

March 10, 2021

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 4:04 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

Attendance: Public ----- 3

Reporters ----- 1

The meeting was called to order by Council President McCorristin.

<u>Roll call:</u>	Council President McCorristin	Present
	Councilman Deever	Absent
	Councilwoman Hudanich	Present
	Councilwoman Juzaitis	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  
Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Mott MacDonald  
James Craft, Chief Financial Officer  
Monica Coskey, Publisher at 7 Mile Publishing & Creative  
R. Edward Dean, Fire Chief

Council President McCorristin read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Notice of this Regular Meeting was included the annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 24, 2020. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

**Discussion regarding Professional Services Contract with 7 Mile Publishing for Public Relations and Advertising Services.**

Scott Wahl introduced Monica Coskey and commended Ms. Coskey as well as 7 Mile Publishing for their tremendous help with regards to publications, advertisements, and campaigns. It has been the past practice of Council to consider a Professional Services Contract with 7 Mile Publishing for a variety of such services on an annual basis. A copy of the proposal has been provided to Council and is very similar to past years.

Monica Coskey explained this Professional Services Contract would provide the Borough with the same services provided in 2021. As part of this contract, 7 Mile Publishing will be printing an Information and Recreation Guide, which includes recreation, beach and other various vacation information, as well as two newsletters issued in spring and fall. All publications will be mailed to every homeowner, as well as distributed through town. Digital formats of each will also be available on the Borough website. Advertising, staffing and décor will also be provided for holiday festivities, which will align with existing CDC regulations at that time, as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council President McCorristin commended Monica Coskey and 7 Mile Publishing on their hard work and professionalism.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing Cape Diagnostic, Training, and Opportunity Center, Inc., to sell the Borough of Avalon's seasonal beach tags online.**

James Craft reported Jersey Cape approached the Borough with the idea of selling seasonal beach tags online. If Council agrees with this arrangement, Jersey Cape would be provided with a set number of weekly tags, originally 1,000 seasonal tags. Once weekly, they would send payment to the Borough of Avalon in the amount of tags sold that week, along with a log of tag numbers sold. The tags would be sold through Jersey Cape's website and would charge patrons a 2.9% or 30 cent convenience fee as well as shipping costs for the shipping method chosen.

Councilwoman Hudanich inquired if this service would be available in addition to all current methods, and how the public will be made of this availability.

James Craft replied that this service will be in addition to existing beach tag purchase options and explained a brief narrative will be placed on the Borough's website along with a link to Jersey Cape's website for the public's information and use.

Scott Wahl noted members of the public would still be able to send for a preorder receipt, purchase tags in-person, or order beach tags through the Vibly app. The Borough has never shipped physical tags to members of the public, as there is a certain liability if the tags get lost or damaged in transit.

After brief discussion, Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing a contract with Triad Associates for preparation and submission of the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Regional Application in the amount of \$24,500.00**

Ed Dean noted when the Assistance to Firefighters Grant was first created, the Avalon Volunteer Fire Department was successful with three grant requests. In recent years, submittals by the Avalon Fire Department were denied for failure to show financial need. After research, it was determined the grant program has looked more favorably upon regional requests for grant funding through this program. With the help of Mayor Pagliughi, an idea was formed to make a regional application to replace portable radios, which are now non-compliant with current regulations. Upon outreach, twelve Fire Departments have joined this grant application, which requests a total of \$678,000.00 for 120 dual-band portable radios, which will greatly increase the ability to communicate with the County and inter-departmentally. Triad Associates has been hired to assist with the grant writing process in hopes this application will be approved.

After brief discussion, Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing renewal of Agreement with Coastal Broadcasting, Inc. and authorizing a further Agreement with Cape May County Herald for media services for the 2021 calendar year.**

James Waldron explained the past practice of Council has been to annually consider Resolutions for the various promotional needs for the Borough, including advertisements for events and initiatives as well publishing helpful information concerning Emergency Management. Both proposals have no rate increase over prior years, and are largely managed by the Public Information Officer. Certification of Funds has been received from Chief Financial Officer James Craft.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing a Person-to-Person License Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0501-36-001-009**

Council President McCorristin indicated through this transfer, two adjacent properties will be overseen by companies with the same shareholders and expressed concerns in connection with the Borough's responsibility regarding potential encroachment issues, as it applies to public safety. He noted Code Enforcement issues may arise concerning the lines of ownership and usage of the two properties.

Danielle Nollett informed Council that all terms associated with the ABC license are remaining exactly the same as they currently exist. This transfer application is simply a change of ownership; the footprint of the license will remain the same.

