

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

The July 28, 2021, 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. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco	Steve Hill	Vanessa Taggart
Kathleen Raines	Hector Vazquez	John Aleszczyk

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
Robert Palmer, Police Chief	Mike Preston, Ott Consulting
Jeffrey Ott, Ott consulting – Borough Engineer	

Visitors in attendance:

Steve Nemeth	Chad Atkins	Steve Werley
Steve Reichenbach	Gary DeRoner	Linda Reinbold
John Reinbold	Greg Reinbold	Melissa Zellner
Tom Moss		

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT – Council President, Ron DeIaco, made a comment in regard to vaccinations. He asked that if anyone knows of someone that is not vaccinated to strongly encourage them to get the vaccine.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MAYOR’S REPORT – The Mayor was unable to be present, but President, Ron DeIaco read a Proclamation declaring August 3, 2021, as National Night Out.

POLICE REPORT – The Police Report was reviewed. Chief Palmer informed Council that he has recently lost two part-time officers. He would like to hire Cory Fluck back as a part-time officer. John Aleszczyk made a motion to hire Cory Fluck as a part-time officer, Steve Hill 2nd and a Roll Call Vote followed:

Steve Hill – Yes	Kathleen Raines – No	Vanessa Taggart – No
Hector Vazquez – Yes	John Aleszczyk – Yes	Ron DeIaco – Yes

The motion passed 4:2. Officer Fluck will start once he qualifies at the gun range.

Chief Palmer also reminded Council that they may want to hire another full-time officer prior to the end of the year. Council should consider hiring an outside contractor to do background checks and the Chief recommends that a polygraph is done as well. Police are hard to come by right now and only eight from the list have Alburtis checked off. The Chief plans on retiring after the first of the year as well.

Chief Palmer informed Council that the garage door is broken again, and the cost is about \$1,200 to repair. Council should think about having maintenance install shorter doors so that this does not keep happening.

John Aleszczyk asked Chief Palmer if they could receive reports for the previous months this year. The Chief will get them to Council. John also noted that there have been a lot of complaints on Facebook regarding speeding. Chief Palmer said they do speed timing on Front and on Franklin, but it takes two officers to do this. John suggested that a stop sign be placed at 2nd and Main. This is a dangerous intersection. Ron would also like to see one on Church and Franklin. Sharon will check with Penn Dot on signs, but they have already requested one on Church and Franklin and were told no.

MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2021 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 14, 2021, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JULY 28, 2021 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to pay the bills of July 30, 2021, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. The lift rental for the Church was discussed. Donnie will have the lift for at least two more weeks so that repairs and painting can continue. Sharon noted to Council that Lehigh County gave the Borough \$50,000 to repair the Church and at this point we have used about \$31,000. Utilities will continue to be paid by the Butz Foundation contribution each year.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Council Resignation – An email was received from Stephen Kaufman indicating that he will be resigning from Council. Due to an employment change, he is no longer allowed to hold office. Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the resignation, with regrets. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Ron DeIaco added that Stephen was a good person and will be missed on Council.

Chestnut Street Grant – Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott, was present to explain the concept behind the work to be done on Windsor Road and Chestnut Circle West. His team has done studies to find out where the water is coming from that floods the yards of the homes on Chestnut Street. When it rains, the water drains through several yards on Windsor Road and goes directly across School Street. This will be alleviated by installing additional storm drains on Windsor Road and also on Chestnut Circle West. We received a grant from the State, and this is the most economical way of fixing the issue. It will cost much more if we reconstruct School Street.

Sewer Station Basket System – Jeff Ott received a picture of a basket to be installed into a manhole that would catch mop heads from entering into the sewer station. He is not comfortable with the picture and would like to see more drawings prior to having it installed. Hector Vazquez asked if a camera could be placed into the system and was told that a camera would get damaged quickly in the system. Sharon believes we may be able to use the ARPA Funds that were just received to fix the problem with the more expensive options we received. Council asked Sharon to check on this.

MS4 Inspection – We received a phone call a week ago that DEP was coming into the Borough to perform an MS4 inspection. All municipalities need to be inspected by September. Zach Mitchell of Ott Consulting did a very good job during the inspection, and we believe there were no issues found.

Zoning Complaints – Residents from Franklin Street were in to discuss the condition of several properties on Franklin Street. The property at 345 Franklin is always in disarray. Sharon has had Barry Isett and Associates there, and they have given him two violation notices. If nothing is done with these, they will start fining the owner. Sharon will send him a letter regarding the weeds and the tree that overhangs onto the sidewalk. The vehicles that are parked in the yard are all legally registered. John Aleszczyk stated that many people park in their grass, so if we are going to go after this resident, we need to look around town. Ron DeIaco stated that there is no Ordinance saying that you cannot park in your yard. Sharon will have Donnie Derr check out the other properties in question and, if needed, she will send them violation letters as well.

AACC – Steve Hill was asked to attend an AACC Board Meeting. They discussed potential future snow emergency parking. They are proposing to use the small ballfield next to the AACC but would need the Borough's help with barricades and maybe signage. Council is willing to help with this and Hector would also like the parking to continue at the pool. Steve will continue to speak with the AACC Board.

Park and Recreation – Ballfield Netting – Kathleen Raines has had trouble communicating with Mannie from the AACC. She said he is waiting on a quote for the netting. Sharon gave Kathleen a quote for \$700. This is from the same company that we purchased the hockey netting from. Kathleen asked Council if we could just purchase the netting and have Maintenance install it. Council agreed that we will wait until Mannie comes back with his prices, but asked Kathleen to have him contact Sharon so she could give him the information on what she found.

Avi Drive – Parking Stalls – Hector has received requests from residents regarding parking lines on Avi Drive. Council agreed that Avi Drive and Moty Drive are the only streets in the Ridgeview Development that do not have parking stalls painted. Sharon will ask Maintenance to take care of this.

W. Second Street – Road Repair – Maintenance Supervisor, Donnie Derr, submitted a quote in the amount of \$46,900 to repave W. Second Street. Council believes this is very expensive and does not think that we need to pave all the way to Flint Hill Road. John Aleszczyk said there are many other roads in worse shape than W. Second Street and the drain that is on the drawing will serve no purpose. Council asked Sharon to get another quote from Donnie for just the portion of W. Second that is in front of the AACC.

Holiday Festival – December 5, 2021 – Sharon asked Council if they would like to have the Holiday Festival this year. She has a cost for a Holiday Wagon of \$1,200. Sharon will send letters out to businesses asking for donations as usual. Council agreed that they would like to hold the festival again this year.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Correspondence was reviewed from the LVPC in regard to a life care center at 1345 Minesite Road.

Electronic Recycling Event – The E-Waste and Shredding Event is being held this Saturday at Macungie Park. Sharon, Steve Hill, and Donnie Derr will be there to help.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An Executive Session was called at 8:47 p.m. for Personnel and ended at 9:20 p.m.

A motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.