

## Borough of Alburdis

### Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2021

The June 9, 2021 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00 p.m. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the meeting was held via video conference. The change in venue was announced on the Borough website and by a posting notice on the Borough Hall doors. The meeting was open to the public where participants could attend the meeting by using an assigned web link and access code.

#### Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco	Steve Hill	Vanessa Taggart	John Aleszczyk
Stephen Kaufman	Kathleen Raines	Hector Vazquez	

#### Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

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

#### Visitors in attendance:

Steve Werley	Gary DeRoner	William Harris
Steve Nemeth	Tom Moss	Chad Atkins
Michael Wambaugh	Steve Reichenbach	

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer received a thank you letter for participating in the school egg hunt. The box that was bought for the back of one of the police cars has been installed.

MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2021 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 26, 2021, Kathleen Raines 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JUNE 9, 2021 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of June 9, 2021, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Hector Vazquez made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Kathleen Raines 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMIN. REPORT – MAY – Kathleen Raines made a motion to approve the Admin. Report, Vanessa Taggart 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – MAY – Borough Council asked if future to do items can be added to this report. Sharon will talk to Donnie. Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Maintenance Report, Kathleen Raines 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE REPORT – The monthly report was reviewed. There were 12 calls in the Borough in May. Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the Macungie Ambulance Corps report, Steve Hill 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – John Aleszczyk questioned the work to be done so that properties along Chestnut Street do not get flooded back yards. This is being paid for with a grant and the residents came to Council. Council saw there was a problem and told the residents that we would fix it. John stated that his backyard floods all the time and no one has come to fix it. He does not believe it is our job to fix public property and will just result in more engineering fees. The grant that was received does not have work being done in the yards. Storm sewers are going to be installed to correct the issue. Vanessa Taggart made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

## ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – William Harris, a resident of Ridgeview Drive was present to discuss a fence that his neighbor is putting up to contain dogs. He alleged that the property has been neglected, toys and dog feces are not picked up. He wants to know where the fence will go and what kind of fence it will be. He believes the surrounding neighbors should be notified. Once a permit is approved, it becomes a public document, and this information can be obtained by filing a Right-to-Know Request with the Borough. He asked what can be done about the dog feces because he does not want to bother the police with this. Hector Vazquez told him that our local law enforcement is there to enforce our Ordinances and he should not feel as though he will bother them.

Brandon Bechtel – 121 S. Main Street – Mr. Bechtel is interested in purchasing 121 S. Main Street. This property is in the C-1 Commercial District in the Borough. His plan would be to put in a small café, an office and four multi-family apartments. It will be 25% Commercial and 75% Residential. Hector Vazquez questioned if the apartments will be long-term or short-term and was told long-term. He has worked with Sharon and Matt Walter of Barry Isett and Associates and knows he will need a Conditional Use to have the multi-family dwellings. He currently has an offer in on the property with a condition on it for approvals of the change of use. The current owner of the property would rather not have the sale held up, so Mr. Bechtel attended the Council Meeting to see if Council would be amenable to the changes. Ron DeIaco believes he is getting a sense from Council that they have no issues with the changes and Council agreed that they would welcome a new business.

Berkheimer – Correspondence was received from Berkheimer in regard to the collection of EIT money. The Borough is doing well and there has not been much of a change in the last year.

Resolution No. 2021-2 – ARPA Grant – Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-2, a Resolution authorizing the Council President and the Borough Manager to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Alburtis and the PA Department of Economic Development for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Drizzle Ice Cream – Sharon received an email from Steve Zola, the owner of Drizzle. He would like to have an event during the summer that would include a live band, food trucks and possibly ask the new brewery in Lower Macungie to attend as well. He has received permission from the owner of the property and is asking Council if they would allow this. It is on private property, so as long as everything is legal on his end, they would have no issue with it.

LVPC – Off Street Parking – The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission reviewed the Borough’s proposed off-street parking Ordinance, and their response was that the minor proposal was a matter of local concern and is generally consistent with FutureLV: The Regional Plan.

J.P. Mascaro – Correspondence – A letter was received from J.P. Mascaro that outlined a “new normal” with the operations due to the pandemic. They are short staffed and continue to explore new innovative ways of dealing with the “new normal”. They expressed appreciation to the Borough and thanked them for their loyalty. Sharon will post the letter on the Facebook Page.

State Police Fines – The Borough received \$394.56 in State Police Fines.

Scout Flag Box Dedication - The Bear Den of Cub Pack #431 will be presenting and dedicating a Flag Retirement Box at the Alburtis Borough Hall on Wednesday June 23, 2021 at 7pm. The Bear Den would like to invite the mayor, members of borough council, and members of the community to attend this presentation and dedication.

Engineer Request – Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott asked for Council’s permission to meet the company that quoted the basket system for the Borough. He believes it can be done for much less than the quote. John Aleszczyk asked how long the meeting will be and how much will it cost the Borough. Kathleen Raines stated that this issue needs to be fixed and he should meet with the company. Vanessa Taggart made a motion to allow the engineer to meet with the company, Steve Hill 2<sup>nd</sup>, John Aleszczyk was opposed, and the balance were ayes. John Aleszczyk stated he was in favor of the meeting, but not in favor of having no dollar limit for the meeting.

Meetings – Steve Hill asked if, once vaccinations are at 70%, will we return to in person meetings and Dave Knerr replied that Zoom meetings will end once the Statute ends. We could probably have some members at Borough Hall and the balance still doing remote meetings. We are going to receive money from the stimulus and Sharon is looking into cameras for this. Hector said there are Zoom cameras and Kathleen Palmer stated that Emmaus just started doing meetings like this as well.

Military Flags – Resident, William Harris, asked Council if they have considered placing military flags on the poles like other municipalities have done. This is something Sharon is working on and more information should be available in the Winter Newsletter.

A motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.