

## Borough of Alburdis

### Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2020

The April 29, 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	

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner  
Chad Atkins

Jordan Keuler

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer reported that the Borough of Macungie inquired whether we would consider working together to save money and have one police officer cover both municipalities on slower shifts. She spoke with the Chief and he does not want this to happen. They back each other up on calls and with many calls being domestic right now, it would not be a good idea.

John Aleszczyk asked the Mayor if staffing has changed? She replied that two are only on from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Part Time Officers only work on the weekend and overtime is being avoided.

Mayor Palmer signed two proclamations this week. The first was to designate May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup> Emergency Medical Services Week. This was sent to the Macungie Ambulance Corps. The second proclamation was to participate in the Bells Across Pennsylvania Campaign being held on Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. Sharon sent the proclamation to the two local Churches and hopefully, they will participate.

MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2020 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 9, 2020, Vanessa Taggart 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – APRIL 29, 2020 – Kathleen Raines questioned why the Port-O-Lets are still at the ballfield and playground when both are closed. Sharon had spoken to Donnie and he thought they were being used by residents walking. Hector stated that this is probably not sanitary, and Council directed Sharon to have them removed. Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of April 29, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Gary DeRoner was present and wanted to thank the Borough for the sidewalks that were done on Franklin Street. It beautifies the neighborhood. Vanessa Taggart asked Mr. DeRoner if the house damage was fixed. It has not been fixed; they are waiting on estimates. His insurance company will then contact the contractor's insurance company.

Resident, Chad Atkins, was present and asked if the AACC Pool would be opening. Sharon spoke with the AACC and was told they are working on the pool now and hope to open.

BP Paterson – Recommendation to Pay – Based on a recommendation from the Engineer, Hector Vazquez made a motion to pay BP Paterson \$79,626.94 for work completed. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed.

Act 15 – Property Taxes – With this new Act, Council can make a decision to extend the discount period and penalties for property taxes. Gary DeRoner would like the discount extended because the taxes went out later than usual. Borough Council has no problem extending the discount to June 30. Council would prefer not to extend the penalty to the end of the year and Steve Hill suggested extending for a month. Hector Vazquez would like to wait and see, but per Dave Knerr, this needs to be done soon per the Act guidelines. Council agreed on extending the discount until June 30<sup>th</sup> and the penalty until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Dave Knerr will prepare the Resolution for the next meeting.

Staffing Plans – The office is currently closed, and John Aleszczyk said it should stay that way until we reach the green phase. He would like, however, to have someone work in the office to answer the phones. Kathleen Palmer asked if the phone calls can be forwarded. John does not want all of the calls going to Sharon. Ron asked if Sharon could check on this. She will and if possible, Council would like work at home to continue. Hector suggested that Sharon look into Voice over IP for the future.

Maintenance has been working two on and two off every other day. John stated that they have been paid for over 500 non-working hours. This is not fair to the taxpayers. Ron DeIaco agreed that we need to have a plan. Steve Hill wanted to clarify that we were not hiring summer help and Council agreed. There will be no projects to complete and the crew can do the mowing. Stephen Kaufman said all four can be working. Steve Hill's concern is that if one of them catches the virus, they would all need to be quarantined. John stated that they could all catch the flu. The balance of Council said this is different than the flu. Council agreed that they are to be told not to work anywhere near each other and to drive separately. Hector asked if we shouldn't wait and still rotate shifts. Kathleen Raines and Vanessa agreed they should be back at work. They must stay apart and not break in their office at one time. John suggested they take vacation time and Steve Hill agreed because some of them have six weeks to use. They cannot be forced to take vacation. Hector would like to see a metrics of what is being done. They are not to work on the storm drain or any other projects, unless there is an emergency. Kathleen Palmer asked if we could wait two more weeks and John said, no because we will have to pay them. Kathleen Raines said it is ridiculous that they are getting paid to stay home. Steve Hill suggested they work two different shifts. Council trusts that Sharon and Donnie will come up with a plan to get them all back to work. Ron DeIaco would like no contact thermometers purchased so that temperatures can be taken every morning and before each police shift. Hector Vazquez made a motion to purchase 2 thermometers at no more than \$300, Vanessa Taggart 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

Speed Humps – W. Penn Avenue – Donnie Derr said most people are going around the speed humps and he would like to extend them so that it will be safe when the children's gym opens back up. Resident Jordan Keuler agreed that people are going around them, and they should be extended. Hector Vazquez made a motion to purchase additional speed humps, Kathleen Raines 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

A motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.