

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
October 9th, 2024

The October 9th, 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 not streamed on zoom due to technical difficulties.

Council members in attendance via in person:

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

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

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

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Steve Werley, Mike Gerhart, Ray Ricketts, Peggie Buss, Al DeGennaro, David Lorenzo, Dane Chapman, Paul Brady, Jason Bartos

Visitors in attendance via zoom: Brooke, Tom, Dave Ritter

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Bartos mentioned, I've brought it up numerous times before, but something needs to get done about the speeding the block of Franklin Street in between Church and Lauren Drive, especially now that all the warehouses are online, all the warehouse traffic is now using that as a shortcut passing through there and the traffic, the speed that people are doing between 4 Am. And 7 Am. It is ridiculous. I've seen people pass people over the double yellow line. I've had people pass me over the double yellow line. Nothing's being nothing's being done to address the issue. I came to the council meetings at least half a dozen times, asking for something to be done about speed and nothing. Nothing's gotten done so far, Kathy Palmer mentioned, I do have to correct that, because after the last time you brought that up. The police stopped there for 3 straight weeks, and they did times. I don't have it in front of me, but the chief has an actual report. You may gladly go to him any day of the week he'll pull that report. The highest heating clock was at 35. Please, contact the chief at any time. He will be more than happy to show you the reports and he will speak to you about anything that you need addressed. His door is open all the time to come here and say, this happened a week ago. This happened 3 weeks ago. It does him no good that he doesn't get anything done. They sat there; they timed it. They have the number of vehicles that they timed, and the different times of the day that they were there timing. You have got to remember they're using stopwatches, right? These borough cops do not get the right to use a radar. Jason Bartos mentioned the question I have if they're using stop watches. There are white lines painted on Church Street. There are white lines painted on Alberta's Road, that block of Franklin Street where they're supposedly doing the speed timing and stuff with the stopwatches. There are no white lines painted on that road. I think we need to speak to him. He is very skilled, he is a very, very smart chief, right? He's not going to tell any of us that he has done these studies and doesn't know what he's talking about. Give me his email address and his phone number. (961) 966-4778. You may call in there anytime you want.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Kathy Palmer mentioned I just want to thank everybody who did drop off donations for the people that are really affected in the South. My truck is here now to pick up everything in there later on. I will probably do a second donation drive. I believe it's going to be desperately needed down there after this next storm. We've got this far, and he's got a 28-foot truck I hooked up with Peter Brothers and top of the grill, and this is my driver. This is Corey from the top of the hill grill. Load up our stuff and get it out of here. Thank you. Everybody that stopped to drop stuff off and is helping in any way possible. I think it's the least we can do right now.

POLICE REPORT

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the police report, Ashlynn Rivera 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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MEETING MINUTES of September 25th, 2024

Hector Moss made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 25th, 2024, Mehmet Birtek 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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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – October 9th, 2024

Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of October 9th, 2024, Hector Moss 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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TREASURERS REPORT

Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Mehmet Birtek 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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ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the engineer's report, Ashlynn Rivera 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

Garbage Contract

Dave Knerr mentioned that anyone who wasn't aware. From the last meeting we've received three bids for the contract. Whitetail Disposal clearly indicated that the numbers that they've shown is not what they intended. If they wanted to do their format properly. So, if they had gotten what they had wanted to provide to you, they would have been allowed, but they didn't. So, you can't accept this because it's not the lowest. It's the highest. The bid that came in Waste Management has the lowest bid on each of the options in which your garbage recyclable collection is on the same schedule as it is right now. Once a week for garbage every other week for recycling. However, if you increase either recycling or garbage in frequency, then the lowest bidder becomes JP. Mascara, and not waste management. Those are the options that you have there now. So, what you basically need to do is decide first of all, what you want to? Listen to what White Whitetail said, and maybe we'll let them speak now. As to why they think you should reject all bills and bid again with the hope that they come back in and bid, and they bid at least as low as they could before, and that, you know. Which is to say, other people can't now use that number to be lower and still even the contract. You're taking the risk that well, maybe nobody gets that number, and you know you're taking that risk.

