

March 8, 2023

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

In-Person Attendance: Public - - - - - 4

Reporters - - - - - 0

Remote Attendance: Public - - - - - 1

Reporters - - - - - 1

The meeting was called to order by Council President Wierman.

Roll call:

Council President Wierman

Present

Councilwoman Coskey

Absent

Councilwoman Juzaitis

Present

Councilman McCorristin

Present

Councilman McDermott

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

William McCormick, Director of Public Works and Utilities

Paul E. Short, Sr., Code Enforcement Officer

James V. Craft, Chief Financial Officer

Chuck McDonnell, Recreation Director

Donna Rothman, Chair, Environmental Commission

Craig Rothman, Volunteer, Tree Committee

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.

Council President Wierman read the following statement:

“For the convenience of the public, the Borough is offering the option of public comment via remote access as described herein. Public who participates remotely will be muted during the Council Meeting except at the public comment portion of the meeting. Any person attempting to disrupt the remote broadcast of a meeting may be denied access at the discretion of the person administering the meeting. Public is reminded of a five-minute limit per comment. In the event remote access is unavailable due to a technology malfunction, or other reason beyond the Borough’s control, the Borough will not pause or stop the live meeting. Borough Council Meetings are held in person with no capacity limits on attendance at a meeting. The best way to ensure an individual’s ability to publicly comment is to attend in person so that comments may be made in the event of a technology malfunction. The Borough reserves the right to discontinue offering public comment via remote access at its discretion for any future meeting.”

Councilwoman Coskey entered the meeting at 4:02 pm.

Presentation of Tree Inventory Summary Report by the Avalon Environmental Commission.

Craig Rothman and Donna Rothman gave a detailed presentation on the Avalon Tree Inventory Report, and overviewed the history; benefits; key findings; assessment scope; observations; report and data uses; and the tables and figures within the report. It was recommended that Council review the Tree Inventory Report and consider adopting the Tree Inventory Report as a monitoring tool for the Borough of Avalon.

Council thanked Craig and Donna Rothman for their presentation, and commended the Avalon Environmental Commission, Tree Committee, and all volunteers for their hard work and dedication in compiling such a comprehensive report.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for a future Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding 2023 Sports and Educational Camps.

Chuck McDonnell reported the listing of camps has grown since the 2022 season, which was very busy after the COVID pandemic. New camps for the 2023 season include those for baseball, softball, girl's lacrosse, and football, which were added due to certain demands; therefore, it is expected for those camps to perform well. While many of the educational camps have yet to return to Avalon since the pandemic, efforts to revive those camps continue. He thanked the Public Works Department for the recent improvements made to the baseball fields, which will be well utilized not only by the school children, but also patrons of the sports camps, and residents and visitors this summer season.

After brief discussion, Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding rules and regulations for municipally owned tennis and pickleball courts.

Chuck McDonnell noted in 2022, the Borough of Avalon saw an increase of approximately 10 permits for pickleball in 2022, with tennis showing a decrease in season permits; however, it is estimated the decrease in tennis season permits can be attributed to an increase in purchase of combination season passes for tennis and pickleball. The proposed tennis schedule for 2023 shows some minor changes, which are being recommended as a result of demands observed during the 2022 season. Additionally, Council is being asked to grant discretion to the Recreation Department as it pertains to minor schedule changes throughout the season to accommodate court demands each day for both pickleball and tennis. Because of this discretionary exception, the tennis and pickleball schedules will not be printed in the Recreation Guide. Instead, a QR code will be included in those publications, so that patrons can scan the code and view the current schedule, which will be adapted to each day's demand. There are no changes recommended to any fees being charged for the use of courts for the 2023 season; however, it is recommended to stop charging fees and allowing reservations the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, rather than the Sunday following Labor Day.

Councilwoman Juzaitis inquired about the difference in patronage for pickleball as it relates to tax payers versus non-tax payers.

Chuck McDonnell indicated there is a large group of non-tax payers that travel throughout the County and play in various locations; however, tax payers and non-tax payers show similar patronage.

Council agreed to proceed with Resolutions to be prepared for the March 22, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding a Resolution approving a membership in the New Jersey State Firemen's Relief Association.

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

Discussion regarding Resolution designating official newspaper and establishing public notice procedures.

Danielle Nollett explained the Borough's current official newspaper, The Press of Atlantic City, is changing its publication schedule, which is providing obstacles when attempting to comply with statutory publication deadlines. As a result, it is recommended Council consider changing the official newspaper to the Cape May County Herald, effective June 1, 2023. With that, a recommendation is also being made to amend Resolution No. 37-2021 establishing meeting procedures, to implement procedures pertaining to purchasing through national cooperative pricing agreements, public bidding, and Ordinance adoption. These changes would be necessary to comply with the publication schedule of the new official newspaper, while still abiding by the statutory publication obligations.

Councilman McCorristin added The Press of Atlantic City is also changing its delivery method on the days it is printed, which will no longer be daily.

Council President Wierman stressed the importance of being ahead of this change by adapting certain procedures.

Scott Wahl mentioned some project timelines may be extended due to these procedural changes; however, the Borough will adapt to these changes as necessary.

Danielle Nollett reported changing the official newspaper and implementing these procedures will eliminate the Borough's exposure to liability if a statutory publication deadline is missed.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.

March 8, 2023

Further discussion regarding purchase through National Cooperative Pricing Agreement OMNI Partners with Rehrig Pacific concerning waste receptacles.

Scott Wahl reminded Council this National Cooperative Pricing Agreement was utilized for the purchase of 2-yard containers for commercial businesses, the delivery of which will begin March 13, 2023. It is recommended to utilize the same Agreement for the purchase of trash and recycling receptacles. A meeting was recently held to determine the number of containers to be purchased, with it being decided to order a surplus of 1,001 trash cans and 500 recycling containers. Smaller sized containers will also be ordered to provide to property owners with mobility issues. He further reported a confirmation email has been received that the Borough is being recommended to be fully approved for grant funding to help offset the purchase of these containers. The Borough is working to satisfy all obligations of the grant program.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Public Comments:

Chuck O’Hara, 140 19th Street, commended the Police Department and Rescue Squad for their prompt, caring, and professional response to a recent emergent situation at a family member’s residence. Thanks to the professionalism of the first responders, the family member has made a recovery.

Martha Wright, 632 7th Street, complimented Craig and Donna Rothman on the presentation of the Tree Inventory Report and spoke to the benefits of the report as it pertains to stormwater management, and spoke in support of the Borough considering adopting the Tree Inventory Report as a management tool. She stressed the critical importance of stormwater management and expanded upon that idea by informing Council of her recent volunteerism to help develop the most stringent Tree Ordinance adopted by Cherry Hill that has been celebrated by multiple organizations. She encouraged the Borough to consider adopting a similar Tree Ordinance. The purpose of the Tree Ordinance requires a no-fee permit to remove trees from properties, with restrictions on the number of live trees permitted to be removed per year. The Ordinance further puts procedures into place concerning the replacement of trees, or regulations to be followed if the intent is not to replace the removed trees. The Ordinance further establishes a public/private tree fund, which enables property owners to qualify to receive funding from the fund to replant trees on their property. Such rules and regulations maintain the environment and establish better environments on private property.

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 Coskey, 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 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Danielle Nollett
C. Danielle Nollett, Borough Clerk

Samuel D. Wierman
Samuel D. Wierman, Council President