

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2023

The May 10, 2023, 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, Alburtis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco Steve Hill Chad Atkins Mehmet Birtek
John Aleszczyk Ashlynn Rivera Hector Moss

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor Kathleen Palmer, Mayor
Stephen Nemeth, Manager Tony Alsleben- Police Chief

Visitors in attendance: Steve Werley Leon Jackson, Norfolk Southern Thomas's 22 Ultra

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment was made.

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Mayor's report was submitted.

POLICE REPORT- No comment was made. Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Police Report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 26th, 2023 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 26, 2023, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – MAY 10, 2023 – Hector Moss questioned if the Hockey nets were coming out of the park and rec fund. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that the hockey nets will come out of parks and rec, but the overall bill is a combination of items since it's the credit card bill. Hector Moss made a motion to pay the bills of May 10, 2023, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jon Aleszczyk mentioned that we are not looking too well; said fines for trucks are way down. Doesn't know if it's a fining thing and expenses are over. Budgeted for a small loss, we are headed for a large loss. Hector Moss made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – The Macungie Ambulance Corps report was reviewed. There were eleven calls in the Borough in April. Hector Moss made a motion to accept the Macungie Ambulance Report, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – John Aleszczyk. Ron mentioned that there are a lot of projects going on. Ron mentioned that he drove by church st and seen that they laid the rock for the sidewalk and the tree were removed. Looks like the project is moving along nicely. Hector Moss made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY- Leon Jackson from Norfolk Southern presented a presentation of Operation Lifesaver, Real Safety Education. They go through discussing the dangers of railroads and being on railroad property. The only thing a train can do is put its brakes on. They have been seeing an increase in pedestrian traffic on the tracks. The presentation highlighted how long it takes for a train to stop. Also, included are the steps that need to be taken when stuck on the tracks: First, get out of car, second move away from tracks, third call the number on the ENS blue sign, and then call 911. Every ENS sign has an identification number. Leon wants to emphasize the importance of the ENS sign. Hector asked if there was a way that we could use

this info on our borough website. Leon Jackson mentioned he could send us the links to post. Kathy asked Leon if he had the opportunity to look at the crossings in the borough, Leon confirmed. Tony Alsleben mentioned that he has gathered data about w Penn Ave; records show between 2013-2020 there were 19 incidents and 9 incidents since last year. Tony asked if this would be considered a redundant crossing in Norfolk Southern standards, his main concern is he wants to avoid tragedy. Leon mentioned that lights and signs don't make a crossing safer. Warning devices are vehicular devices; the railroad has no control over, they leave it up to the municipality to decide if they want to put up warning signs or not. Tony asked if Leon had a ranking system on the crossings Leon mentioned that he doesn't, but the FAA does, and it's called webaps. Leon did a search of all the Norfolk Southern crossings, Main st is ranked 68th while West Penn Ave is listed 12th worst in the state. Kathy Palmer asked with west Penn being ranked 12th worst, what could be done. Leon mentioned exactly what we are doing now, bringing attention to it. Dave Knerr asked if he understands what Norfolk can provide but are there any recommendations that can be provided. Leon mentioned they often look at similar situations and consider improving another crossing in order to consolidate with another. Dave Knerr asked if there was anything that we can do to address west pen nave. Leon mentioned that the Railroad has enough right away in that area to make a cald-e-sac or a turnaround in that location. Not a popular option when it comes to public safety, it's not thought about until tragedy happens. Tony mentioned that he is concerned that there have been 9 incidents this year alone. Kathy mentioned it is something that really needs to be considered to prevent a tragedy. Hector asked if we would want gates placed at w pen nave, we would have to pay for them? Leon mentioned that the railroad has no say in traffic control measures, that comes down to a decision between PennDOT, PUC, and the borough. Ron mentioned that he appreciated Leon for bringing the presentation and his knowledge.

RECOMMEDATION TO PAY ENTECH- Hector Moss made a motion to Pay Entech, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

RECOMMENDATION TO PAY CHANGE ORDER TO LINDE- John's main concern is that this project was completed in November, why are we getting bills now. This is why projects like this, and Bicentennial Village worry him. Steve Hill made the motion to pay the change order, motion was 2nd by Chad Atkins, and followed by a nonunanimous vote followed, concluding with a 5-2 vote in favor of the motion.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-nay	Aleszczyk-nay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
-------------	-----------	----------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

FRANKLIN ST PRICE ADJUSTMENTS- Hector Moss mentioned that he was concern about the prices, Mehmet Birtek mentioned that it's a general trend that prices will come down but not too much; Hector Moss mentioned that we received this on Monday, why would they wait until they start the project to send the price increases. Hector said with the escalator clause, what is the limit in the escalator clause? Why did they wait less than 30 days to submit? Stephen Nemeth mentioned that this is a project that was held up by PennDOT with the permit. Hector Moss mentioned that this is a project that was planned a year ago, they should have purchased the material then. Steve Hill mentioned where they would have stored it. Chad mentioned what if the permit still wasn't issued. Hector Moss mentioned that is not his concern. Hector Moss mentioned that he would like more notice to have them search for better costs. Ron mentioned that when you go out for a bid, you get a number, he admits that we've been slow, but PennDOT has held us up for a year and a half, prices go up. Hector Moss asked if there was an escalator clause, Stephen Nemeth mentioned yes. John Aleszczyk mentioned that he wants to know the escalator clause. No motion was needed.

SCHOOL STREET- Stephen Nemeth mentioned that everything is COSTARS, just trying to get the approval to purchase the items this way we can send the receipts back for reimbursement of the grant. Hector Moss made the motion to purchase the material and begin the project. Motion was 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera, and a unanimous vote followed.

BICENTENNIAL VILLAGE- Stephen Nemeth mentioned this is more so an item just to let everyone review the agenda for the presentation of Bicentennial Village that will be held at the AACC on May 24th at 6:30pm with the doors opening at 6pm. Stephen Nemeth wanted to see if anybody had any additions for the agenda. John Aleszczyk asked if he was the property owner, will it be the driveways or sidewalks that are being impacted and do we know that data. Mehmet Birtek wanted to bring up since we are starting a project a year out, if we promise people this will get done and then we run out of money how will it be paid. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that at the Engineers meeting we asked Ott to begin the bid in August instead of the original timeframe. We will then have time to seek additional funding through grants and appropriations. Won't know how much it will cost until the bid package is put together though. Hector Moss asked if there was a way to not provide the bidding process so early in advance. Stephen Nemeth mentioned from his guess what happened with franklin everything was set up smoothly except for the HOPs, nobody expected to take a year to receive the permit. Dave Knerr mentioned don't forget to write the bid specifications, so we can specify the bid how we want, if there is going to be an escalator clause to delay the start of the project, price changes are to be expected, both parties take that risk.

CHAMBER MAIN STREET GRANT-Stephen Nemeth mentioned this is the grant that Sharon would always apply for to get the holiday banners and stuff like that. There is a 50 percent matching fee. Steve Hill mentioned he would prefer to wait until we finish the major projects.

PA ACT 299- Stephen Nemeth just wanted to inform everyone of this Bill that passed the house. Which will allow OSHA to inspect public work locations. It passed the house, Stephen Nemeth mentioned he asked Schlossberg who cowrote the bill when it will hit the senate floor, Schlossberg had no timetable at the moment. Dave Knerr mentioned since it passed the house this is no longer just a dream bill, its most likely going to land on the floor in the near future, so this is your opportunity to make a comment on the bill.

Executive session with no vote to be taken after executive session.

A motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. was made by Steve Hill, 2nd by Mehmet Birtek, and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.