

**APPROVED**

**Borough of Alburtis**  
Meeting Minutes  
May 29, 2024

**APPROVED**

The May 29, 2024, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeLaco 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 DeLaco

Steve Hill

Hector Moss

Chad Atkins

Mehmet Birtek

Ashlynn Rivera

John Aleszczyk

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr- Solicitor, Stephen Nemeth-Borough Manager, Kathleen Palmer- Mayor, East Penn Press

Associates of Alburtis in attendance via zoom:

Tony Alsleben- Police Chief, Mike Preston- engineer

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Mike Gerhart, Cindy Shaeffer, Steve Werley, Ray Ricketts, Phil Grigonis, Susan Hercek, Susan Manvizadeh, Peggy Buss

Visitors on Zoom: Tom, Brooke, Aunt Jane, Nicole Steirer,

PUBLIC COMMENT – Cindy Shaeffer mentioned There's a new home that's being built and parked on property that is owned by the borough which is adjacent to my property. They brought in, and tractor trailers on large trailers, pieces of this house for large pieces of this house. It's a modular house. It is a 2-story modular house and the biggest concern I had was one. We were never notified as the adjacent owner. Nobody in the borough notified us. There was a point at which I woke up to all this noise happening outside, and then yelling and tractor trailers coming down Second Street. We're not allowed. We're not allowing tractor trailers in the borough in general. But now there's tractor trailers with house pieces coming down Second Street. Bringing it down Second Street to jump the curb to park these pieces with the trailers on that land. The land is damaged. At one point I walked out said to a few fellas. This might be a dumb question, but I must ask it, and that's exactly how I said it. I said, do you guys have approval to park pieces of a house here. The homeowner mentioned they had approval from the gentleman who owns the property behind. Next to me, next to the Borough property, he lives behind in the alley. He says we have. We've been talking for a year we got borough approval, and I and I, I must ask folks how we approve that to be stored on Borough property for a private homeowner to build a home. The grass is all torn up down there due to the storage of the trailers. Stephen Nemeth mentioned, the builder is going to make whatever repairs must be done to get the CO. Hector Moss mentioned, the original plan was they were going to use the AACC parking lot and then I guess something happened with the engineer or something that Friday couldn't make it. Stephen Nemeth: Yeah, I guess. And we know that we know that they're going to repair, and to get the CO to even occupy the house. Cindy Shaeffer mentioned I just respectfully ask that in the future anybody decides to make a decision that affects my property. I'd like a heads up, that's all I ask. Phil Grigonis mentioned the one thing that I noticed around town is abandoned vehicles, parked on the street, out of registration, out of inspection, and a flat tire. I see a police officer, and I'm like, this car has been here for a couple of months. Now it's obviously like it's abandoned and it's like there's nothing that can do because of some ordinance that we had in borough. the officer was telling me at the same time, because, hey, I've counted other vehicles around down here. It's like this past weekend. I counted 17 other vehicles. Tony Alsleben mentioned so what needs to happen to resolve this issue of cars parked in the street is an ordinance needs to be passed that gives us some authority to tow the vehicles if they're there for extended period. But there is no ordinance, so the only thing we have is the vehicle code. And to cite anything more than a \$10 parking ticket it must be in motion. That's the vehicle code. It's the law. But I don't know what else I can. What else we can do. Besides, give a \$10 ticket which does not move the vehicle. Kathy Palmer mentioned the motion is not to give the ticket. What he's saying is, he needs an ordinance past and or a motion passed to get this thing updated in the ordinances because right now their hands are tied. Dave Knerr mentioned that the state has a very extensive

section on abandoned vehicles, and what this gentleman just said is part of that. This is, if you have a vehicle that is located on the side of the road, and it's not functioning all that you can't. Just one of the things that we designed to avoid people storing vehicles on the road is that it's we didn't do it everywhere. But you took some areas where it was a problem such as on Main Street and said that you can't be parked between 3 and 4 am. Or something like that, so that there is a period when, if they're there, they can't be there during some, and that that will usually be able to get rid of those kinds of permanent parking problem. Tony Alsleben mentioned Yes, and something to address the tow and the storage fee. And who's going to be responsible for that? Not the borough

Hector Moss made a motion to have Dave Knerr work on updating the abandoned vehicle ordinance, motion was seconded by Mehmet Birtek, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
-------------	-----------	----------	-------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

Mehmet Birtek asked chief, is there any other items like this that must be updated? That is, tying your hands. So, we can also address those before. Something like this happens like other things that are limiting the police, and the rules are like updated and could help us out. Tony Alsleben mentioned This is the this is the biggest one. The parking is a growing concern among the residents that we get calls about, so this will be very helpful.

MAYOR’S REPORT – No Mayor Report.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 8th, 2024– Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 8th, 2024, Chad Atkins 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
-------------	-----------	----------	---------------	-------------	-------------	----------------

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – May 29th, 2024 –Hector Moss made a motion to pay the bills of May 29th, 2024, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and John Aleszczyk opposed due to bill 24353, motion passes with a 6-1 vote.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- nay to bill 24353	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
-------------	-----------	----------	------------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

FISCAL CONSULTANT’S REPORT –Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant’s Report of April, Hector Moss 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
-------------	-----------	----------	-------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

