



Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024



The June 26, 2024, 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. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco Steve Hill Hector Moss Chad Atkins
Mehmet Birtek Ashlynn Rivera John Aleszczyk

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr- Solicitor, Stephen Nemeth-Borough Manager, Mike Preston- engineer, East Penn Press

Associates of Alburtis in attendance via zoom:

Tony Alsleben- Police Chief

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Mike Gerhart, Steve Werley, Ray Ricketts, Peggy Buss, unknown resident

Visitors on Zoom: Tom, Brooke

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ron DeIaco mentioned that we were in an executive session for personnel. Ron DeIaco mentioned that there is a debate tomorrow night. I'm not saying I'm not telling anybody how to vote at your own personal conscience. That's fine. But you may want to see this thing if there's anybody, and I can't believe this personally. But if there's anybody who is on the fence. They should watch the debate so they can make up their mind on issues. Raymond Ricketts mentioned that he wanted to thank the borough for taking care of the trees that were above his property.

MAYOR’S REPORT – No Mayor Report.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 12th, 2024

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 12th, 2024, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – June 26th, 2024

John Aleszczyk asked Mike, when you guys prepared the documents, you've worked out all the mailbox right? Mike Preston mentioned the original. We had the existing numbers. John Aleszczyk mentioned then why, in the way this bill for mailbox locations. You already know who they are. Mike Preston mentioned we do know where they are. Yes, that's correct. John Aleszczyk asked Why would we get billed again. Mike Preston mentioned the contractor is going to be installing those mailboxes, so that, or that bill is to get him. John Aleszczyk mentioned: we've already had that already. Do we already know where they are already? Know what mailboxes? That's where I'm confused. And what is this mailbox? Mike Preston mentioned Not all of the mailboxes. If we were to put all of the mailboxes that existed. Start the project back in there. I'll get you in right away. That's a medium strip. John Aleszczyk mentioned that's where I'm confused. What do we have to tell? Put it there, done? Mike Preston mentioned Well. I wish it were that simple. I need a document I can point at and say if he doesn't do it that way. Then yeah followed what we contractually out here. So, I think that's the answer to your question that here produce this at the at the end of work, and if you hadn't come back and do it again. But I'm not going to pay for it twice. John Aleszczyk mentioned Seems like we are. Cause you already



told us where they are. You already know where they're marked. So, and you're doing it again. And then, once you're installed, you get to do it again.

Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of June 26th, 2024, Chad Atkins 2nd the motion, and John Aleszczyk opposed due to bill 24410, motion passes with a 6-1 vote.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- nay to bill 24410	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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FISCAL CONSULTANT’S REPORT

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant’s Report of May, Steve Hill 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ENGINEER’S REPORT –

