

Borough of Alburdis

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2020

The May 13, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00 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	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	Jordan Keuler	Kathryn Gonzalez
	Chad Atkins	Steve Reichenbach	

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Palmer reported that she picked up thermometers for the Police and Maintenance.

MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 29, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 29, 2020, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – MAY 13, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of May 13, 2020, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT’S REPORT – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant’s Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Steve Hill made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS MONTHLY REPORT – Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the Macungie Ambulance Corps Monthly Report, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Hector Vazquez asked Council if he was able to purchase speed humps and have them placed on W. Second Street between Main and Chestnut Streets. He has been speaking with his neighbors and they are concerned about the speeding traffic going by. Most vehicles do not stop at the stop signs. John Aleszczyk does not want to see them all over the Borough and the costs is too much. Hector replied that he would purchase them, not the Borough. Ron DeIaco suggested the police sit there and stop the cars. John reminded Council that we have a speed sign that can be placed there. Mayor Palmer stated that the construction vehicles are speeding through here every day and Kathleen Raines said they were doing that on Third Street also. Hector also mentioned that the construction company is leaving stones all over the road and these get kicked up when they go through. Steve Hill suggested that for now, the sign be placed on W. Second and John suggested the police talk with the contractor.

Resolution No. 2020-4 – Two versions of this Resolution were discussed. One extended the discount period for Property Taxes until June 30, 2020 and waived late fees for Property Taxes until December 31, 2020. After discussion, Council was not comfortable with waiving the late fees for that long. Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-4, a Resolution extending the discount period for 2020 Real Property Taxes to June 30, 2020, the motion was 2nd by Steve Hill and a unanimous vote followed.

Water Sewer and Garbage Bills – When the pandemic began, some members of Council mentioned no late fees be put on accounts. Sharon asked if this was still the case and was told no, late fees should be applied.

Grant Reimbursement – We have started receiving reimbursements for the Small Water & Sewer grants. \$100,000 was received last week and this will be split between water and sewer. Another payment is to arrive soon also.

Parking Lot - Sealing – A quote to seal the Borough Parking areas was received in the amount of \$1,510.00 and another for the Maintenance areas in the amount of \$978.00. Borough Council does not wish to spend any unnecessary money this year and asked if this really needed to be done this year and, if so, they would like more quotes.

Garbage Contract – With the Chair of Sanitation, Kathleen Raines, approval, Vanessa Taggart made a motion to have Dave Knerr prepare to have the garbage contract go out to bid, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MRM Trust Dividends – The Borough received \$8,680.21 from MRM (Municipal Risk Management) Workers' Compensation Pooled Trust.

Public Works Masks – Donnie Derr picked up the masks acquired from FEMA. It is unknown if they have a filter in, but they are washable. Each maintenance employee will receive five masks.

J.P. Mascaro – Correspondence was received from the garbage hauler about the new items being recycled and the process. Sharon was at the companies headquarters last year to see how it is being done.

Turning Point – Correspondence was received from Turning Point regarding their need for help during the pandemic.

BP Paterson – Recommendation to Pay – Steve Hill made a motion to pay BP Paterson \$126,951.28 as recommended by the Engineer. The motion was 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed.

Zoom – Zoom has an update that everyone needs to do prior to the next meeting.

Newsletter – Sharon has submitted all of the information and articles for the summer newsletter.

Hills at Lockridge Lots 85 and 86 – Sharon and Dave Kutzor had a conference call with representatives from Jandl Land Company. They may approach Council in the future regarding Lots 85 and 86. They are currently zoned commercial, but they may ask to have it changed to residential.

Grass and Leaf Waste – Resident, Gary DeRoner asked if using the Lower Macungie Township facility has been decided or not. Sharon will follow up on this.

Litigation – Dave Knerr has been monitoring the litigation between the Fire Department and the Social Quarters but has not gotten involved. If anyone is interested in seeing files, let him know. Firefighter, Jordan Keuler would like to see the documents.

Alleys – John Aleszczyk informed Council that Ore and Ash Alley are terrible. Council agreed that Donnie should put together a quote to repair the two alleys.

Franklin Street Grant – Hector asked what the status is of the Franklin Street Sidewalk Grant. Once we can meet with the residents in public, a meeting will be arranged and then it can go out to bid.

Social Distancing – Steve Hill asked Sharon if Maintenance understands now about social distancing and Sharon informed Council that she spoke with Donnie.

Lockridge Historical Church – Ron asked if we had the paint for the Church. Sharon was not sure if we physically had it, but the Mayor had her discretionary fund go into the account to pay for it.

A motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. was made by Vanessa Taggart, 2nd by Steve Hill and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.