

Borough of Alburdis

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020

The June 10, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council Vice-President Steve Hill at 7:03 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 (7:10)	Steve Hill	Kathleen Raines	Vanessa Taggart
John Aleszczyk	Stephen Kaufman	Hector Vazquez	

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager	Kathleen Palmer, Mayor
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Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner Chad Atkins Steve Reichenbach

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer reported that the Police Department was pulling trucks over once again and inspections are also being done. Mayor Palmer also reported that she has spoken to Chief Palmer and, due to recent calls for backup, they would like to purchase six helmets and six shields for the Department. The helmets cost \$134.59 a piece and the shields are \$154.99 each. Hector Vazquez made a motion to purchase the helmets and shields, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2020 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 27, 2020, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JUNE 10, 2020 – John Aleszczyk stated that the Engineering bills are out of hand and Hector Vazquez agreed adding that this job has been taking way too long. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to pay the bills of June 10, 2020, Vanessa Taggart 2nd, John Aleszczyk is opposed to the Engineering Bills and the balance were ayes.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Steve Hill made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS MONTHLY REPORT – The monthly Macungie Ambulance Corps Report was reviewed. There were seven calls in the Borough in May.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Resident, Chad Atkins, informed Council that he and Steve Reichenbach have been working with Officer Lubenetski to start the Town Watch Program again. They are looking to meet on Sunday evening at Borough Hall. Mayor Palmer is aware of this and suggested they meet at the pavilion at the park.

Resident Concerns – A message was received from a resident that resides in Ridgeview. She is requesting that yellow lines be painted in front of her mailbox. She is never able to receive her mail. She is also requesting speed humps be placed on Ridgeview Drive. There is a lot of traffic and most people are not doing the speed limit or stopping at the stop signs.

Resident Concerns – (cont.) - Council does not want to paint any more curbs yellow due to the restrictions in parking and they do not wish to place speed humps all over the Borough. Mayor Palmer said the police are aware of the situation and will be spending more time in that area issuing tickets.

Phone System – Sharon checked to see if the existing phone system could be compatible with an app to transfer phone calls. The system cannot do this, and the existing phones cannot be upgraded to Voice Over IP. Hector Vazquez is all for converting the system. He feels we should be looking to the future sooner than later and especially since no one knows how long this pandemic will last and if it will happen again. Right now, the office staff are using their personal phones and if someone leaves a message, it goes to their phone, not the phone messaging system. Council does not wish to spend money on this right now but would like to budget for it next year.

Maintenance Cell Phones – Sharon was told that all the maintenance cell phones need to be replaced. Council questioned why all four phones would go bad at once. John Aleszczyk believes it is the Verizon network, not the phones. He is having problems with the service right now also. Council does not want to replace all the phones right now.

Recreation Areas – Residents are asking when the Rec Areas will be opened back up. The baseball coordinator would like to hold practice with no more than 10-12 kids. Council is in favor of opening the areas back up, but the dugouts should not be used, and the port-o-lets will not be placed out yet. Sharon will prepare signs for maintenance to post at all areas reminding them of how to stay safe.

Hockey Sign – The Hockey Sign is rotting away. Kathleen Raines travelled to Zern's several times to have the sign made. It should have been shellacked every year. Council asked if she would consider a vinyl sign placed there. Sharon will check into options for a vinyl sign.

Mulch – Maintenance would like to purchase mulch for the playground. Now that the playground is open, Council has no issue with purchasing playground mulch. Hector asked Sharon to see if they would consider using rubber mulch. This would last longer than standard playground mulch. Hector Vazquez made a motion to purchase mulch for the playground, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Police Car – The old 9-04 is ready to be placed out to bid. Sharon will ask Donnie for the information to give to Dave Knerr. Hector Vazquez made a motion to have Dave Knerr advertise the bid for the car, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Correspondence was received from LVPC regarding a sketch plan proposing a development on a portion of the Brookside Country Club.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Correspondence was received from LVPC regarding proposed apartments on Tilghman Street in Emmaus Borough.

Grass and Brush Dumpsters – Sharon heard from the Lower Macungie Township Manager regarding the proposal of the Borough using their dump site. This is not able to happen at this time and he apologized for the inconvenience.

Interim Act 537 Plan Update – The Alburtis Planning Commission met last night viz Zoom and Liesel Gross of Lehigh County Authority was present to explain the Interim Act 537 Plan. The Planning Commission made a motion to recommend Borough Council adopt a Resolution approving the Plan. This will be on the August 12, 2020 Agenda.

Fourth of July – Vanessa Taggart asked that it be verified that extra police will be on duty on the Fourth of July. Mayor Palmer said all officers will be working. They will be in the patrol cars, on foot, on bicycle and in plain clothes for the Fourth. Citations will be issued. Ron DeIaco suggested that extra coverage is on for the entire weekend. Stephen Kaufman suggested that two phone blasts be put out to the residents also. Sharon will take care of this.

E. Penn Avenue – Hector Vazquez voiced a concern about a sight issue below where the new parking lot was placed. He asked if our Maintenance Department can check this out. Sharon will talk to Donnie Derr to see if it is our responsibility.

Speed Sign – Hector Vazquez told Council that his neighbors thanked them for placing the speed sign on W. 2nd Street. They ask if it can be placed facing the opposite direction also. Sharon will give this request to the Chief.

Town Watch – Resident, Steve Reichenbach, confirmed with Officer Lubenetski that the meeting, mentioned earlier during the Public Comments, will be held at the Lockridge Park Pavilion on Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Roof – A quote has been received to replace the roof at Borough Hall. It is believed to have hail damage. Sharon asked Council if they want to her submit it to insurance. Council would like to proceed with a claim.

A motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.