

## **Borough of Alburtis**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**September 25, 2019**

The September 25, 2019 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

Steve Hill

Vanessa Taggart

Hector Vazquez

Sherryann Oels

Stephen Kaufman

#### **Associates of Alburtis in attendance:**

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor (7:06)

Robert Palmer, Police Chief (7:50)

#### **Visitors in attendance:**

Gary DeRoner

Tom and Nancy Bickert

Michelle Parise

Mike Powell

Greg and Dawn Kuebler

Keith McDermott

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – The Mayor was sure if she would make the meeting, but wanted Council to know that the police department assisted the Fire Department in evacuating residents from the Assisted Living Facility that burned in Upper Macungie.

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2019** – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2019, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

**BILLS FOR PAYMENT – SEPTEMBER 25, 2019** – Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of September 25, 2019, Stephen Kaufman 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

**FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT** – Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Vanessa Taggart 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Chestnut Street Drainage** – Residents from Chestnut Street were present to talk to Council about a drainage issue in the yards on Chestnut Street. When it rains the yards are all flooded. Tom and Nancy Bickert have lived at 320 Chestnut St. for 35 years. Tom Bickert commended Public Works and stated that Donnie has been to his property and has seen the damage done because of the flooding. Most of the yards on both sides of the street are having the issue. There are areas that cannot be mowed because the ground is saturated. Ron DeIaco questioned whether the water was coming from School Street and Michelle Parise responded that it appears that it is and there are no drains on either side of School Street for the water to go. Keith McDermott resides at 340 Chestnut St. and stated that it runs like a river through his yard. Mr. Bickert stated that a berm was placed between his house and the neighbor on Third Street and she still gets water. Greg Kuebler said you can tell it is coming from School Street. There is a swale between 105 and 107 School Street. Ron informed the residents that Public Works intends to extend the storm sewer on School Street and we will also speak with our Engineer on the issue to see what can be done. Sharon will contact Mr. Bickert when something is worked out.

**Ordinance No. 557** – Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 557, an Ordinance amending Chapter 41 of the Alburtis Codified Ordinance (relating to traffic control) by extending the term of existing handicapped parking spaces, establishing a new handicapped parking space on the westerly side of Franklin Street across from 339 Franklin Street, and repealing Section 41-503 (relating to no parking in front of mailboxes on the southerly side of West Second Street. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephen Kaufman and a unanimous vote followed.

Sewer Pump Evaluation – An assessment of the pump station was done and a report was reviewed. Recommendations were given which include a trash basket, fencing, concrete cover, portable hoist, alarm dialer and pump control, a level transducer, backup floats and a control panel. The total of all of these upgrades is over \$50,000. Ron's opinion is the basket, control panel and hoist are a priority. Ron will speak with the engineer about a two or three stage plan and bring the information back to Council.

Maintenance Lift – We have previously spoken about pricing out and purchasing a lift for maintenance. Sharon has spoken to Donnie and he is not sure where he would store it and he believes it would be too slow to get around on our streets. He mentioned that he would prefer to have a mini excavator. Borough Council is more concerned with safety and Hector stated that he has used several of these and they are not too slow for our roads. Steve Hill suggested that Donnie attend the Budget meeting to explain his reasons.

Holiday Festival - Surrey – The Surrey Company we usually use for the Holiday Festival cannot attend this year. Sharon found another company, but the cost is higher. Ron believes that the Borough can help pay the difference. This is a good day for the Borough and the residents like the surrey rides. Gary DeRoner questioned why it does not go up Franklin Street anymore and was told that the surrey owner chose the route. Hector would like to continue having the surrey staged on Main Street.

Lower Macungie Township - Correspondence – A proposed Ordinance was received from Lower Macungie Township in regards to communication towers and wireless communications antennas. Borough Council has no comments at this time.

Commonwealth of PA – Fire Relief – The Borough received funds in the amount of \$12,942.52 for Fire Relief. This will be sent to the Fire Department.

Pension State Aid – Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) – The Borough received a direct deposit of \$61,445.98 from the Commonwealth for general municipal pension system state aid. A letter was reviewed from Dave Knerr regarding the Pension State Aid, which recommends that the Borough place the entire portion into the Police Pension Plan. Hector Vazquez made a motion to make the deposit as recommended in Dave Knerr's letter dated September 25, 2019, Stephen Kaufman 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. As required, the MMO was presented to Borough Council and will be attached to the minutes.

Walnut Street Paving – A quote was presented to Council at the last meeting to have the intersection paved by the school and the area where storm sewer was installed. At that time, Council did not think the work needed to be done. Sharon spoke with Donnie Derr and he said only temporary cold patch was put down. It will be fine for now, but should be budgeted for next year.

Penn Dot Multimodal Grant – This grant is now open until November 8, 2019. Borough Council agreed that we should speak to the engineer and see if something can be done with the flooding issue on Chestnut Street.

Police Department – Chief Palmer was present to let Council know that the firewall in the police department must be upgraded in order for JNET to work. The cost of the firewall is \$3,800. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to purchase the new firewall, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. The laptops in the cars will also need to be updated to Windows 10.

Chief Palmer informed Council that he would like to join the consortium next year in the event a new full time officer would be needed. Dave Knerr advised that the Borough list is still good and, if there are candidates on that list that the Chief would be interested in, the list can be extended. The Chief will look at the list and let Council know. He may be interested in hiring another part time officer in the near future.

Chief Palmer informed Council that the new car is now available. The money was set aside last year. Ford changed the layout and the old shield will not fit. The cost of the car is \$31,465, the paint will be \$800 and the decals another \$1,600. He would like to get the car now and get it ready until the new shield can be put in. When the new car is in service, we will sell of the Durango and the current 9-03 will be used for truck enforcement. Hector Vazquez made a motion to purchase the new vehicle, Stephen Kaufman 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

Police Department (cont.) -Vanessa Taggart asked the Chief about garbage sitting out a week ahead of scheduled pickups. The Chief saw one out today, but there was no one there. Vanessa said there is one on Roberts Street that has had the garbage out all week. If someone tells him about garbage being put out early, he will check it out, he does not drive around the Borough looking for it. He replied that he thought this was a civil issue. Dave Knerr responded that while it is a civil matter, it is an Ordinance that the police are to enforce.

Hector asked the Chief how traffic is with school being back in session. There have been no problems at all.

Mayor Palmer asked if anyone was addressing the barking dog situation on Lockridge Lane. She is receiving phone calls at work regarding this. The police department is currently working on this.

Mayor Palmer stated that Upper Macungie's Police Department has started ticketing trucks the old way and the Chief should reach out to their Chief to see how they are doing it.

A motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. was made by Sherryann Oels, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephen Kaufman and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.