Councilwoman Hudanich noted it is the Borough's responsibility to ensure all rules are being properly implemented and followed for the safety of visitors and residents.

After a brief discussion, Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting.



**Presentation of final 5G pole locations for consideration and approval by Borough Council**

Scott Wahl gave the following report:

Summary: Verizon Wireless has made the first application to the Borough of Avalon to begin the installation of 5G Service in the Borough of Avalon. Verizon is following the Borough Ordinance, and has submitted a list of initial poles to be used to begin this implementation. As required by the Ordinance, the Borough Administrator conducted an individual pole by pole review of the initial application.

Review: The review was conducted over a three-hour period on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Verizon provided the Borough with a list of suggested pole locations that included some differences from a draft list previously supplied and reviewed. Each pole location was examined (list is attached) and on the same day as the review, the Administrator provided feedback to Mr. William Perry from Verizon on comments and suggestions. This list provided by Verizon included new locations from the draft list; and if a new pole or replacement pole would be needed. Four new poles were requested where poles do not currently exist.

Comments by Administrator: A few poles were questioned, which largely relied on replacement poles where existing poles were located. The email answering those questions posed by the Administrator is included in this packet. One pole was rejected. It is located in the 800 block of 21<sup>st</sup> Street near the bay. As Council is aware, the Borough recently conducted an underground utility project there as part of a settlement agreement with a marina. Verizon has consented to no pole at this location.

Criteria: The criteria used was visual impacts on the community based upon prior representations that the Borough was provided by Verizon and reviewed by telecommunications expert Dominic Villecco from VComm. None of the new locations appeared objectionable based on these prior representations.

Recommendation: If Council views this list favorably, Council will be asked to approve this list at the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting along with the Master License Agreement. Again, this list with the removal of the one pole from the west portion of 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Verizon has provided information that it can work around that issue.

Councilwoman Hudanich asked if the material of the replacement pole will remain the same.

Scott Wahl responded yes, adding no metal utility poles will be used.

Council President McCorristin asked if this implementation has begun.

Scott Wahl replied no and indicated if Verizon is working on poles using 5G, they are in violation of Borough regulations.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**Discussion regarding the Borough's acceptance of a deed of easement for Block 78.04 Lot 2 (f/k/a Lot 19) to locate a proposed pump station for the Borough of Avalon**

James Waldron gave the following report:

Mott MacDonald has been designing a pump station for the southern part of Avalon, which has been completed. The site was previously identified as the southeast corner of 78<sup>th</sup> and Dune Drive. The bulk of the pump station will be constructed subsurface within the Borough's right of way. There is an above ground electrical panel and control station. This would be located in an area of the parking lot that was the restaurant for the Desert Sands. The owners of the property have been approached and they have graciously agreed to make a 300 square foot area of the property available to the Borough of Avalon without cost. This is recognized that when installed will affect the neighborhood of surrounding properties. The deed of easement has been prepared by Alan Gould and executed by the appropriate officials of the party partnership. This deed is ready to be accepted and recorded subject to Council's authorization.

Council President McCorristin thanked the property owners for graciously allowing the Borough to utilize a portion of their property.

Councilwoman Hudanich asked specifically for the language of the deed to state "deed of the land".

Councilman Wierman asked for the address to be confirmed, as Council's Memo states the address as 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Dune Drive.

James Waldron clarified the address is 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocean Drive.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for today’s Regular Meeting.

**Public Comments:**

Martha Wright, 632 7<sup>th</sup> Street, asked for a status update on the potential use of an audio/visual presentation of livestreaming Council meetings.

Council President McCorristin replied he has been in contact with Martin Fiedler who livestreams Stone Harbor’s Council meetings and is in the process of visiting the websites of locations that offer livestreaming via different platforms. He expressed hopes that an updated report and possible recommendation will be made to Borough Council in the near future.

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

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

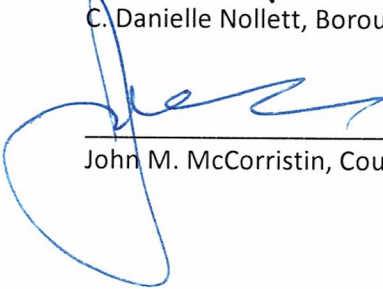
Motion made by Councilwoman Juzaitis, seconded by Councilman Wierman to adjourn the Work Session.

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

Work Session adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
C. Danielle Nollett, Borough Clerk

  
John M. McCorristin, Council President