

October 11, 2023

A Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

In-Person Attendance: Public ----- 3 Reporters ----- 0

Remote Attendance: Public ----- 4 Reporters ----- 1

The Meeting was called to order by Council President McDermott.

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

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

Council President McDermott read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Notice of this Council Meeting was included the annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 28, 2023. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

Council President McDermott 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.”

Swearing in by Mayor McCorristin of James P. Savini as Police Sergeant

Discussion regarding Resolution approving the activation of ABC License issued to 24th Street, LLC t/a The Dunes of Avalon.

This discussion was deferred to a later date.

Discussion regarding participation in the State Health Benefits Program.

Scott Wahl noted Council may recall that the State Health Benefits Program implemented exorbitantly higher healthcare premiums for the 2023 calendar year, at which time the Borough elected to stay in Program by changing base plan and offsetting the changes in deductibles with a Health Reimbursement Account card. This year, the current base plan is projected to increase by seven percent. It is recommended to remain in the plan for the 2024 calendar year. The objective to provide the best healthcare coverage to the employees and protecting the taxpayers by incurring the least cost is being met by taking this course of action.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the October 25, 2023 Council Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution renewing the Borough of Avalon’s Short Term Disability Plan.

Scott Wahl reported the Borough of Avalon recently moved into a private plan providing short term disability to employees who needed it. The plan is managed by The Hartford, and provides for direct payments to the affected employee for one year. Since implementation, the plan has worked well. At this time, a two-year renewal with no increase in premium is being recommended.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the October 25, 2023 Council Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution adopting a new Personnel Policy Manual.

Nicole Curio explained every two years, the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) requires all participating municipalities to update their personnel policy manual. In 2021, a significant redrafting of the manual was required. This year, only minor updates are required, which includes accommodations to be made in connection with recent law changes. All changes have been reviewed, and a new manual will be presented to Council in draft form at the October 25, 2023 Council Meeting, with a request to consider formal action at the same meeting, as the deadline for adoption is November 1, 2023.

Council agreed to proceed with a Resolution to be prepared for the October 25, 2023 Council Meeting.

Minutes:

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Motion made by Councilwoman Juzaitis, seconded by Councilman Johnson that the minutes be approved as submitted.

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

Public comments regarding Resolutions:

None.

Council President McDermott asked if any Councilmember wished to have any Resolution acted upon independently of the consent agenda.

There were no requests from any member of Borough Council to act upon any Resolutions independently.

Resolution No. 182-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CM3 BUILDING SOLUTIONS, INC. THROUGH THE CAMDEN COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM #66CCEPS CONTRACT #FY21-01, INTEGRATED BUILDING AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 183-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF AVALON TO EXECUTE AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2027 AND UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR IS DULY APPOINTED AND QUALIFIED AND APPROVING CERTAIN TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND BENEFITS OF EMPLOYMENT

Resolution No. 184-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAYLOR DESIGN GROUP TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL BIDDING SERVICES FOR MAINTENANCE OF BOROUGH OWNED GROUNDS FOR A LUMP SUM FEE OF FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$4,500.00)

Resolution No. 185-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CAPE MAY COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING SERVICES

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Resolution No. 186-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF CAPE MAY FOR MAINTNANCE AND REPAIR OF CERTAIN TRAFFIC SIGNALS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF AVALON

Resolution No. 187-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY AMENDMENT REQUEST RECEIVED FROM MOTT MACDONALD FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND INSPECTION SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH 22ND STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINETEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$19,850.00)

Resolution No. 188-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Motion made by Council President McDermott, seconded by Councilwoman Coskey that Resolutions 182-2023 through 188-2023 as listed on the consent agenda be adopted.

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

Reports and Recommendations by Mayor and Officials:

Reports of Officials:

Scott Wahl read the following report:

PPI: As Council is aware, the Borough of Avalon participates in the Program for Public Information through FEMA's CRS guidelines. The PPI, as it is known, allows communities to share valuable ideas and information for flood mitigation. Many ideas are developed organically through the Borough's volunteer Flood Committee. On September 26th, Council was emailed this year's report by Frank Bruton, our CRS Coordinator. We are obligated under the CRS program to make it known to the public and to Council that Council is in receipt of the report.

Atlantic City Electric: Atlantic City Electric is noticing communities, including Avalon, about an upcoming tree trimming project. The municipal clerk received and distributed the notice on October 10th. The tree trimming is conducted on trees in the public right of way to ensure service reliability and safety for the community as, at times, tree limbs can interfere with power lines and transformers. There is no specific date for this, but it will be conducted soon.

Various Streets Project: A meeting was held last Friday with Asphalt Paving Systems, the contractor who secured the bid for the various streets project in the Borough previously authorized by Council. Street and utility work will be conducted on 62nd Street from Ocean Drive to the bayfront street end; 17th Street from Dune to Ocean; and 6th Street from the seawall west. In addition, paving will be done on Dune Drive southbound from 76th to 78th streets, financed by an NJDOT grant. Work will begin on the project in 12 days; the contractor will work Monday through Friday from 7am-330pm; no work will be conducted on Thanksgiving weekend, and no work likely between Christmas and New Year's. By contract the job, including final paving, must be completed by April 28, 2024. We have notification and maps of the work on the front page of the Borough website and residents will be notified by the contractor; residents will have access to their driveways during this project.

Dune Grass/Clean Ocean Action: Two events will be held on the morning of Saturday, October 21st. The Borough's fall dune grass planting and Clean Ocean Action's beach sweep will both occur that morning. Notification and further details are on our website.

Pending Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

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Public Comments:

Martha Wright, 632 7th Street, inquired about the Borough’s intention for the parcel of land located on 26th Street, where the Avalon School was recently demolished.

Scott Wahl noted the Mayor, under his authority granted by the Borough of Avalon’s form of government, reviewed reports regarding this property from Borough officials and professionals and ordered the building be demolished after any historical artifacts were removed by the Avalon Historical Society. The Mayor does not support any development on this site. At this time, the lot will be converted to offer public parking opportunities.

Martha Wright mentioned she has heard suggestions from members of the community, which include a dog park, community garden, or pollinator garden. She stressed the importance of maintaining pervious coverage on that lot to aid with flooding concerns.

Motion made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Wierman to adjourn the Council Meeting.

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

Council Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Danielle Nollett, Borough Clerk

James T. McDermott Jr., Council President