John Aleszczyk asked Mike Preston, “Are you going to touch base on anything about Bicentennial Village. Mike Preston mentioned right now, what we're looking to do is try and close out the obvious mailboxes that we discussed. The remaining punch list items have been a discussion with the contract with CMS. Their target date is to try and finish it by the end of this month. I would probably cut them an extra week or two because they're a little behind. John Aleszczyk asked, “What's the delay with the mailboxes? The mailboxes been over a month for this with these mailboxes? first of all, we weren't replaced on them. Borough is replacing them by the Mall. I'm in favor of that. But that was agreed to already. But what a delay in over a month. Mike Preston mentioned I think some of the initial delay was just arriving at the fact that we were going to proceed, as we were a bunch of events like that's good wasn't as simple as taking them. John Aleszczyk mentioned the existing mailboxes that were there we’re putting them back. Existing ones that are there that are not the long are, yeah, are going to go back in ones that are non-compliant. We're buying new ones, for. Hector Moss, I thought they were all supposed to be horizontal because the grass strip was supposed to be 12 inches. The ground strip is technically 8. If the box goes in. it's interfering with Ada compliance. Hector Moss mentioned part of the punch list items. I noticed that when they started construction. They took down a lot of our street signage. They damaged a lot of our metal posts. And there's some water boxes that are currently loose. Are those items being addressed and being paid for and reconstructed by CMS? Mike Preston mentioned Those items are on the punch list. CMS. CMS has to come out to address those. We'll deal with them when they do, as far as the signing goes. The originals were removed. If they were simply pulled out of the pavement, there may have been an issue with them. I talked to CMS. I said, “look they were in good condition when they found them, they should be replaced. Hector Moss mentioned thank you for the saying that because they were talking before, they started construction. Mike Preston mentioned there's some boxes along the curb. They're not secure right now. We've marked those out. They should either be bolted, or if they can't be bolted, repaired to state of correct use. Hector Moss mentioned again it falls on them too. Mike Preston mentioned It does. Hector Moss just wants to make sure our maintenance department is not doing the work that they shouldn’t do. John Aleszczyk mentioned to date those signs have not been replaced yet. The street signs no parking signs. Mike Preston mentioned I think there were 11 that they did not. John Aleszczyk mentioned I haven't seen any. I've seen all 3 roles, but I haven't seen any signs. Mehmet Birtek mentioned We have another project that comes out in the year when we're starting up. Mike Preston mentioned reducing the pressure reducing valve. We’re still working on the early up stages of that this week. pressure reducing valve is actually located in a privately own parcel of land. Ron DeIaco: way back in 1932, you were riding a bike around that corner. You know, the WPA Project put the water, they built the dam up on Reservoir Hill. They took the piping in this cast iron, I think 5 feet in. And then, because the pressure was so ungodly awful, they had put a pressure reducing belt. So, they just dug up beside the road and put it in. Now, part of that is baby in the right way, and part of it may not. What we're trying to do is, determine A if that's land that's ours. So, we can just dig up and put in, because in order to replace the using valve if they take that out. People aren't going to have water for a while. so, they're going to rebuild beside it. Then, when this is ready at night, sometimes they'll connect. It'll disconnect, connect. That's going to be on,

that's going to be on land that we have to make sure is ours. It's our right of way, or by eminent domain with. We can claim it. That's something I think that Dave is looking at. Dave Knerr asked what does the tax map say? Stephen Nemeth mentioned, Lower Macungie, But there's an actual property owner.

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeLaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ADMINISTRATION

Yard waste update – Ron DeLaco mentioned It will also include protecting the sewer station go around and protect that. The cost on that would be the lowest, which was Anchor at a cost of 7,178. What I'm asking for is let's look at all the information. Mehmet Birtek mentioned I'm not into construction things offered. I basically am offering the same thing. But up to the stand what is \$18,000 vs \$7,000, and I'm not. Stephen Nemeth mentioned the 18 includes sliding gates, whereas the other ones are just the open traditional. Ron DeLaco asked, “Do you know what it would cost to get those roll-ups back in? Stephen Nemeth mentioned they would just drop those back off whenever we request them, and every time they take and use the cost. It bumped up to \$689. Ron DeLaco mentioned that we know what the fence will cost. What about maintaining someone to open and check and I assume you're not thinking of 24, 7. Stephen Nemeth reviewed the three scenarios with council. Mehmet Birtek mentioned, our cost last year was 40,000. If we go to look at one of these choices. We're paying \$18,000. I'll take it in most cases and on a yearly basis you're going to possibly pay around \$20,000 to maintain. Then on top of that, we're going to pay for the continue to come in and out. Which is \$600, which is \$89 per and 600 costs that we're looking to \$700. So, let's assume that we have 2 containers. They pull out a week. During these times. I think this is going to run over another \$40,000 with an annual budget funding this. Now, we're going to pay the exact same amount for more. Keep it operational and the fence is a onetime shot. It's the fence, though. But your cost of running this, it's again we're taking the middle ground which we're paying part-time is roughly on \$18,000 a year. On top of that we're going to pay another 20 or \$30,000, depending on how much? Again, we're not going to use 52 weeks to 2 trucks. But if we do use 2 containers, let's say, out of 34 weeks we use two containers. So, we're back to \$34,000 operating with us on a yearly basis. Just roughly estimated. We won't be saving too much to begin with, leaving it open compared to last year's prices. all based on assumptions. This is going to be an additional item in the budget going forward. It's not in the budget this year, but on next year's budget. We have to add for that mill point or 2 mill points on the on the tax to cover for that. So, the residents can use the service. John Aleszczyk mentioned on the flip side that this year you raised the taxes you took away the service. Peggy Buss mentioned, Alright, we are going to encase it and the fence. Someone's going to be there. and the times I don't have a problem with. So, it being locked up except for those specific times. So, I don't think that they are going to get filled as quickly as they were before, because it was open. Everybody knew that if you had gas grass to get rid of, just take it over to Alburdis and dump it in there, because there's nobody there. I think that makes a very big difference. It really does. Once people know that. And when it's being monitored, that means that the person who's there, how is he? Is he going to ask you to show your license to show that you live in the borough. You live in the borough, then you can jump it off, not just somebody pulling up and going. Okay, fine. I'm going to drop it off because it's open. It should be just for Alburdis people. Yes, raise my taxes, and you took this away. And this was something that we really need. A lot of us need it. Okay? And that's why I'm here. That's why I want to know what's going on, because it's important to us. Hector Moss, the other thing you must understand, too, is like we're in July as with any time there's change people adapt. Currently people are adapting to one of these things. One of the items that I had discussed and possibly visiting for the fall is maybe working with like Lower Macungie or Macungie Township when they do like the leaf collections when they drive around and maybe exploring that cost and see what that cost would be, because to me that would be more effective during the fall, because we do have a lot of properties around here that need the leaf disposal. If that's something that we can enter without going into a long-term contract, and maybe just doing it for like 3 months, or whatever that's going to be more cost effective in my

