

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance: Public ----- 6

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
William Macomber, Director of Public Works

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 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 April 24, 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 the renewal of Shared Services Agreement with Sea Isle City for Backup Construction Official and Building Inspection Services.

Scott Wahl reported the Borough has often had backup Shared Services Agreements in place. These agreements are necessary, as the number of Construction Officials has decreased significantly. This Agreement provides the Borough with other options for Construction Official services in the event of illness, vacation, or conflict. As Council is aware, Rick Allen has been appointed as Building Subcode Official. He also serves as the Assistant Construction Official, which provides Avalon's Construction Office with a level of professionalism and redundancy. If a conflict does exist, or on the rare occasion that the Construction Officials are indisposed for some reason, this gives us the ability to maintain the functionality of the office. This is a three year, no cost Agreement to either Sea Isle City or Avalon.

After a brief discussion, Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the June 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding authorizing notice to bidders for Lease of Space on 3100 Dune Drive Municipal Tower & Ground Space for the Placement of a Small Cell Antenna System in the Borough of Avalon (Contract 19-02 R-1.

James Waldron reminded Council that this project had been previously bid and awarded; however, due to certain ambiguity in the bid received, it was ultimately determined to be non-compliant in the specification, and the bid was subsequently rejected. In the interim, the Telecommunications Consultant has commissioned a structural study of the tower, to determine the number and weight of antennas that can be placed on the tower, as well as the appropriate spacing of equipment. With this in mind, a new specification has been prepared and Council is being asked to give permission to solicit bids.

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

Discussion regarding Resolution affirming the Borough Civil Rights Policy.

Scott Wahl indicated the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) and Municipal Excess Liability (MEL) ask participating municipalities to review their Civil Rights Policy on an annual basis. The Borough of Avalon's policy is very much in order. This annual procedure dates back to 2008, when the MEL came up with specific criteria for municipalities to reach certain financial deduction towards premiums paid. It is the recommendation to reaffirm the Civil Rights Policy with no amendments. There will be some updates expected from the MEL sometime next month; however, the policy Council is being asked to reaffirm today would not need to be changed.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the June 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution approving payment in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to Southern Shore Regional Direct Marketing Organization for Travel Show Cooperative.

Scott Wahl explained this program has been ongoing with the participation of the Borough of Avalon for the last five years. This year, there are a few changes, which Administration believes would benefit the Borough. By way of background, this program is run by the Cape May County Department of Tourism. In previous years, the amount contributed by the Borough of Avalon was \$10,000.00; however, this year the contribution would be \$5,000.00, at the discretion of Council. The Borough has funds in the budget for this purpose and appropriate Certification of Funds from the Chief Financial Officer has been received. This program offers an annual review of the travel shows in which Avalon is directly marketed by staff from the Cape May County Department of Tourism and the Avalon Chamber of Commerce. There is also support for promoting events. Administration is requesting Council to authorize payment of half of the amount asked in previous years, however the impact will be of even better benefit to the Borough of Avalon.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the June 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution appointing a Hearing Officer for a disciplinary matter.

Nicole Curio noted this matter before Council is concerning a disciplinary matter of an individual who is an employee of the Borough. This matter is being handled by Special Counsel, Bill Blaney. Prior to the disciplinary penalty being levied, the employee is entitled to a due process hearing. Mr. Blaney has recommended that Steven Secare serve as the independent hearing officer to hear this matter. Mr. Secare has ample experience regarding municipal matters as well as disciplinary matters.

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

Public Comments:

Martha Wright, 632 7th Street, inquired about the June 2020 Council Meetings and what the Borough's intentions are concerning the format for those meetings to be held. She asked Council to consider using an audio/visual platform, if the meetings are to be held remotely, as has been done since March.

Council President Hudanich replied at this time, Borough Council is still following the directive of the Governor, which prohibits gatherings of 10 or more individuals in an indoor setting. Council has not entertained any conversations to change the venue or format of the remote meetings, and explained the Council meetings will continue to be delivered electronically and the method currently being used is providing the Borough with the security of recording, as well as complying with the guidelines required to ensure the meeting is recorded appropriately, as is done in person. Council is hopeful there will soon be a new directive.

Council to check over the agenda for the Regular Meeting.

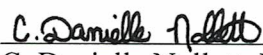
Council proceeded to check over the agenda for the Regular Meeting.


Motion made by Councilman Wierman, 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 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


C. Danielle Nollett, Borough Clerk


Nancy M. Hudanich, Council President