

Borough of Alburdis

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019

The January 9, 2019 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburdis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco	Steve Hill	Sherryann Oels	Vanessa Taggart
Kathleen Raines	Hector Vazquez	Stephen Kaufman	

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor	

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner	Stephen Roth	Jason Bartos
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MAYOR'S REPORT – The Mayor reported that Lower Macungie Township Commissioner, Ron Beitler, has been in contact with her regarding the expanded parking area proposed at the Prologis site on Quarry Road.

POLICE REPORT – The monthly Police Report was reviewed. Truck stops are down since the change in the law. Mayor Palmer suggested that we get together with Penn Dot and our representatives to have things clarified.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 26, 2018 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 26, 2018, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JANUARY 9, 2019 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of January 9, 2019, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Hill made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to accept the monthly Engineering Report, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Borough Council Hearing – 562 Thomas Street – Stephen Roth was present to dispute his 2nd quarter water bill. When water readings were done, it showed that he used over 153,000 gallons of water for the quarter. Sharon asked maintenance employee, Gary Hartman to listen outside of the residence for running water. Gary was present for the hearing and confirmed that water could be heard running. He spoke with Mr. Roth, and was told that he had an issue with a toilet and would take care of it. Mr. Roth told Council that his water softener was running and the timer had to be reset. Still unsure as to whether or not the usage was correct, Maintenance returned to the home to check the toilets in the home. Two of the toilets were fine and the third one had to be hit on the side for it to stop running. He said he never leaves the room until the water has stopped. Sharon met with Donnie Derr and Ron DeIaco and at that point decided to replace the meter and credit a portion of his bill. In the meantime, Sharon was made aware of a software program for the meters which allows us to profile a meter. This was done for his meter and showed that water was flowing from mid-July until 2:45 p.m. on September 27th, which is when Gary Hartman spoke with him about high usage. This indicated that the reading was an accurate reading and the water was used.

Sharon took this information to Borough Council on October 29th and they agreed that this was an accurate reading. They agreed that the meter should not be replaced at this time and the credit should be voided. Sharon notified Mr. Roth and he is now disputing the bill. Mr. Roth informed Council that the toilet in question has been doing this for years due to a cheap plastic fitting. He also asked Council who would leave a toilet run 24/7 and not do anything about it. He also believes the first notice from Sharon should stand and the credit be reapplied. After further discussion, Stephen Kaufman made a motion to replace the meter and Vanessa Taggart 2nd. Steve Hill noted that he is adamantly opposed to this, stating that Mr. Roth admitted several times that he had an issue with the toilet. Sharon has been told that the meter can be tested, but she is not sure of the costs. Stephen Kaufman then withdrew his motion and noted that he would like to have the meter tested. Ron DeIaco stated that since we did already tell Mr. Roth he had a credit, the credit should remain. He then asked Sharon to put together a letter to Mr. Roth that includes the costs of sending the meter away to be tested and the cost of the testing. If the meter comes back without an issue, Mr. Roth will be responsible for the costs and the entire 4th Quarter billing. If the meter comes back faulty, the Borough will pay the costs and credit the additional costs for the 4th Quarter bill. Borough Council and Mr. Roth agreed to this and, once he receives the letter from Sharon, he will sign off if he is still in agreement.

Public Comments – Jason Bartos was present to ask for Councils assistance with the property attached to his at 425 Franklin Street. The property is vacant and rodents are making their way into his home. There are also electric wires from this home that are through the attic to his property. He is very worried that there is a fire hazard here. Mr. Bartos said this was a rental property but after the property failed inspections, the property owner said he was going to fix it and sell it. As of this date, nothing has been done and the property is still not on the market. He would like to have the items corrected from the inspection. Dave Knerr noted that since it is no longer a rental property we cannot impose the fees for the work not being completed and we cannot force the owner to list the property. Council agreed that no one should have to live with these conditions and will let it up to the inspector. Sharon will contact Barry Isett and Associates and ask them to check on this property again.

Resident, Gary DeRoner was present and informed Council that the garbage company put his recycling in the regular garbage truck. Sharon will put this on the list of complaints that are called into the Borough.

Ordinance No. 554 – Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 554, an Ordinance amending codified Ordinances Section 12-403(b.1)(2) to revise the rates of employee contributions for coverage under the Borough's Health Plan to conform to the health plan contributions rates established under the current police collective bargaining agreement. The motion was 2nd by Stephen Kaufman and a unanimous vote followed.

Block Party Request – Hector Vazquez made a motion to allow a block party on September 19, 2019 along Lauren Drive, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

I & I Transfer – Sharon informed Council that \$100,000 was transferred into the I & I Escrow Account at the end of 2018.

Personnel Committee Report – Vanessa Taggart reported that the Personnel Committee held a meeting and it was attended by herself, Stephen Kaufman, Kathleen Raines, Gary Hartman, Tracy Malinowski and Sharon Trexler. It was an open forum with no true agenda. Maintenance has concerns regarding the equality of employees and this has brought moral down. Being on call is a big issue, especially now that they are down one guy. They have asked that they receive extra pay when on call. When back pay was given to the police department after the contract was settled, the same was not passed on to non-union employees and some were given extra vacation time without it being earned. Another concern is that nothing gets done regarding the cars parked in Ridgeview that are blocking the sidewalks. The office has no issues and believes they have a good working environment. Vanessa asked Council to keep some of the requests in mind for the future.

Wireless Update – Stephen Kaufman shared information regarding small wireless facilities. The House Bill did not go through, but it is expected to come up again. Steve would like us to be ahead of the game with fees, etc. for when this happens. Dave Knerr said that he could prepare something, but it would need to be looked at again when the bill goes through. Borough Council has no issue with this being done twice and would like Dave to work on this.

A motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.