ADMINISTRATION



Yard waste update – Stephen Nemeth mentioned that This is to bring everybody up to speed that I heard back from Upper Milford, and they are. There's no intent to do any permit with us I reached out to South Whitehall, Allentown, and Emmaus. Pretty much. Nobody else wants to do any permits. Everybody across the board is struggling with this in their municipalities, with garbage contracts coming up in everything. So that's where we stand with permits, with other municipalities. Landscapers don't want this type of task, either. So, I would almost recommend bring them back till winter. But I mean, yeah, it's your vote. Mehmet Birtek mentioned the only way it's going to change is if one person who voted against the Dumpster says I'd like to bring it up. I guess. Make a motion. I'm 1 of those, fiscal said, though, and I continue. I still have a yard waste and I'm waiting, and I'm going to pile them up tonight. I'm going to put it in the trash. I did it last week. 4 bags I count caught the guy at the last minute I gave it to. My problem is this is, unless we have a solution to secure it, that

no other person that our borough residents are using it. I'm not going to go for it, because at the end of the day it's us to our money coming out of our pockets, our residents paying for it, or other people coming out of town. unless we can do something to either monitor it or do what they we could do. Tuesdays or Saturdays, 6 Am. To 10 Am. And we have everybody bring it up Monday. But we must monitor the inflow of that of that yard waste.

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to bring yard waste facility back for discussion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5-2 vote in favor of the motion.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-nay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- nay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
-------------	-----------	----------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

Ordinance 586 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 59 OF THE ALBURTIS CODIFIED ORDINANCES (RELATING TO RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT) TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MAILBOXES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING PERMITS, STANDARDS FOR MOUNTING POLES OR CONTAINERS, MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS, AND DUTIES OF PROPERTY OWNERS TO PROVIDE MAILBOXES FOR TENANTS, REQUIRING EXISTING INSTALLATIONS TO BE BROUGHT INTO COMPLIANCE BY DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 586, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
-------------	-----------	----------	---------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

AACC letter to council requesting police presence, road closure, and garbage assistance-

Nicole Steiner from the AACC was on zoom to answer questions in relation to the letter request, Kathy Palmer mentioned They want police presence on site daily. What I'm not understanding is the insurance. Why are they saying that they must provide a certificate of insurance they were. They were what you provided certificate, I'm sure, which provided the certificate of insurance. Nicole Steirer mentioned That's if the AACC is paying for the service. Steve Hill mentioned "Do you really think it's necessary to have this presence the whole time in front of us going. Nicole Steirer mentioned that's what was discussed by the board. Kathy Palmer mentioned that I don't understand why, if the Acc. Is already insured. Why are we as the police department in the borough, having to enter a contract with the AACC and provide a certificate of insurance naming the AACC. Then it's like saying we're entering this contract. So, is the borough going to bill the AACC? That's what they're asking, and that's what they're saying. If they must pay for. Chad Atkins mentioned Yeah. I mean, if we usually have an office, an extra officer on between that time that the Carnival goes on. I mean, I don't see any reason why you couldn't have it there, Tony Alsleben mentioned So let me, if I could, if I could clarify this a little bit. You're having a carnival where you're having a thousand people or more coming into the borough attending a carnival. So, we're hopeful. It's going to be successful. Right? So typically for events like this, you're going to have dedicated police presence or security presence Ems presence. So, to make sure they're dedicated and not pulled away from the event itself. For routine calls in the borough. You need to dedicate someone for the hours of operation of the carnival. So, the recommendation was that there's an officer assigned to the Carnival and the area immediately around the Carnival for the anticipated parking issues that we're going to have. So that was the suggestion to have a dedicated officer. Now, the insurance part of this I'm not clear on. I've never experienced that before. But insurance companies can require many different things, and if they're saying that because there is a quote unquote contract with the borough to have an officer dedicated regardless, if it costs or not. That they have to have some type of writer. I can't speak to that. I've never seen that before. But in a situation like this, it's best to have a dedicated police or security presence for your carnival. So, if there's an issue, we're there and not tied up

somewhere else in the borough. Mehmet Birtek mentioned if we're talking about money to our thing, we are doing a favor for again. This is a fun thing I love it. But if the police officer, if this chief is going to put an extra man out there and it's not possible. I really will be enjoying it. It's just that if thinking of the borough, I think we should be as they suggested. They're open to that as well we should be charging the Acc for the services that they rented as a borough to cover up any charges that we're going to get for the extra men on the look. Tony Alsleben mentioned That was that was given to the parade in kind by the borough. Ron mentioned that he would like to see if the fire police can cover the road closures and asked if Nicole or Steve can reach out to the fire department. Ron DeIaco asked if Steve could call JP Mascaro about the trash pickup during the carnival.

No vote was made at this time, tabled tile next meeting.

LMFD Centennial Book Stephen Nemeth mentioned this is to make another request for us to advertise in the centennial book. Lower Macungie and Macungie both did a full page.

Hector Moss made the motion to buy a half page advertisement. Mehmet Birtek seconded 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
-------------	-----------	----------	-------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

Lehigh Valley Transportation Study- public comment period- Stephen Nemeth mentioned this is to notify everybody. That post comment period has opened to the lay transportation study is the best time for the general public to voice their opinions about as well, whether tractor trailer traffic and bridges that aren't working. Sometimes more people the better. You have to say this for the end of the meeting, just like go past that. Ron DeIaco asked So how long before, when, when does the public comment period June 12<sup>th</sup>. Stephen Nemeth mentioned Just your recommendations of what need to be for traffic going into the full study. You want a copy of it with the Trans Valley Planning Commission transportation study. You can go to the website, and you can find all the complaints on there.

Ron DeIaco mentioned that we will be going into an executive session for personnel, he then asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hector Moss and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

*Stephen Nemeth*

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

**APPROVED**