eyes at this time, rather than trying to invest in something like this and bringing this back. Hector Moss asked if Stephen Nemeth can reach out to Lower Macungie about a partnership with borrowing their leave collecting truck for in the fall months. Steve Hill mentioned I don't want to waste your time anymore. If one of the 4 I'd go to change, it's a dead deal. Dave Knerr Yeah, for what it's worth. I agree with you. We've talked about this before because you've been bringing up some new ideas. It's been okay to talk about those new ideas. But when we come down to the issue of simply do we bring them back into the year that's been voted down, and it's been voted down so until there'd be a motion to reconsider. and it must be made by one of the 4 who voted against it. That's not. That's not an issue. Is that even a proper motion? So, if somebody wants to break a new motion to do something different. That would be different. But until that happens, we really shouldn't be talking about this issue.



Corey and Kimberly's Ride- route request- Chuck Deprill- Tabled

Recommendation to Pay Application No. 4 to Construction Masters Service, LLC

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to bring yard waste facility back for discussion on the 2nd meeting of June, with a cost estimate of securing and staffing the facility. Motion was seconded by Steve Hill and a roll call vote followed. Motion carried with a 7-0 vote in favor of the motion.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-nay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- nay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Request to apply for DCED Multimodal Grant

Stephen Nemeth mentioned like previously mentioned it was requested that I continue to look for funding to cover the remaining Roberts Street portion of the Bicentennial Village project. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to apply for Multimodal Grant, motion was 2nd by Hector Moss. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes on a vote of 7-0:

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Resolution No. 2024-11- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS AND THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO FACILITATE AND ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE REQUESTED MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT.

Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-11, motion was 2nd by Hector Moss. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes on a vote of 7-0:

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Recap of meeting with Governor Shapiro's office

Stephen Nemeth mentioned that last Friday I met with Connor Corpora with Governor Shapiro's office to discuss some of our bigger issues in the borough. I highlighted the truck traffic. He said he'll investigate that process with PennDOT and see what ways the Governor's office can assist us with it. They'll get back to me on that. I said it's pretty much an issue affecting all small municipalities throughout the state of the Commonwealth. I mentioned the bridge being out on Church Street. He pretty much said that he will reach out to Lower Mac to see what Lower Mac needs to progress, that process going forward, good thing and put pressure on if needed. Also, another issue was radar for municipalities. I made that big plug, to continue pushing that throughout the Senate. It's currently sitting the State Senate for budgetary reasons. There's a lot of state reps that are pushing for it, so we can only hope for this year. So, if we have to invite a state rep to sit with

one of the police officers to see how it's actually done on a daily basis see how hard it is. Maybe that's what we have to do.

Adjournment:

Chad Atkins made the motion to adjourn at 8:11pm, motion was 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

APPROVED