

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2020

The August 12, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:04 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	Hector Vazquez	Kathleen Raines	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager	Kathleen Palmer, Mayor
Dave Kutzor, Zoning Officer		

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner Chad Atkins

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer informed Council that the shields and helmets that were ordered by the police have been delivered.

The Mayor also told Council that the Chief would like an Ordinance for unattached trailers parked on the street. Dave Knerr asked where they would put all the signs. The more streets you want to enforce this on, the more signs you will need. Steve Hill suggested the Highway Committee look into this.

The Mayor thanked the Maintenance Department and the Fire Department for the storm coverage. Sharon added that the office did a great job as well, she was not in and the office handled the situation very well.

MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 29, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 29, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – AUGUST 12, 2020 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to pay the bills of July 29, 2020, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Hector Vazquez 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 June.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Zoning Officer, Dave Kutzor, was present to ask Council how he should handle the Terry Bender permit. A permit was submitted to put three apartments where the Tavern Banquet Hall currently is. Dave Knerr said the permit should be denied because it is a change of use. Dave Kutzor replied that there were apartments there previously. Per Dave Knerr, Mr. Bender filed for Conditional Use for the Banquet Hall and now the use is changing again so it would need to go to Planning Commission and then to Council for a Conditional Use Hearing. Dave Kutzor then asked Council if he was allowed to sign the permit because he was told a couple of years ago that he could not do any more work for Mr. Bender.

Public Comment – (cont.) – Mayor Palmer stated that this would be a conflict of interest. Dave Kutzor was asked if his employer, Keystone Consulting would be involved, and he replied that they were not currently involved but it could happen. Hector Vazquez believes it would be okay for Dave Kutzor to take care of the permit if Keystone is not involved, Ron agreed and Steve Hill made a motion to allow Dave Kutzor to handle the permitting for The Alburtis Tavern Banquet facility, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a roll call vote followed:

Steve Hill	Yes	Stephen Kaufman	No	Hector Vazquez	No
John Aleszczyk	No	Kathleen Raines	Yes	Vanessa Taggart	No
Ron DeIaco	Yes				

The motion was denied with a vote of 4:3.

Dave Kutzor thanked the Council members who supported him and stated that Sharon will get more zoning permits than before since he is friends with other residents who apply for permits. Sharon informed Council that she has no issue with fences, pools and sheds, but she is not qualified for most of the permitting. Stephen Kaufman stated that in the past, the Engineer acted as Zoning Officer for these situations. Sharon will send the permit to Jeff Ott.

Dave Kutzor was also present to ask if Council would permit the Wildland's Conservancy to enter the Bird Sanctuary to assess what could be done with it. Ron DeIaco said that Council had decided earlier in the year that this topic would not be discussed until after Covid is done. Dave Kutzor replied that it is normal business and should be discussed now as all normal business is. He also said the Ron should abstain from making any decision on the Bird Sanctuary due to his connection with it. Stephen Kaufman does not believe that to be true. Kathleen Raines noted that the Bird Sanctuary is a dump and needs to be cleaned up. The discussion was tabled.

Resolution No. 2020-6 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-6, A Resolution to adopt and submit to the Department of Environmental Protection for its approval of the Interim Act 547 Plan. The motion was 2nd by Stephen Kaufman and a unanimous vote followed.

Borough Alleys – Maintenance Supervisor, Donnie Derr provided a list of three alleys that are in the worst condition. John Aleszczyk stated that there is money in an escrow account, and they should repair all three alleys. Sharon mentioned that Ash Alley is a major project and may take up the most time. Hector agreed and said they could do as much as they could with the alleys this year. Ron and the balance of Council agreed.

Cyber Liability Insurance – Sharon was asked by the insurance carrier if we would be interested in obtaining a quote for cyber-attacks. Stephen Kaufman does not see any harm in obtaining a quote but would like to know what our normal insurance would cover also. Hector Vazquez made a motion for Sharon to obtain a quote, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Holiday Festival – Sharon asked Council if they wanted to proceed with plans for the Holiday Festival. She did not book the Surrey as of yet due to the virus. Steve Hill noted that a lot of work goes into the planning and does not think it would be safe. Council agreed and Hector asked if we could do something in its place virtually. This will be looked into and placed on a September Agenda.

Borough of Emmaus – Correspondence was received from the Borough of Emmaus regarding Zoning changes. Council has no comment at this time.

Multimodal Grant – The new round of grants is due in September. Sharon would like to have the engineer apply for the remainder of the work to be done in Bicentennial Village. Borough Council agreed that this would be a good project.

Noise Ordinance – John Aleszczyk mentioned to Council that the noise coming from the warehouses early in the morning is ridiculous. Lower Macungie Township should have a noise ordinance to control it. Sharon checked on this and they do not have start and stop times for construction.

Mailbox - Lockridge Lane – Hector Vazquez and Sharon have received complaints regarding a mailbox that was placed in the sidewalk on Lockridge Lane. It is further back from where the curb meets the sidewalk. Dave Knerr stated that it must be removed if it is in the right of way. Sharon will contact the resident.

Macungie Ambulance – Steve Hill informed Council that Macungie Ambulance is having a blood drive and asked if it could be placed on our website. Sharon will take care of this.

Hurricane – Thank You – Hector Vazquez asked if something can be arranged for the Fire Department and the Maintenance crew to thank them for the hard work during the hurricane. Steve Hill thought we should also include the office staff and the Police Department. Everyone played their part that day. Council agreed with this. Sharon will arrange this for the staff and Kathleen Palmer said she would arrange to have an ice cream truck and pizza taken to the Fire Department when they train in Alburtis.

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