

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2023

The April 27, 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	Steve Hill	Chad Atkins	Mehmet Birtek
John Aleszczyk	Ashlynn Rivera	Hector Moss	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr -Solicitor	Kathleen Palmer- Mayor	Stephen Nemeth- Borough Manager
Jeff Ott – Engineer	Mike Preston- Engineer	

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner Merideth Lemke Howie Savacool

Executive session -personnel and pending litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Resident Meredith Lemke of 212 church St, mentioned she really doesn't like public speaking, and it's a testament to the issue that has been going on. She stated why as a property owner why doesn't she have same respect as another. She stated now that she finally has neighbors that she likes, she wants to be able to enjoy being outside with them. She claimed that she has had PTSD since her past incident with this neighbor, claims that he stares at her when she is in her yard. Meredith mentioned that she hangs up tarps to get a sense of privacy and has since bought a gun. Meredith mentioned if her neighbor wasn't stalking her, he wouldn't have seen her middle finger. Claims she gives her middle finger to show that she is not scared. Claims that recent police statements are fiction; that she has not instigated an incident with neighbor since 2019. Meredith claims neighbor has bed bugs and wants creature nowhere near her residence. Meredith also claimed that if her neighbor was African American or Latino, she doesn't feel that she would be here right now. Claims neighbor is constantly harassing others. Dave Knerr mentioned doesn't believe this is the place for a discussion on this matter. Ron DeIaco mentioned from what it sounds like, this is a civil situation between you and your neighbor; only recommendation that we can make is that you make an appointment with the Police Chief to discuss options that can be taken. Meredith Lemke mentioned that one of these days somebody will end up dead because of this situation. Ron stated all we can ask is please set up a meeting with the chief. Hector Moss mentioned that he is disheartened to hear about this situation in our community and requested that she make an appointment with the chief. Hector Moss wanted to thank her for coming forward to discuss the issue. Meredith mentioned that she attempted to seek protection orders but has hit roadblocks with the state. Ron insisted to still setup a meeting with the Chief.

BICENTENNIAL VILLAGE PRESENTATION- Borough Engineers Jeff Ott and Mike Preston were on hand to present a proposal of Bicentennial Village by PowerPoint. Jeff Ott mentioned that the Project revolves around removing curbs and sidewalks and reconstructing the roadway. Current conditions are causing unsafe passageways in that targeted neighborhood. Jeff encouraged the council to walk the current route of the project to get a true concept of what it looks like. John Aleszczyk asked if the ADA portion is meant for the intersections or the sidewalks. Jeff mentioned that it's for both, the sidewalks have to have a 4ft width or it's not compliant. Currently have been meeting with PennDOT, would like to arrange a resident meeting, get a resident buy in, go out for a bid, award bid in December, and start in the spring. Mehmet Birtek questioned why not start process now, if we have the money now, why wait. Jeff mentioned that most of the contractors are already booked for the summer. Ron stated would like to set up a meeting; Ron stated let's set a date, send letters out, and aim for the 3rd week of May. Hector mentioned that we could use the AACC for the meeting. Resident Howie Savacool of 314 Lockridge Lane was concerned why Bicentennial Village is being pushed off while Franklin St begins. Ron DeIaco mentioned that the residents will be receiving letters shortly discussing a meeting date to discuss the Bicentennial Village Project.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Kathy Palmer mentioned that she received notification about EOC operations and planning for all-hazards class; Believes that Stephen Nemeth should attend. This way we have a backup and somebody that is here at all times. Council agreed and Kathy thanked council for letting Stephen attend.

MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2023 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2023, with a correction by John Aleszczyk, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – APRIL 26, 2023 – John Aleszczyk, questioned bill# 23499 if we still are supplying a port-a-potty to the playground, was surprised since last year it was vandalized often. Chad Atkins made a motion to pay the bills of April 26, 2023, Mehmet 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

RELEASE OF BLOOMING GLENN CHECK – Ron DeIaco asked if this was in reference to the pumpstation. Stephen Nemeth confirmed that it was. Chad Atkins made motion to pay Blooming Glenn, Mehmet Birtek 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

SCHOOL STREET PROJECT – Stephen Nemeth mentioned this a continuation from last meeting, when we were just waiting to hear back from the great administrator. He got back to me stating that his director okayed us reducing the scope since they realized we received a significantly less amount than requested. Stephen Nemeth requested if we could get the approval to start getting the quotes to begin the project; Steve Hill made the motion for Stephen Nemeth to begin getting the necessary quotes and bids awarded for the project; Chad Atkins 2nd the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

LIST OF BOROUGH OFFICIALS – Ron DeIaco mentioned that this is just informational only, since we have had some changes of late.

ARCHIVE SOCIAL – Stephen Nemeth mentioned that this is a continuation from the last meeting, this time the company included their prices. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that it looks like it could be useful, but our size of borough doesn't see the need for it. The council agreed.

EMMAUS ROTARY CLUB NIGHT SHIFT- Stephen Nemeth mentioned that the Rotary club just started nightly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month this way more municipal officials could attend if they wish. They are asking communities for community services project ideas. Steve Hill asked John Aleszczyk if this was the organization that he had belonged to, John confirmed he used to be in the rotary club. Also, John stated that they used to hold meetings on Thursday mornings, Stephen Nemeth mentioned that they still hold those meetings. They started the Wednesday night meetings to give those that can't get away from their normal jobs during the week an opportunity to attend at night. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that if anybody had any service project ideas send them his way and he will pass them along.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Mehmet Birtek mentioned that the owners of tavern pizza had a sewer issue, had a plumber inspect the issue only to find a mop head in the system.

A motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. was made by Steve Hill, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.