

Borough of Alburdis

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2022

The April 13, 2022 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President, Ron DeLaco At 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburdis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Ronald DeLaco

Steve Hill

Hector Moss

Chad Atkins

John Aleszczyk

Stephen Nemeth

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

David Knerr, Solicitor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Chief Tony Alsleben

Visitors in attendance:

Mehmet Birtek

Christopher Greb, Macungie Ambulance Corps

Gary DeRoner

Steve Werley

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COUNCIL POSITION – With the resignation of Vanessa Taggart, there is an open Council position. Mehmet Birtek was present and informed Council that he is interested in the position. Mr. Birtek lives on Racite Road. He is married with three children. He previously worked on Wall Street and has more recently taken a more local position buying and selling for a non-national food service. While in Brooklyn, he participated in several events. John Aleszczyk asked what he would contribute to the Borough and Mr. Birtek said he is still learning about how things are handled in Pennsylvania. Hector Vazquez made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2022-5 to fill in the blank with Mehmet Birtek's name, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. John Aleszczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-5, as amended, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Mayor Palmer swore Mr. Birtek in with a term ending 12/31/2023 and he was welcomed to Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

POLICE REPORT – Chief Alsleben was present and had a few items for Council. There was a meeting at Borough Hall with Ryan Mackenzie to look for alternatives regarding truck traffic and trying to see how other municipalities are managing it. He is hoping the Sauerkraut extension will alleviate the traffic. Ron suggested reaching out to the warehouses and John said that will not work since the drivers are different. Steve Hill suggested someone attend a Township meeting to see why the extension is not completed. Chief Alsleben is looking into the fine scales. Some of the fines affect their CDL's and this could function as a deterrent.

The Chief is in the process of hiring part-timers. The biggest challenge right now is getting manpower.

The tasers we currently have are two versions old and are obsolete. There is a Taser program which is a five-year plan and offers full support over the life of the contract. The startup cost is \$5,000 with a yearly cost of \$2,712. We currently budget \$2,500 a year for tasers. John Aleszczyk stated that we usually do not use the budgeted amount every year so nothing will be saved with this program. Chief Alsleben responded that it is a safety issue. One of our officers needed the taser and it failed. Luckily, a neighboring department had a working taser. Hector Moss asked if the tasers could be purchased once the contract is up and was told yes. Chad Atkins made a motion to enter into a contract for the tasers, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed with John noting that his was a cautious approval.

POLICE REPORT (Cont.) – Looking at operations, Chief Alsleben noted that Bob Palmer did a lot of good, and processes are all established. The Chief stated that document management needs to be addressed. The Police Manual is from 2010 and in the current day of liabilities, we can get sued if there is not a current policy. There is no way to prove an officer understands the policies. Power DMS provides for policies, training, quizzes, etc. If there is a new policy, an officer would need to log in and sign off stating they read and understand the policy. Everything is in one spot and the office can also utilize the system as it can have up to 19 users. The setup cost is \$6,353 and the annual cost is \$4,853. Sharon suggested we use ARPA funds for the setup. John Aleszczyk asked if it was cloud based and was told yes. Hector Moss made a motion to purchase Power DMS, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

The Chief will be hosting a “Meet the Chief” night tomorrow and will be serving light refreshments. Ron asked the Chief if he was doing school traffic and was told yes.

MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 30, 2022 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 30, 2022, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – APRIL 13, 2022 – Stephen Nemeth made a motion to pay the bills of April 13, 2022, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – John noted that we are overbudget in several places, including uniforms and police overtime and we are at 25% already in other areas. Hector Moss made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMIN. REPORT – MARCH – Hector Moss made a motion to accept the Admin Report, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – MARCH – No report

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – Chris Greb of the Macungie Ambulance Corps was present their annual report. They responded to 4,456 calls in 2021 and 132 of the calls were in the Borough. With the pandemic, call volume was significantly up. Three ambulances were on during the pandemic. They currently have 14 full time employees, and they purchase two new vehicles. A Memorial Fund was set up in the name of Marissa Frey and this pays for training for fire and police. Outreach was less during the pandemic but is increasing again. Chris thanked Council for their ongoing support and Council thanked the Ambulance Corps for what they do for the Borough.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Hector Moss made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Bid Opening – There was one bid received for the Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course Project. The bid as a base bid for Thomas Street in the amount of \$66,628.69 and an alternate bid for Lauren Drive and the balance of Thomas Street in the amount of \$36,351.28. Steve Hill made a motion to accept the base bid in the amount of \$66,628.69, John Aleszczyk 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Steve Hill made a motion to accept the alternate bid of \$33,351.28, Chad Atkins 2nd and a roll call vote followed:

Steve Hill – Yes	Hector Moss – No
Chad Atkins – Yes	Mehmet Birtek – abstained
Stephen Nemeth – Yes	John Aleszczyk – No
Ron DeIaco – Yes	

The vote passed 4:2 with one abstention.

Franklin Street Curb and Sidewalk – Recommendation to Award – Based on the recommendation from the Borough Engineer, Jeffrey Ott, Hector Moss made a motion to award the Franklin Street Multimodal Improvements Project to Grace Industries in the amount of \$493,982.00. The motion was 2nd by Chad Atkins and a unanimous vote followed.

Penske Logistics – Earth Day – Sharon received an email regarding projects in the Borough for Penske to help with on Earth Day. The Borough currently does not have any clean up projects as our Maintenance Department keeps the Borough properties well maintained. Sharon will have him contact the Fire Department and the AACC. They may be able to use some help with the pool. Mayor Palmer asked if anyone else saw the large cracks in the pool again. This happens every year. Steve Hill mentioned that Atlas makes pool putty, and he would be able to donate some to the pool. Sharon will reach out to the AACC regarding this.

Summer Help – Grass Cutting – Ron DeIaco would like to hire one or two persons to help with the grass cutting this year. John Aleszczyk is against doing this and Hector Moss mentioned that we have not had help the last couple of years. John suggested that this is readdressed if an issue arises.

Executive Session – An Executive Session was called at 8:19 for Personnel. The Executive Session ended at 8:55 with no action taken.

A motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. was made by Hector Moss, 2nd by Stephen Nemeth and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.