

Borough of Alburdis
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2020

The September 30, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council Vice-President Steve Hill 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 – 7:06	Steve Hill	Kathleen Raines
Vanessa Taggart	Stephen Kaufman	Hector Vazquez
John Aleszczyk		

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Kathleen Palmer, Mayor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
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Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner Sam Augustine, J.P. Mascaro Chad Atkins

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Palmer read two proclamations to Council. The first one was to proclaim Tuesday, October 6, 2020 as National Night Out in the Borough. Residents are encouraged to decorate their yards, display anti-crime posters and signs, and turn their porch lights on. The second Proclamation was to proclaim October 4-10, 2020 as Fire Prevention Week. Mayor Palmer has contacted the principal of the elementary school in hopes of having red ribbons purchased and the proceeds donated to the Fire Department.

MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of September 30, 2020, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

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

LOWER MACUNGIE FIRE DEPARTMENT – A thank you card was received from the Fire Department for the pizza and ice cream provided by the Borough for their efforts during the hurricane. Mayor Palmer was in attendance and formally thanked the crew.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – None

Solid Waste Contract – Sam Augustine from J.P. Mascaro was present to speak with Council about the contract. He knows there is a situation because the price went up and they were the only bidder. He does not know who else picked up the bid packet. The Borough has had good rates for the last ten years and Mr. Augustine believes that the bid on the table is an excellent bid. The Borough must also realize that the bid is not just based on 984 units. In 2019, they hauled 67 loads of yard waste away and 8,000 cubic yards of front load trash. John Aleszczyk has concerns about the service lately. It has been late, and some missed. Mr. Augustine replied that Covid has played a part in this and that the Allentown division has done pretty well. Butch Grim is a very good supervisor and should be in contact with Sharon. Ron asked Dave Knerr if the bid was in order and was told, yes, it is a responsible bid.

Solid Waste Contract (cont.) – Stephen Kaufman told Council that the rate would go up about \$22 per quarter per household. He would consider weekly recycling and a 5-6-year contract because the town is a mess, especially when it is windy out, and a longer contract would give stability. Kathleen Raines believes that every other week is fine. Residents can put out another container if need be. Steve Hill agrees with Kathleen Raines and he does not want to burden the residents. Steve Hill would be in favor of the 5-6-year contract. John Aleszczyk had put a post up on Facebook and believes most residents are okay with every other week recycling. He would be in favor of a 3-4-year contract. Hector would prefer a 3-4-year contract with pick up as is currently. Hector Vazquez asked Mr. Augustine if we could be furnished with recycling bins and was told that toters would be about \$50, but he will look into it further. All of Council agreed to accept the bids and John Aleszczyk added that he is reluctant. Hector Vazquez made a motion to award the contract to Solid Waste Services d/b/a J.P. Mascaro and Sons, Inc. under option 34-1-0, John Aleszczyk 2nd, Stephen Kaufman and Kathleen Raines were opposed, and the balance were ayes. The motion passed 5-2. Hector Vazquez asked Mr. Augustine if toters were purchased, who would they belong to and was told they would belong to the residents. John Aleszczyk asked for more information on the toters.

Resolution No. 2020-7 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-7, a Resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Alburty and the PA Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant. The motion was 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed.

Lehigh County Covid-19 Block Grant – Mayor Palmer and Sharon received notice from Lehigh County that we will be eligible to receive \$41,829.72 in funding based on per capita. With Tracy's help, Sharon prepared a breakdown as to what costs were to date and a budget for purchases that include laptops, phone system, monitors that include cameras and microphones and additional cleaning supplies. Once awarded, the money must be spent this year. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to approve the submission and to allow Sharon to move forward once awarded, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Magnetic Lid Lifter – Maintenance is requesting a magnetic lid lifter to remove the sewer manhole covers. John Aleszczyk asked if they could just use the backhoe and Steve Hill believes OSHA would have an issue with that. Hector would agree that they need one and the heavier capacity one would be his preference. Vanessa Taggart thought Council did not want to spend money on any extras this year. Steve Hill believes it is a safety issue and Kathleen Raines said it should be put off until next year. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to purchase the lid lifter, not to exceed \$975, Hector Vazquez 2nd, Kathleen Raines, Vanessa Taggart, and John Aleszczyk were opposed, and the balance were ayes. The motion passed 4-3.

