

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2023

The January 25, 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

Chad Atkins

Steve Hill

Mehmet Birtek

John Aleszczyk

Stephen Nemeth

Hector Moss

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner

Steve Werley

Ashlynn Rivera

Robert Geist

Marisa Geist

PUBLIC COMMENT – Robert and Marisa Geist were present to discuss a plowing issue they have had. The even side of the street is always plowed to the curb, but the odd side of the street is 7' out. This happens every time they plow. They use several trucks at once and all of the snow is pushed to one side. Steve Hill replied that this is the situation in his development as well and John Aleszczyk added that there are several places in town with this problem. Ron DeIaco apologized for this, and we will meet with the Maintenance Department to rectify the situation.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer received a call from Leon of Norfolk Southern regarding the W. Penn Avenue railroad crossing. He is in charge of all safety issues. He is willing to attend a zoom meeting or fly here to meet in person regarding the crossing because there have been numerous events reported. There are no arms at the crossing, but Chad Atkins stated that the issues are not happening when a train is coming, so the arms would not be down. Council agreed that they do not want this crossing closed and asked the Mayor to reach out to him and see if he will assess the situation himself and attend a meeting.

MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2023, Mehmet Birtek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JANUARY 25, 2023 – Chad Atkins made a motion to pay the bills of January 25, 2023, Mehmet Birtek 2nd, John Aleszczyk was opposed to the Engineering Bill and the balance were ayes.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – Steve Hill made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Borough Manager Position – Councilperson, Stephen Nemeth has been offered the Borough Manager position and has accepted. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to hire Stephen Nemeth for the position of Borough Manager, contingent on him passing the physical, Chad Atkins 2nd, Hector Moss and Stephen Nemeth both abstained and the balance were ayes. There will be a Council position open once Stephen starts as Borough Manager. Dave Knerr will work on an Ordinance for Stephen to start as Asst. Borough Manager and then transition to Borough Manager after Sharon's last day of work. There are also a couple of other items to add to the Ordinance. One, the Chief's holidays should be lined up with the non-union schedule and the name of the Blue Cross Plan we have has changed. He will have this for the next meeting.

Borough Hall – A request has been made from Maintenance to replace the floors in Borough Hall. This is the original flooring and have been stripped and waxed many times. No quote was obtained, so this has been tabled.

Maintenance Drainage Project – Maintenance is requesting permission to repair a drainage issue at the Maintenance Building and at the playground. Council was not aware there was a problem and John Aleszczyk noted that it did not just appear in the New Year and should have been budgeted for. The cost of the piping has been received, however, Council would like the total cost of the project prior to deciding. This has been tabled.

Maintenance Department – Request for Laptop – Maintenance is having an issue with the laptop they are using. It is the one of the laptops used by the office while they worked at home during Covid. They could use the Dell in the office that Sharon has used to work from home or we can check on prices for another one. For now, Council would prefer they use the one in the office.

Bartlett Tree Service – The cost to treat the trees in Maple Court and on Church Street for the Mimosa Webworm will be \$917.00 this year.

Special Events Committee – Hector Moss informed Council that they held a Special Events Kickoff Meeting that was also attended by Bob Stiffler of Lehigh County Parks and Jessica O'Donnell-Gower and Hayden Rinde from the Chamber. The group is okay with creating a sub-committee under Park and Recreation. They will have positions held like Chair, Co-Chair, Vendor Relations, Marketing, Coordinator, Youth Events, etc. They are working on a Community Day to be held on June 17th. They will assist other events as needed, like the Police Luau and National Night Out, AACC Egg Hunt, Halloween Parade and the Holiday Festival. There will be two separate sponsorship opportunities. One would be for the parade and the other would be dispersed as needed for other events. John Aleszczyk asked if they will be bringing back May Days and they are considering this. Bob Stiffler from Lehigh County Parks informed them that the roof is crumbling on the building and they need 1.8 million dollars to repair it. 1.6 million will come from grants. John also recommended that they try and utilize the Historical Church as well. Hector will work with Dave Knerr on determining details for the committee.

Lower Macungie Fire Department – Sharon has nine certifications to sign for the Fire Department personnel to receive a portion of their local taxes back. Last year there were eleven certifications.

A motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. was made by Chad Atkins, 2nd by Stephen Nemeth and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.