

Borough of Alburdis

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2019

The July 10, 2019 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council Vice-President Steve Hill at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburdis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

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

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

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

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner	Nicole Burton
Marion Tremmel	Mike Gerhart
James Thamarus	Rose Thamarus

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer officiated at a wedding on July 9th. The couple made a \$150.00 donation and donated the \$50.00 deposit. The checks were made payable to the Borough. Sharon has talked about having a pavilion built on the Church property and Mayor Palmer asked if these checks can be put into a fund for this purpose. Hector Vazquez made a motion to set up an escrow account, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

POLICE REPORT – No Report

MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2019 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 26, 2019, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JULY 10, 2019 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of July 10, 2019, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

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

LOWER MACUNGIE FIRE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – The quarterly report was reviewed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – The report submitted by Jeff Ott, Borough Engineer, was reviewed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – None

Post Office – The Post Office has sent letters to the residents of the Ridgeview Development regarding moving their mailboxes. The letters instructed some residents to relocate their mailboxes to the other side of the street. The mailboxes are to be in order by number and should be no less than two on each post. This has raised concerns and has upset many of the residents. Nicole Burton, Marion Tremmel, James Thamarus and Rose Thamarus were present to voice their concerns as to the deadline to have this done and the placement being recommended by the Postal Service. Steve Hill told residents that the Borough was not notified ahead of time that this was being done and, unfortunately, the Borough cannot do anything to change this.

Post Office – (cont.) - Steve Hill suggested people contact Susan Wilde and voice their concerns. Stephen Kaufman spoke with the Postmaster and was referred to Sue Powell. Sue Powell said the Post Office only has to give two weeks' notice for changes and they do not have to deliver the mail during the day. Hector Vazquez met with Sue Powell and was told the same as Stephen Kaufman and that the residents would have to work it out with their neighbors. Kathleen Raines noted that, originally, Ridgeview was not to have mail delivery. In order to have cluster boxes, all residents in the development must agree. This does not seem likely. Resident, Gary DeRoner asked what prompted this and Steve Hill replied that it is probably because it should be more effective for the Post Office. James Thamarus said the Borough painted the curb yellow and this is prompting the Post Office to have residents place their new boxes in this area. Steve Hill replied that the curbs were painted because state law dictates that there must be a site triangle.

Fireworks – Resident, Mike Gerhart, was present to voice his concerns regarding the excessive use of fireworks in the Borough. Since Borough Council passed the Ordinance, the fireworks seem to have gotten worse. There were many complaints in regards to how the police handled the situation. Vanessa Taggart said her neighbor put cones in the cul-de-sac on Roberts Street so that they could set off fireworks. The police were called and made them move the cones, but did nothing about the fireworks. Hector Vazquez asked what the sense of having the Ordinance if the police, who are paid by the residents, won't enforce it. Council also questioned why there was only one officer on duty after they were told there would be more officers on duty this year. The residents were promised last year that there would not be a repeat of all the fireworks. Mayor Palmer told the owner of the Tavern that someone was setting fireworks off on his property, but he did not seem bothered by it. Steve Hill apologized to Mr. Gerhart and said that this should not have happened. Mr. Gerhart would like to meet with the Chief and Mayor Palmer said she would arrange it. Mayor Palmer told Council she would have the chief at the next meeting to explain.

Resolution No. 2019-4 – PA Multimodal Grant – Bicentennial Village – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-4, A Resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Alburtis and the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant.

Disaster Recovery Plan – Stephen Kaufman would like the Borough to have a Disaster Recovery Plan in place in the event that something happens to Borough Hall or in case the Borough is targeted by Ransomware. It would consist of a document that states how to get back in business and would list computers, software and all other necessary components to run the Borough. Sharon will work on this with him.

HVAC – Maintenance Agreement – The office has received a Maintenance Agreement from Burkholder's and also from D & D. Even though Burkholder's put the new unit in Borough Hall, Council would like to continue our Agreement with D & D.

Lower Macungie Township – Correspondence – Lower Macungie Township is amending some of their existing Zoning Ordinances and sent the highlights of these changes to Borough Council for review. Borough Council has no comment at this time.

Safety Bollards – Bollards were discussed for School and S. Main Streets. Sharon will talk to Donnie to determine where else they could be placed so that trucks do not destroy more property. It is important for all to know that Council stands behind Sherryann Oels on the decision made to have the bollards. The decision is not being made because she is on Council, but for the trucks to stop destroying her property.

Crime Victims Council – Correspondence was reviewed from the Crime Victims Council.

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – The Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting on Thursday, July 18th to discuss a change of use for the property at 337 Franklin Street and for a request to place a fence four inches from a property line as opposed to the required 12 inches.

Chamber Luncheon – The Chamber is having a luncheon in September and would like someone to speak for about 5-7 minutes about the Borough. Sharon is not comfortable doing this and it was suggested that Ron DeIaco speak on behalf of the Borough. Mayor Palmer might be able to help also, if needed.

Council Meeting – We have asked Harold Frey to attend the next Council meeting on July 31st. Members of the local community groups are planning on attending as well as members of the community. The Council meeting will be held at the Alburdis Area Community Center.

A motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Stephen Kaufman and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.