chief Financial Officer has designated hours in which he is to work in Avalon and Stone Harbor. Shall an emergency arise, or his attendance be necessary in either town, the Agreement is flexible in those respects.



Council President Hudanich concurred with Scott Wahl, and noted her original concerns of placing too many responsibilities upon the Chief Financial Officer were unnecessary. She commended James Craft's professional and ethical manner when navigating the terms of this Agreement, and mentioned his flexibility when accommodating all interested parties.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be considered at today's Regular Meeting.

**Presentation by Dr. Stewart Farrell regarding the 2019 Avalon Beach & Townsend's Inlet Report.**

Dr. Stewart Farrell reported the reports being discussed today have been distributed to Council, and asked if Council has any specific questions regarding same. He stated there has been a large amount of sand placed upon the beaches of Avalon since 2013 with the most recent activity being in 2019, when the Army Corp of Engineers placed approximately 570,000 cubic yards on the north end beaches to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Scott Wahl highlighted a few items he felt would be important to Council and the public, including the news that the borrow area in Townsend's Inlet is replenished due to the natural north-to-south drift. Dr. Farrell's report also mentions the possible need for Stone Harbor to utilize some sand from areas typically utilized only by the Borough of Avalon because of the unavailability of sand within Hereford Inlet. As Council is aware, during the fall of 2019, Avalon, Stone Harbor and North Wildwood were able to meet with the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to discuss the sand supply. There is no contemplation of needing more sand or a backpassing in 2020 unless a major storm impacts the area; however, there is a reasonable expectation some replenishment work would be needed in the winter or spring of 2021.

Dr. Farrell agreed, and noted the December 2019 to April 2020 survey of the engineered beach to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street lost 35,000 cubic yards in an aggregate. This year, the area spanning from the jetty to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street is possibly at an all-time low for winter in terms of sand volume lost. The survey of Townsend's Inlet showed that since the Army Corp took 570,000 cubic yards of sand away for Avalon, the borrow zone has accumulated almost 200,000 yards of new material derived most likely from Sea Isle City. He concluded by stating the beaches are in great shape.

Councilman McCorristin added it has been a great year and expressed hope that this weather pattern continues.

Council thanked Dr. Farrell for his time.

**Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing Professional Services Contract with Bay Atlantic Symphony for July 4, 2020 performance.**

Scott Wahl stated Council is in receipt of a proposal from the Bay Atlantic Symphony for the July 4<sup>th</sup> concert, which is a free event held in Community Hall. If Council recalls, the fireworks contract has been approved for 3 years to be held on July 4<sup>th</sup> of each year, which typically follows the performance by Bay Atlantic Symphony each year. A proposal for the 2020 performance has been received and is in line financially with prior proposals and prior years. It is expected to host approximately 800 attendees for this event in 2020. Certification of Funds from the Chief Financial Officer has also been received.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the May 13, 2020 Regular Meeting.

**Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing a Water and Sewer credit to George & Linda Vasso for Block 27.04 Lot 62.292, 292 27<sup>th</sup> Street.**

James Waldron indicating a report regarding this item has been provided to Council and explained the property in question was previously converted into a duplex, with a work order being submitted for a water line. Evidentially, the contractor employed at the Borough at that time, American Water Company, did not install the lines that were ordered, paid for and agreed upon. This problem came to light by coincidence as a result of a conversation between to



James Waldron (continued) neighbors about vast differences in water bill amounts for two like properties. Because of that conversation, one property owner contacted the Tax Collector's Office and asked to have the matter investigated. The Tax Collector consulted with Bill Macomber and Ken Koches, who determined the installed line was incorrect. The problem was compounded over a number of years, which now results in an issue that one property owner is entitled to a credit of \$2,098.58. The point being emphasized here is this is in no way the fault of the home owner, as it was discovered accidentally. Tax Collector Alexis Coan has written a detailed explanation of how credit is achieved in the time period involved. Considering this type of situation is not something covered by the Water and Sewer Ordinance provisions, this matter must go before Council. It is recommended that Council approve this credit.

After a brief discussion, Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the May 13, 2020 Regular Meeting.

**Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing the transfer of a Freightliner Truck-Tractor to Upper Township.**

Scott Wahl stated the referenced piece of equipment has no use to the Borough of Avalon and carries no value; however, Upper Township is in need of same. Qualified Purchasing Agent Joseph Clark has been consulted, and has offered his approval for such a transfer.

James Waldron added this vehicle came into Avalon's possession as a result of a distribution from a Federal Government Program at no cost to the Borough. However, a condition of that grant program is that equipment acquired in that manner must be transferred to another public entity with a use for the equipment. An exchange of services with Upper Township is being explored so that services can be traded at a savings cost. He further indicated there is a process in place to have the vehicle removed from all Borough liabilities.

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

**Public Comments**

Jim Lutz, 2539 Ocean Drive, referenced the discussion concerning the water meter credit and indicated he experienced a similar issue with the resolution to the problem being his purchase of a new water meter. He expressed interest in the means taken by other property owners to identify and rectify similar scenarios. He also asked Borough Council to consider using an audio/visual means of communication for Council Meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as Zoom.

Martha Wright, 632 7<sup>th</sup> St., suggested livestreaming the meetings through Zoom or Facetime, so residents and constituents can either view meetings in real-time or at their own convenience.

Julie Donatelli, 2989 First Ave., agreed with Jim Lutz and Martha Wright concerning the use of Zoom for Council meetings.

Thomas McCullough, American Legion Post 331, spoke about Memorial Day and its special importance to all Americans, as a day sacred to the memory of all who made the ultimate sacrifice for the liberties Americans enjoy. He noted the intent to never forget or fail to honor these heroes to whom so much is owed. He expressed hope that if there is no Memorial Day celebration, community members will still honor our Veterans.

Council President Hudanich stated during these unprecedented times, it is imperative to come together and support each other. While the decision will be made by the Department of Health and the Governor concerning celebrations for the upcoming holiday, she implored all to have it in their hearts to thank the Veterans of our country. She thanked Mr. McCullough for his kind words and his participation in the meeting. She concluded by stating "this is about the good of the order and what we stand for".

**Council to check over the agenda for the Regular Meeting.**

Council proceeded to check over the agenda for the Regular Meeting.


April 22, 2020

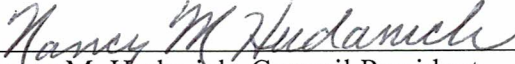
Motion made by Councilman McCorristin, seconded by Councilman Deever to adjourn the Work Session.

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

Work Session adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
C. Danielle Nollett, Borough Clerk

  
Nancy M. Hudanich, Council President