

October 26, 2022

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

In-Person Attendance: Public - - - - - 2

Reporters - - - - - 0

Remote Attendance: Public - - - - - 1

Reporters - - - - - 1

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Wierman.

Pledge of allegiance.

<u>Roll call:</u>	Council President Wierman	Present
	Councilwoman Coskey	Present
	Councilman McCorristin	Present
	Councilman McDermott	Present
	Councilman Wierman	Present

Also present:

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator
James Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator
Nicole Curio, Esquire, Borough Solicitor
James Craft, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Short, Code Enforcement Official
William McCormick, Director of Public Works/Utilities
Jeffrey Christopher, Police Chief
Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Mott MacDonald

Council President Wierman read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Notice of this Regular Meeting was included the annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 22, 2022. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

Discussion regarding 2022 Best Practices Inventory.

Scott Wahl noted the Best Practices Inventory process is a task undertaken annually, led by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. James Craft, CFO, engages multiple departments to complete this Inventory. The purpose of the Best Practices Inventory is to ensure municipalities are employing due diligence in many categories, including health benefits, personnel, budget, cyber security, financial administration, capital projects, and shared services. This year, the Best Practices Inventory had a much stronger focus on cyber security, which has been a more frequent topic among participating municipalities in the JIF. Once this Inventory is submitted, the State reviews the response and assigns a score, which must be above 24 in order to be eligible to receive State aid. Although the Borough does not receive State aid, Avalon's score is 31.5 for 2022. This document must be submitted prior to November 10, 2022.

Councilwoman Coskey mentioned two questions included on Council's copy of the document, which had notes referring them to other departments for response, and inquired if those questions have now been answered.

Scott Wahl replied yes, stating the document was distributed to Council throughout the review process.

After brief discussion, Council thanked all those involved for their efforts in getting this document completed, and consented to filing the 2022 Best Practices Inventory with the State.

Discussion regarding 2021 Report of Audit.

Scott Wahl reported the 2021 Report of Audit was prepared by Ford, Scott, and Associates after many weeks of work combing through the Borough of Avalon's files to ensure compliance with all statutes. Since 2008, the Borough has received no letter of improvement from the auditing team. He expressed that this is indicative of great leadership, as well as dedicated employees.

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

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing a Facility Use Agreement with APP, LLC.

Scott Wahl explained this Facility Use Agreement would permit the Association of Pickleball Professionals to utilize Avalon's pickleball facilities for a five-day pickleball tournament from September 6, 2023 through September 10, 2023 that will include professional, senior pro, and amateur divisions. The tournament will be streamed worldwide and on network television. The Association will provide all necessary bleachers, lighting, trainers, and medical professionals. Financial Impact Statements have been provided, which depict an estimated 1,600 hotel rooms rented and over \$1 million in revenue by way of direct and indirect tourism. All necessary insurances have been provided, as well.

Council President Wierman spoke in favor of approving this Agreement.

Scott Wahl added such an event could lead to additional properties sold and new businesses opening in the area, and noted this tournament hits many major cities in North America.

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

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing advertisement of bids for Fireworks Contract.

Scott Wahl reported the Borough has typically approved the fireworks contracts for three-year periods through the competitive bidding process in the past. In 2021, the Borough offered New Year's Eve fireworks for the first time, which were well received by the public. This year, the Borough is soliciting bids for fireworks services for the typical three-year term including both July 4th and New Year's Eve fireworks display. The fireworks display for the New Year's Eve event are significantly less expensive, as no barge is required. Recent federal regulations have outlawed the largest size of fireworks shells; however, there is little to no impact to Avalon's shows expected.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing professional engineering services for Fire House Addition Oil-Sand Separator Concrete Pad Design.

Thomas Thornton indicated this proposal is to design a concrete pad above an oil-sand separator that is included in the specifications for the addition on the Fire House. This oil-sand separator is below-grade equipment that will separate oil that drains from the garage floor, which will be installed in a corridor between the proposed Fire House addition, and the generator, where the water company will be accessing the nearby pump station with a vacuum truck. The specifications prepared by the architect indicate the contractor must abide by the manufacturer's instructions, which recommend the pad be designed by an engineer to appropriately account for loads.

Councilman McCorristin inquired how often the tanks are emptied, and how the waste is disposed.

Thomas Thornton explained the tanks will not need to be emptied frequently, and the method of disposal will most likely be determined on an as-needed basis.

Paul Short noted the oil-sand separator at the Rescue Squad was installed in 2008, and there has not been a need to empty those tanks yet.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

Martha Wright, 632 7th Street, asked where the pickleball tournament will be held.

Council President Wierman responded the tournament will take place at the 8th Street pickleball facility.

Martha Wright expressed excitement for this event and how it will extend the shoulder season to bring people to the town outside of the summer months. She suggested working with the business association to determine the best way to get promote visits to the business district during this increased visitation to Avalon.

Keith Levant, 499 22nd Street, spoke in support of the upcoming pickleball tournament and also advocated for determining solutions to ensure the business district reaps the most benefit from the expected boom in tourism for this event.

Scott Wahl commented conversations with the President of the Avalon Chamber of Commerce as well as the 7 Mile Business and Community Association have begun to discuss how to best promote the business district during this tremendous economic opportunity.

Council to check over the agenda for the Regular Meeting.

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

Motion made by Council President Wierman, seconded by Councilman McDermott to adjourn the Work Session.

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

Work Session adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


C. Danielle Nollett, Borough Clerk


Samuel D. Wierman, Council President