Paul Brady from Whitetail mentioned that I apologize that you even must look at this question. There was an error when we input it in. Sandro, who works with me, when it got over here the numbers weren't correct, and I think it wasn't something that he wasn't used to doing. It's a very neat way of doing it, and when I last saw it looked like we had a good strong bid for your business. I certainly understand that it didn't meet the requirements to be responsive with. I want you to know if you do consider putting it back out for a bid. We will be bidding on that. We certainly want to service your community. Al DeGennaro from JP Mascaro mentioned, I want to thank you for your patience. I think we've contracted for several years, and we're pleased to do that. I don't want to speak much about the other bidder, except, you know, I feel compelled to say a couple of things. Bidding is a sacred process. You put your best number in, and that's your number, and if you don't have the number, that's the best, you don't get the contract, and come in here afterwards and say, well, if we did this right, it would be. This would be that. We've had your contract, and we've given you good service in part because of not only the commitment to service, but how we service. We send a rear load right here with the driver, and to help us know your specs allow you to do it that way where you can have an automated service, but you all know, by seeing the truck come down the road for both trash and recycling. There's a driver and 2 helpers on the back, they help the driver in directing it. But, more importantly, they load the truck. So, you got 3 people forming a service here as compared to. If it's a side arm with automated, there's only 1, one employee, and honestly, as somebody's been in this business working with the company for 33 years. I can tell you that the side arms are for the benefit of their contractor. They don't want to have other labor, and they want to minimize their risk of injuries or other things which I'm not saying is true, not important. But if there's a mistake, there's guys in the back of the truck, and they have to walk here and walk there, and they do that. the driver and a side loader don't get out of the truck. The whole idea of it is they give you a container that you use consumed because you don't have any types of containers for trash. Right? Everyone puts their own containers out there and you don't get the level of service. For example. some people put bulk items of things outside the container. Our 2 helpers pick that up and put it in there. If something's later, somebody runs down the driveway and says, can you come back and get it? These guys? I'll run back and get it with a truck and a driver. His sole job is to go to every house, flip the arm up and keep going. The idea is to have pretty much no interaction other than having that driver do that, and I'm not saying it doesn't work. We have contracts with sidearms, but I know that the best service you get is with the driver and 2 helpers, because you've got 3 people. Dave Lorenzo, with Waste Management mentioned the three of us are the 3 amigos. When it comes to municipal things where they're side by side. You win some. You lose some. Once you get to the bid opening. You know what the answers are to the test. It's hard to go back and retake that test. I mean that is the most respectful way possible. We had been on that losing end before you guys were there, it happens. These guys have said before, there's no guarantee that those prices will be low the next time around. Not to say that Mr. Brady is not being truthful. It's the game that is played that way it is what it is. So that being the case, the gentleman with Whitetail did bring up some good questions as it came to automation. There were a lot of questions going back and forth throughout that bidding process of what that would look like for the municipality. You know all the great questions that came up. What we did was our route managers and myself. On Friday service days we drove around the community. We got a good understanding of what everything looked like. Obviously, we don't have that firsthand knowledge of being a service provider. Call that an incumbent advantage par for the course. What our team did was come up with a game plan and we identified which streets, or which areas can get automated. There's going to be a lot within the municipality that can't be and that's okay. We have a plan in place. We're going to attack the automated possible routes with side loader, Corrado trucks. And then we're also going to send in a rear load truck to kind of clean up those stops that A cannot be serviced through automation. And then B, they're going to cover a lot of those bulk stops, too, that can't be serviced through those trucks. So, we do have a plan, and we do plan on executing that this is obviously a very attractive contract, and this is why you're truly arguing your point. You know people want to be a partner at the end of the day. So that being the case, the other thing that was brought up was recycling volumes again. You have a great point. No one wants to, you know. Maybe wait 2 weeks. But the other thing that was brought out, and throughout the billing process it was containerizing. We're going to invest in a 96-gallon total for recycling. And even if we looked at that given the investment of a 96-gallon total every other week schedule that cost. Let's talk about the benefits of automation quick. Yes, there's a deficiency advantage for the home that goes without saying. But on the flip side you're also investing less labor. What we

found in the industry is, it's a lot safer for the drivers in the communities, and our goal at the end of the day is to ensure that our drivers go home to their families in the same shape.

Hector Moss made a motion to approve recycling weekly, motion was 2nd by Chad Atkins. A roll call vote followed. Motion passes on a vote of 7-0:

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve centralized leave collection with the intent of getting it secured, motion was 2nd by Steve Hill. A roll call vote followed. Motion fails on a vote of 3-4:

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-nay	Aleszczyk-nay	Atkins- nay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- nay
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Hector Moss made a motion to select garbage contract option 56-1-1, motion was 2nd by Mehmet Birtek. A roll call vote followed. Motion passes on a vote of 7-0:

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Chad Atkins made a motion to approve Solid Waste Service dba JP Mascaro as the low bidder in contract option 56-1-1, motion was 2nd by Hector Moss. A roll call vote followed. Motion passes on a vote of 6-1:

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-nay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Mehmet Birtek made a motion to award garbage contract to Solid Waste Service dba JP Mascaro, motion was 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera. A roll call vote followed. Motion passes on a vote of 6-1:

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-nay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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West Second Street sidewalk project request

Hector Moss mentioned for many years that we continue to have an issue with pedestrian safety walking from Ridgeview over to Walnut like the school area, and vice versa, because there's no curb there whatsoever. There's no sidewalk. So unfortunately, it continues to be a safety issue for many of our residents, but you know, if they have a kid, they're pushing a stroller. They must walk in the street when it's snowing. It also kind of feels like Ridgeview is kind of segregated from the rest of town, because it kind of feels like they're cut off, which shouldn't be anywhere in the question. But again, I would like to see if we can explore the possibility of getting a sidewalk put in from Walnut to Flint Hill. John Aleszczyk mentioned that's private property. owned by AACC. Owned one side that wouldn't be at the borough's cost. Hector Moss mentioned, It wouldn't be at the borough's cost. But if we look back to the process project that was done on Walnut Street that was funded by a grant. So that's why I'm asking is if we can investigate the possibility of getting the sidewalk put in similar to what was done on Walnut Street via a grant. If a grant exists, yeah why don't we first look and see if we can get a grant for it? It would just be more explore exploratory to see if it's a possibility to get grants or something like that, because it is a necessity. Our residents, regardless of whether it's private property or not. We shouldn't be forcing our residents to walk in the street.

LMFD 3rd Quarter Stats

Informational, no additional comments were made.

LCA- Public invite to provide input on regional wastewater plan

Ron DeIaco mentioned that we would be going into an executive session for personnel, and that no vote will be taken after. A motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

APPROVED