

**Borough of Alburdis**

Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2023

The May 31, 2023, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:10 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburdis, PA. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco

Steve Hill

Mehmet Birtek

Chad Atkins

Hector Moss

Ashlynn Rivera

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Mike Preston, Borough Engineer

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner

Steve Werley

Leon (zoom)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Ron informed the public that the Council held an Executive Session prior to the meeting at 6:58pm and concluded at 7:09pm. After the pledge, Ron DeIaco mentioned that since we just had Memorial Day, it's a time to honor those that sacrificed themselves so that we can have freedoms. Ron DeIaco mentioned that one of his closest friends was moved to hospice recently, served in Vietnam. Ron DeIaco wanted to thank those that serve our country.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Kathy Palmer mentioned that down at the salt shed, she has been noticing that kids have been playing in the salt shed and on the pile of salt in the shed. Kathy asked if we could place a sign stating private property no trespassing.

MEETING MINUTES OF May 10, 2023 – Hector Moss made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 10, 2023, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – May 31, 2023 – Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of May 31, 2023, Chad Atkins 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – Mehmet Birtek mentioned that at the last meeting we received the treasurers' report. Mentioned that we are not meeting the budget, and that we are not collecting money like we are supposed to. Mehmet mentioned that we are halfway through the year, and we are nowhere near the budget. Steve Hill mentioned that this is about the time of the year when taxes start trickling in. Ron DeIaco mentioned we will get more taxes in and that eventually we will start receiving the grant reimbursements. Mehmet Birtek asked if it was possible to have our consultant estimate the future cash flows. Because if we know how much tax money we will generate and how many grants we will be getting over the next few months. We will have a clearer picture of where our finances are. Mehmet Birtek asked if perhaps we have an actual and an estimated. From a financial report there is no way to give a clear picture as to what the numbers are.

Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Ordinance No. 580- AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PARKING ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF FRANKLIN STREET IN A ZONE EXTENDING FROM THE NORTHERLY CURBLINE OF CHURCH STREET TOWARDS THE NORTH FOR A DISTANCE OF EIGHTY-EIGHT (88) FEET. – -

Hector Moss made the motion to approve the ordinance, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mehmet Birtek, and a unanimous vote followed.

Well house 4 pump replacement. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that as of now well 4 is currently operating on one temporary pump, which is a rental. It is recommended that we make the purchase for brand new ones. The current quote is a Costars quote, and the company has been servicing our wells for many years. Mehmet Birtek asked would it be possible to check for different prices. Steve mentioned that one issue with that would be, he is not sure what the cost would be for current company to remove their rental and since they already know our system. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that we can use half from ARPA to cover the cost and half from our water budget. Mehmet Birtek mentioned that we could use the ARPA on another project 6 months down the line. Steve mentioned that his only concern with that is with the debt ceiling deal being made at the federal level. They mentioned recovering unused covid relief money, not sure what covid money the federal government will try to recover first. Hector Moss mentioned wanted to know since this isn't cheap, was this company able to check the other well pumps. If possible, would it be possible to find out how much it would cost to get an extra pump for emergencies. Steve Nemeth mentioned the other pumps are all up to date and would check on cost for additional one. Steve Hill mentioned that he would like to see the extra one added to next year's budget. Also, Steve Hill mentioned that he would highly recommend seeing if we could get a backup one on hand in case another one goes down.

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to purchase the well pumps, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hector Moss and a unanimous vote followed.

Franklin St Project drains –Mike Preston mentioned that currently several houses have gutter drains that discharge on to the surface of the sidewalk. In winter that could potentially freeze. Mike Preston presented three options a 12 in diamond plate cover- 10,200, A 6 in diamond plate cover 9,000 and a pvc pipe option which doesn't allow for much discharge for 7,600. Mike mentioned that currently we installed the 12 in plate in front of the church. Ron DeIaco mentioned his concern with the PVC pipe option is that there is very little reveal under the concrete that if may not hold up over time. Mehmet Birtek wants to know why this wasn't recognized prior to the design? Mike Preston mentioned that if it had been included may have been over the grant amount as well. Mehmet Birtek wanted to know that if 5 years from now his sidewalks started to fall apart, and the borough didn't have the ARPA funds or other funding options to cover it how would it be covered. Ron DeIaco mentioned that we have been very fortunate to have gotten grants to assist with these issues otherwise it normally would fall on the resident's responsibility. Mehmet Birtek believes that Ott consulting should have brought this up during the budgeting time. Hector Moss mentioned that putting 11 diamond plate covers over a brand-new sidewalk would look horrific; Ron DeIaco asked Hector Moss if he has checked out in front of the church; Hector Moss replied yes; Ron DeIaco mentioned does that look horrific; Hector Moss mentioned placing 11 diamond plate covers over sidewalk is going to look terrible. Hector Moss asked what the alternative is, mentioned he has pvc pipe under his sidewalk for over 30 years and hasn't had issues; mentioned that since we are doing the road, couldn't we adjust the pvc to work. Mike Preston mentioned that beings that we are doing this project on a PennDot roadway that change would have to be approved by them.

Hector Moss mentioned that he values all the work that Ott does for the borough but was wondering since this was an oversight issue, would Ott consider covering half the cost; feels that would like Ott to meet us halfway since we are not at fault, and not fair that we should have to cover it. Steve Hill mentioned that when drafting up the budget for a project, can't be expected to think of everything. This community has some very old infrastructure. Kathy Palmer mentioned, before the next project go out down and walk the route and see if anything is missing, perhaps another set of eyes would be helpful.

Steve Hill made the motion to go with the 6-inch diamond plate cover, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hector Moss and a unanimous vote.

Park and Recreation- placement of Harold Frey bench- Stephen Nemeth mentioned that it was never determined where the bench will go when it came in. Kathy Palmer mentioned it would look the best in front of the building. Chad Atkins made the motion to place the bench in front of the building, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hector Moss and a unanimous vote.

Trees located in the Hills at Lockridge- Mehmet Birtek mentioned that while walking around his neighborhood, he noticed many of the trees are dying. Mehmet Birtek wanted to know if Kay Builders would be responsible to replace the dying trees. Mike Preston believes that the maintenance warranty with Kay Builders is past due for that project. Steve Hill mentioned he believes after maintenance period has passed the borough wouldn't handle the tree removal.

Bicentennial Village presentation recap- Ron DeIaco wanted it placed on the agenda, wanted to thank everyone that was there and wanted to thank Mike for making the presentation. Residents' main request was to just remain informed about the project.

Notice of State Police Fines Payment- Stephen Nemeth just wanted to inform everyone that we will be receiving 402.64 in police fines. No additional comment was made.

Scour Bridge Report- Stephen Nemeth stated this is mostly informational, we get a bridge inspection every two years. Our next one is expected in November of this year. No additional comment was made.

Ron DeIaco mentioned that we would be going into an executive session for litigation matters, with no intention of voting after.

A motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. was made by Chad Atkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mehmet Birtek and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.