

Borough of Alburdis

Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2020

The January 29, 2020 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, Alburdis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

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

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor	Dave Kutzor, Zoning Officer
Ryan Geist, Alburdis Police	Robert Palmer, Police Chief
Jeffrey Ott, Borough Engineer	

Visitors in attendance: Phil Armstrong, LC Executive Ashley Lorah, Chamber of Commerce
Dave Nosal, LM Fire Chief Jessica O'Donnell, Chamber of Commerce
Gary DeRoner

MAYOR'S REPORT – The Mayor swore in new part-time police officer, Ryan Geist. Ryan was raised in the Borough and is currently an officer for Rockland Township.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 6, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JANUARY 29, 2020 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of January 29, 2020, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

LOWER MACUNGIE FIRE DEPARTMENT - Fire Chief, Dave Nosal, was present to give the Fire Department's annual review for Council. Packets were distributed to Council with statistics that included a breakdown of the 664 calls that were responded to. 545 of these calls were in the district and the balance were mutual aid responses out of the district. The Chief gave an update on new apparatus and what apparatus has been sold. There is a new truck at the Alburdis Station. They are working on 2020 goals and a timeline to replace the Alburdis Station. Operationally, the departments are one department, but there is an administrative holdup that is now in the court system.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – The monthly report was reviewed. There were nine calls in the Borough in December.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – None

Engineer Report – Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott, was present to talk about Lehigh County Authority and waste treatment allocation with Council. DEP has granted additional allocations and a document was presented as to how these would be allocated. Meters will be placed back in the Borough to see how we are progressing. The dig and replace project is being done now and in the future, laterals will be looked at.

Engineer Report (cont.) – LCA is asking that all parties vote at the next meeting for the guidelines. Jeff Ott spoke with Dave Knerr and they have no issue voting yes to these guidelines; but will not authorize anything until formal agreements are approved. Hector Vazquez made a motion to authorize Sharon to vote yes, with no change to the agreement, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Stephen Kaufman asked Jeff about the progress on the Franklin Street sidewalk replacement project. They are working through some items with Penn Dot at this time. They are also working on the Bicentennial Village grant to see how much can be done with the amount of money we were awarded.

County Commissioner – Lehigh County Commissioner, Phillips Armstrong, was present at the meeting. His message to Council was how important the census is. \$2,093 per person is what comes back for schools, libraries, parks, etc. 30% of people were missed in Lehigh County with the last census. Postcards will be received in March. Once the postcard is received, you will be able to go online and enter your information.

Commissioner Armstrong also told Council that he made sure money was in the budget for Lockridge Park. Vanessa Taggart asked how the money will be used for the park and was told that Rick Molchany was working on this. The plan is to fix the building. John Aleszczyk asked about the bridge on Spring Creek and was told that it is a Penn Dot bridge.

East Penn Chamber of Commerce – Ashley Lorah and Jessica O'Donnell were present to talk about the Chamber. They thanked Sharon for serving on the Board of the East Penn Business Council. They reviewed the events from 2019 and stated that 2020 will include the monthly luncheons, restaurant week in March and the Mayor's and Municipal Leaders Reception will be held April 29th. They asked about new businesses in the Borough and were told there were two. They would love to do a ribbon cutting for them if they are interested. Sharon will give them the contact information.

Bird Sanctuary – Dave Kutzor was present on behalf of a scout in his troop. He asked if Council would be amenable to restoring the trails in the Bird Sanctuary. Steve Hill asked where people would access the Sanctuary from and was told there is an access point on School Street and on Fort Sumpter Road. Dave Kutzor said this will establish a park for people in the middle of Alburtis. It is passive recreation where there is a lot of natural, biological and historical features. Ron DeIaco said we need to look back to what we told the residents that surround the park. Kathleen Raines spoke as the Chair of Park and Recreation and said she had thought of putting in bird houses and identifying the different trees and shrubs. Stephen Kaufman asked if the sanctuary was open to the public. It is, but the access points are not clearly visible. Steve Hill mentioned that last time someone wanted to do something with the Sanctuary, many people were upset. Hector Vazquez believes it might work if they start off slowly. The scout has yet to walk through the Sanctuary, so he does not know what would be involved yet. Council suggested that Dave meet with the scout and come back when a project is clearer.

Ordinance No. 561 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 561, an Ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Alburtis Codified Ordinances relating to non-uniformed employees Pension Plan to change the general class of nonuniformed employees eligible to participate in the plan. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Ordinance No. 562 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 562, an Ordinance amending Section 41-802 of the Alburtis Codified Ordinances to establish a new handicapped parking space on the westerly side of Franklin Street across from 329 Franklin Street. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2020-3 – Planning Commission – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-3, a Resolution re-appointing Christina Kaufman to the Alburdis Planning Commission and appointing Michael Wambaugh to the Alburdis Planning Commission. The motion was 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed with Stephen Kaufman abstaining.

Fire Police Request – Steve Hill made a motion to authorize Sharon to complete the fire police request form for the Township, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

East Penn Children’s Fitness – The owner of the property is still having cars speeding and not stopping at the crosswalk when there is someone waiting to cross on W. Penn Avenue. The foot traffic has increased in the area with the ice cream store and Early Learning Center also there. He placed portable signs in the area, but people run them over. He is requesting that speed bumps are placed on either side of the crosswalk to help slow down traffic. He offered to pay the cost for the speed bumps. Since it is a public road, the Borough would incur the cost, but he can donate if he chooses. Council agreed that this is a dangerous area for children and Steve Hill made a motion to proceed with speed bumps. The motion was 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed. John Aleszczyk noted that the speed bumps should not cost more than about \$500.

Public Utility Commission – Orchard Road – Correspondence was received indicating that the PUC denied Lower Macungie Township’s request for an extension to perform improvements to the Orchard Road crossing.

Service Electric Cable TV – Franchise fees in the amount of \$16,031.63 have been received. This is lower than in the past and is due to the number of residents not utilizing cable anymore.

J.P. Mascaro – All residents should have received information from the garbage hauler regarding new items that can be recycled.

SW Comprehensive Plan – The meetings for 2020 have begun and the Borough will host them all year.

345 Franklin Street – Sharon showed pictures of the alley behind this residence. The mud issue has gotten worse. The resident previously told Council that he will be fixing the issue, but to date, nothing has been done. Council suggested placing mud retaining barriers to block off the property. Sharon will send the resident a letter pertaining to this.

A motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. was made by Hector Vazquez, 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.