Pressure Washer – Maintenance submitted quotes for a new pressure washer. Council agreed that we need to be cautious of spending and they cannot have everything that they want, and this will be tabled.

Paving Estimate – A paving estimate was reviewed to repair W. 2nd Street from Walnut to Flint Hill Road. John Aleszczyk thought we were looking to repair Chestnut St. from W. 2nd to Front. Council agreed that this needs repair also. Kathleen Raines does not believe the paving needs to go to Flint Hill Rd. It is only bad in front of the AACC. Sharon apologized if she misunderstood, but was told, no she provided what was asked for. Vanessa Taggart thought we were going to outsource this kind of work and Ron agreed that they were only to do alleys. Steve Hill suggested that we do nothing at this time and Council agreed to put it off until next year.

An estimate to pave the speed bumps on W. Penn Avenue was also reviewed and this will also be put off for now.

Pension State Aid – Dave Knerr reported that we have received a Distress Score of zero, which is better than most municipalities. The Borough received a direct deposit of \$64,009.83 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. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to make the deposit as recommended in Dave Knerr’s letter dated September 30, 2020, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. As required, the MMO was presented to Borough Council and will be attached to the minutes. Dave Knerr told Sharon to have Tracy send this off before the next meeting.

Fire Relief Funds - \$13,021.30 has been received from Fireman’s Relief. This amount will be sent directly to the Fire Department’s Fire Relief.

Penn Dot Multimodal – Penn Dot has a multimodal grant due by November 6, 2020 if Council has anything they would like to apply for. Council agreed that we have enough going on at this time and would not apply.

LVPC – ABE Doors – The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission sent their review of the ABE Doors project in Lower Macungie Township. Council has no comment at this time.

LVPC – Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment – The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission sent their review of the Ordinance Amendments in Lower Macungie Township. Council has no comment at this time.

LVPC – The Fields at Indian Creek – The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission sent their review of the The Fields at Indian Creek in Emmaus Borough and Upper Milford. Council has no comment at this time.

PSAB Conference – The Leadership Conference Sharon was going to attend in October will be held virtually in the evening the week of October 19th. She will attend from her home. Council thanked her for attending.

Baseball Field – There was an incident at the ball field where a baseball broke a car window in a driveway. The resident believes the Borough has paid for damage in the past. The Borough is not responsible for damages when the league is using the field. Sharon added that there is a request to add to the fence because most of the foul balls go into the same yard. John Aleszczyk believes this is a ridiculous request and it would be too high and cannot be done and they could park elsewhere. Kathleen Raines will ask Donnie for his opinion for next year.

Church – Vanessa Taggart asked if the Church will be completed this year. Sharon will check with Donnie.

East Penn Business Council – Steve Hill reported that Sharon and himself attended a virtual municipal update today with the Chamber. One of the municipalities reported that they have lost \$750,000 so far due to Covid and one-half of their Public Works and clerical staff have been laid off. Steve added that we have been very lucky in the Borough. John Aleszczyk believes we will see some losses, but not as much and Hector said Council has done a very good job in staying in front of this issue.

Lower Macungie Township – John Aleszczyk asked if there was going to be a meeting with Lower Macungie Township in regard to Sauerkraut Lane. Sharon needs to know who will attend virtually and when they would like to have it. John, Hector, and Steve Hill will all attend. Sharon will arrange the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An Executive Session was called at 8:04 and ended at 8:06.

A motion to adjourn at 8:04 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.