

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2021

The August 11, 2021 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. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco	Steve Hill	Vanessa Taggart	John Aleszczyk
Kathleen Raines	Hector Vazquez	Chad Atkins (7:15)	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
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Visitors in attendance:

Sandie Capparell, Court Reporter	Brandon Bechtel, Beaver Run Realty, LLC
June Croisette	Joel Bechtel
Rachael Bechtel	Regan Detweiler
Sarah Stuber	Gary DeRoner
Susan Hercek	Stephen Nemeth
Chad Atkins	Mehmet Birtek
Steve Werley	Carol Hill, Notary

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS – Six persons expressed an interest in filling the vacant Council seat due to the resignation of Stephen Kaufman. Thomas Gorr asked to be removed from the list, Ashley Diefenderfer was not eligible due to not being a registered voter, Renee Francis and Brett Heimbach were unable to attend and Chad Atkins and Stephen Nemeth were both present. The term will end on December 31, 2021, and a two-year term will be placed on the ballot. After discussion with Mr. Atkins and Mr. Nemeth, Ron DeIaco opened up nominations. Hector Vazquez nominated Stephen Nemeth and Steve Hill nominated Chad Atkins. Hearing no other nominations, Hector Vazquez made a motion to close the nominations, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

John Aleszczyk – Chad Atkins
Kathleen Raines – Chad Atkins
Steve Hill – Chad Atkins

Hector Vazquez – Stephen Nemeth
Vanessa Taggart – Stephen Nemeth
Ron DeIaco – Chad Atkins

The vote was 4:2 in favor of Chad Atkins. Chad Atkins verified his residency and was then sworn into office by Carol Hill. Steve Hill encouraged that anyone interested get involved with one of the boards with vacancies. Kathleen Raines agreed and said, as Park and Rec Chair, there openings there on Park and Rec.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mehmet Birtek questioned what vacancies were open and was told Park and Rec, Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission and Civil Service. Anyone can contact Sharon if interested.

MAYOR’S REPORT – No Report

MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2021 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 28, 2021, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – AUGUST 11, 2021 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to pay the bills of August 11, 2021, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Ron asked John Aleszczyk if he would like to be put back on Budget due to the vacancy and he replied yes. Hector Vazquez made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMIN. REPORT – JULY – Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the Admin Report, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – JULY – The report was received too late and will be added to the next agenda. Kathleen Raines questioned when the swing would be done and was told it would be finished next week.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE REPORT – The monthly report was reviewed. There were 9 calls in the Borough in July.

ADMINISTRATION

Conditional Use Hearing – A Conditional Use Hearing was held regarding the property at 121 S. Main Street, Alburtis, PA. The applicant, Beaver Run Realty, LLC, is proposing two commercial units and five residential units in the main building, plus the single-family dwelling that is currently in the existing carriage house, as permitted in the C-1 Commercial District as a conditional use pursuant to Codified Ordinance §21-704(k). The proposal includes two commercial units on the first floor with one of them being a small café and the other a small office. The balance of the property will be split into five apartments. No one in the room is opposed to the proposal but neighboring property owner, Susan Hercek, had a few concerns regarding parking, fencing and mail. The applicant, Brandon Bechtel, responded that there is enough parking according to the Ordinance and the fencing will be taken care of. He does not anticipate putting buckets in concrete out for mail. With no issues from Council concerning the application, Dave Knerr will draw up a Zoning Agreement for the next meeting and Council will vote on their final decision at that time.

W. Second Street Paving Cost – Maintenance Supervisor, Donnie Derr submitted new quotes to pave W. Second Street. The first quote is, once again, for the complete road up to Flint Hill to be done for \$32,150 and the 2nd quote is for half of the road to be done for \$19,600. Council only asked for the one section of the road to be done. John Aleszczyk questioned why a storm drain was going to be installed when it would have no where to go. Hector also believes this can be done without a new storm drain. It was mentioned that, with 16 hours a week dedicated to mowing, that maybe this should just go out to bid. Hector and Vanessa agreed that last year, Council decided that all road paving would go out to bid. Sharon mentioned that we would be helping Macungie soon and the plan would be to work on this road after that, so things would have to be scheduled soon if we are going to proceed. After further discussion, Hector Vazquez made the motion to repave the smaller portion of the road, Kathleen 2nd, John Aleszczyk was opposed because he believes there are worse roads in the Borough to spend money on.

Water Line Locator – Three quotes were presented to purchase a water line locator for Maintenance. The lowest is \$2,340, but this is a lite version. Donnie was contacting our salesperson to see if they can lower their quote of \$2,902, but we have not heard back yet. Hector Vazquez made a motion to purchase a locator, not to exceed \$2,400, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Back Parking Lots – A quote for \$650 was received from M & L Sealcoating to do the back parking areas and redo the handicap placard. Council agreed that Sharon can approve purchases up to \$1,000 without bringing them to Council.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Correspondence was received from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission in regard to 808 N. Third Street, Emmaus. Council has no comments at this time.

Cameras – Hector Vazquez would like to allow Sharon to purchase a camera for the Council room to make it easier to video the meetings. This is needed and we are waiting to see if the ARPA Funds can be used for this purchase. Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase.

Handicap Ramp – John Aleszczyk asked what the status of the handicap ramp is on Franklin and School Streets. We have not heard back from the contractor, but Sharon will contact Penn Dot. Ron asked Sharon to also contact them regarding the pipe that is on Franklin Street that is clogged.

A motion to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. was made by Vanessa Taggart, 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.

Executive Session – An Executive Session was called at 9:14 p.m. for Personnel and ended at 9:55 p.m.