

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2023

The February 8, 2023, 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.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco

Chad Atkins

Steve Hill

Mehmet Birtek

John Aleszczyk

Stephen Nemeth

Hector Moss

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner

Ashlynn Rivera

Steve Werley

Eric Gratz

Mary Nemeth

PUBLIC COMMENT – Gary DeRoner; wanted to express his appreciation for the work being done by the Alburtis Police Department. His wife and himself have been seeing speeders getting caught on Franklin St, while sitting in the alley and turning on lights. He then mentioned main st/ franklin st have become a drag strip and appreciates seeing the police active in helping address the speeding issue.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Palmer reviewed the Police Report. Emphasized that 30 vehicle stops have been truck stops. Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Police Report, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2023 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 25, 2023, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – February 8, 2023 – Hector Moss made a motion to pay the bills of February 8, 2023, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed; John Aleszczyk mentioned that should keep an eye on where some of the budget item levels are currently this early in the year.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report, Mehmet Birtek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – The Macungie Ambulance Corps monthly report was reviewed.

ADMINISTRATION:

Maintenance Storm Drain Project- Picture of where projected new storm drain was expected to be installed was on hand. John Aleszczyk mentioned that he wants to see a plan of the entire project. John walks the location daily and stated that there is a storm drain already located in the parking lot located next to maintenance garage. His main concern is where/ how would the new storm drain be connected to the existing one. Steve Hill made the request to hold off for now on the project. Hector Moss also stated that he would like to hold off since there are many other projects on schedule for the year. Ron DeIaco wants to table the project and have it brought up in June with the upper ball field drainage issue included.

Harold Frey Memorial Bench – Sharon Trexler mentioned that a total of \$360.00 has been donated towards to project. Ron wants Park and Recreation Committee to look into the bench and match the donation. Also look into having a plaque added to it.

Personnel – Summarization of Meeting 02-06-2023 – Hector Moss mentioned the meeting went well. Will be having quarterly meetings with the departments. He mentioned that there was a reiteration that 3 quotes were needed in order to send a purchase request to council. Hector Moss also mentioned that the maintenance department is anxious to get the new truck that is expected to be complete in June.

Community Events – Hector Moss mentioned that he met with local businesses including swim and basketball about the creation of sponsorship program. Mentioned that he is just about done with the draft. He is hoping to have the final draft for the sponsorship program complete by the next council meeting. This sponsorship program will bring all organizations together for all events.

Chamber of Commerce – Stephen Nemeth mentioned that the chamber of commerce attended the last special events meeting to help provide guidance for community day planning. The Chamber suggested that a partnership would be the best way to get started. The partnership would help with contacts and sponsorships. Kathy Palmer mentioned that the chamber takes your vision and guides you towards that. Similar to the first how the Alburtis Christmas festival got started. Kathy mentioned Sharon had the Chamber in for the first one. Kathy mentioned that she would like to setup another meeting with the chamber to talk about what potential fees are and clarification from Jess O'Donnell since we have the membership to see what that membership would assist us with. Ron DeIaco mentioned that he believes that we should still sit and discuss with them. Hector then expressed that the chamber sent some info to us in regards to potential partnership. Hector then mentioned that our situation is unique because we have a committee in place. He suggested that the partnership they would charge fee to vendors and food trucks and then they would take a percentage of the proceeds and split with us. Hector then mentioned with the current committee there is a sponsorship program in place and that the funds stay strictly in the borough. Stephen Nemeth then mentioned that we have yet to have the sponsorship program off the ground. The Chamber would help in that process. Stephen mentioned that we have a list of events that we committed to with no funds towards the events. Hector mentioned that he already has people that want to write a check. Hector then mentioned that he was told by the AACC that they would not allow AACC property to be used if a third party is brought in. Ron DeIaco mentioned it doesn't hurt to at least listen to what the chamber has to say. Mehmet Birtek made the motion for Stephen Nemeth to setup a meeting to discuss the partnership details. Stephen Hill 2nd the motion, unanimous vote followed.

Sauerkraut Bridge Extension – Email correspondence was handed out in regard to an update. Lower Macungie Township mentioned that the process was still on going and that the main hold up was the approval from the railroad.

Church Street Bridge - Update from Lower Macungie Township– Email correspondence was handed out regards to the update. Lower Macungie township mentioned as of now there was no update on the bridge since they have two other bridges planned for repair over the next two years.

SECTV – Franchise Fees Received - \$16,562.02– Correspondence was received regarding franchise fees.

Lower Macungie Township – Proposed Ordinance – Zoning Hearing Board Members – Correspondence was received regarding the proposed ordinance, no comments were made by members of council.

Borough Council Resignation – written notice of resignation was handed in by council member Stephen Nemeth. Chad Atkins made motion to accept resignation and Mehmet Birtek 2nd, Stephen Nemeth abstained while rest of council voted in favor of motion.

Resolution No. 2023-5 – Resolution electing Stephen Nemeth to the Office of Borough Manager, and hiring him as Assistant to the Borough Manager until he takes office- Steve Hill made the motion to accept, John Aleszczyk 2nd, both Hector Moss and Stephen Nemeth were abstained votes, while rest of council voted in favor of motion.

Ordinance No. 578 – Ordinance revising the compensation of the Borough Manager, changing the holiday rules for the salaries Chief of Police to conform to other salaried employees, and revising Ordinance references to Borough medical plans to conform to name changes made by Capital Blue Cross- Chad Atkins made the motion to accept, Mehmet Birtek 2nd, Stephen Nemeth abstained, while rest of council was in favor of motion.

PSAB Conference – June 4-7 – Hershey Lodge- Sharon mentioned Stephen Nemeth was already registered to go, just wanted approval to attend conference on the borough. Hector Moss made the motion to accept, Mehmet Birtek 2nd, Stephen Nemeth abstained, while the rest of council was in favor of the motion.

Executive Session- Personnel- no votes will be made during session.

A motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. was made by Steve Hill, 2nd by Stephen Nemeth and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.