

**Borough of Alburtis**

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2023

The March 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

Hector Moss

Ashlynn Rivera

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner

Steve Werley

Karen Dunstan

Len Christman

Thomas 22 Ultra

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ron Mentioned that an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation concerns was held at 6:30 pm. No votes were needed on topic discussed.

No comment by public.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Kathy Palmer asked if everybody received a message from the reversed 911 last night, stating that it was Lehigh County that put that out for only a certain radius. Wants everybody to understand when a shelter in place is issued, that is for everyone’s safety. Wants everybody to respect what the officers at the scene are asking of them, means stay away from the scene. After watching people go through alleys and between houses trying to see what was going on, the police on scene are already preoccupied at that moment, by not obeying the shelter in place you are putting self and officers at risk. Crazy in my eyes with all those preventative measures in place such as barricades and vehicles blocking roads, people were still trying to get closer to the scene. Last night after seeing it and having to repeatedly tell residents what the state troopers were requesting of them it really broke her heart. The emergency doesn’t have to go on Facebook and doesn’t need to be added to the community page with all of the nasty comments, when nobody truly knows what is going on. Believes that it is very disrespectful and very distasteful. Just hopes that everyone would just listen and be adults in situations like that. Steve Hill mentioned that he is thankful nobody got hurt. Kathy mentioned that it ended peacefully, it just irritated her that state troopers had to keep telling people to move. Steve Hill mentioned that he appreciates Kathy and Stephen going to the scene, but mentioned that Ron should still be notified, Kathy confirmed that he was notified, and Ron confirmed that he was. Ashlynn asked if there was a way to let everyone know, was at softball field and had to no clue what was going on. Chad mentioned he didn’t know until Stephen’s wife messaged him. Stephen only found out when Ashlynn came back to the softball field. Kathy only found out from a short message from the county. Stephen and Kathy met up and when to the scene. Hector questioned Stephen, “you didn’t know of the situation until you drove by?” Stephen said he found out when Ashlynn came back to the softball field to tell him and the rest of parents to put kids in vehicles for safety due to the state troopers with guns out. Ashlynn said it would have been helpful if more people had gotten the call. Hector’s main concern was that Stephen as borough manager should have received a call from the officers on the scene. Kathy said once it goes to county its out of our control. Steve Hill mentioned he thought there was a listing of people that needed to be called by county. Ron wanted to thank all of the public safety personnel that responded to the incident. Hector asked if we could schedule a meeting with Matt Trexler, our Emergency Management Coordinator to make sure our protocols are up to date and that we are all on the same page.

MEETING MINUTES OF March 8, 2023 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 8th, 2023, Hector Moss 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – March 29, 2023 – John Aleszczyk questioned bill 23439 of how Lower Macungie Library comes up with their contribution amount per quarter. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to pay the bills of

March 29, 2023, Chad Atkins 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ashlynn Rivera and Hector Moss Abstained from bill 23425, a unanimous vote for the remaining bills followed.

ENGINEER'S INVOICE REPORT- John Aleszczyk mentioned we still need to be aware of how much is being spent on total engineering cost, and that we are above our budget for engineering. Mehmet asked if we can start an engineer project tool on our end to keep track of costs towards the projects. Steve Hill mentioned that he believes that the engineers should be bringing it to council as they begin to approach the budgeted amount for a project. Mehmet Birtek requested that we have the invoice laid out differently than it is currently.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Mehmet Birtek 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANC REPORT- No comment was made.

### ADMINISTRATION

School Street Multimodal Grant Award – Stephen Nemeth mentioned to council that we were awarded \$42,297 for school street multimodal. The requested amount was \$892,129. Stephen Nemeth mentioned the hope with this amount is that we use what we get from Liquid Fuels and try to adjust the overall issues on School Street, table the other road projects and focus on this project and work our way down to address the other streets. The council agreed, Ron mentioned he would like Stephen to bring the quote to council at the next council meeting and it can hopefully be voted on. Stephen mentioned the intent of the project is to mirror that of what was done on 2<sup>nd</sup> street and run the water that sits down walnut street. Ron mentioned Steve did a great job organizing this meeting along with Donnie being very helpful in the prep of this potential project, Ron said he is very proud of our team that we have here.

Revisit Paving Projects- Stephen Nemeth the intent with this was just to mentioned that would like to put the School Street Project up on the list that was discussed at previous meeting. John Aleszczyk was ok with pushing the other projects like Chestnut to possibly the fall to see where we are financially. John also requested that we send a letter to the property owner of 103 W 2<sup>nd</sup> st. to address their bad curbing.

Park and Recreation-Harold Frey Bench- Chad mentioned they were looking at the park bench options at their last park and rec meeting. They liked one bench from barco brand which was a recycled plastic one, Stephen priced it out and found same one with Uline which was a cheaper shipping cost. Gary DeRoener was not too happy with the price of 700.00 for one bench. Gary mentioned why not ask LCTI to see if they can make a bench. John wanted to see if we could find a cheaper bench elsewhere. Ron agreed with John that lets table this to the next meeting in meantime look for a cheaper priced bench and allow for Donnie to locate a spot at the upper ballfield.

LCA Memorandum Designating Stephen Nemeth to Alburdis as a voting member of the LCA Wastewater Advisory Committee in accordance with the Post-1985 agreement- Steve Hill made the motion to recommend Stephen Nemeth as the voting member of the LCA Wastewater Advisory Committee, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hector Moss, and a unanimous vote followed.

Lower Macungie Meeting Summary- Stephen Nemeth mentioned that he had met with Bruce Beitel from Lower Macungie last Tuesday. The initial intent was to discuss revisiting the potential gravity flow sewer discussion that was originally started in 2019. Stephen Nemeth mentioned that Bruce is in favor of the idea, they just need to look at the overall flow rate that will be added to the system with the new Mertztown development project that is scheduled. Stephen also mentioned that Bruce stated that LCA should be involved. Stephen mentioned that he met with LCA about the discussion, and that LCA likes the idea and will be looking at the project to see what they can do to help facilitate the project. Stephen then mentioned that they discussed the church street bridge, Bruce mentioned to Stephen that he wanted to apologize for the lack of communication

on their behalf in regards to why the bridge had been closed. Stephen mentioned the reason why it was closed is that when the bridge was built, it was built only with railroad ties and cement, so structurally it's no longer safe to just repair, it would have to be a replacement. Mehmet asked that next time Stephen speaks to Bruce to mention the safety for the residents on Racite for that bridge, Stephen mentioned that during the meeting he mentioned the importance of the bridge for the entire community not just Racite. When there is an issue on front and main not having church st is an issue for the entire community. Stephen mentioned that Bruce stated until the meeting Bruce wasn't aware of how important it was to the borough for having the bridge accessible. He is reaching out to the railroad company to see if they can assist with fixing it, similar to how they fixed the Schenck rd bridge. Stephen stated they also discussed the Sauerkraut Ln extension also, Bruce mentioned to Stephen that it is his hope that the portion that gets to quarry rd. should be accessible in April and that Prologis took over the overall project of sauerkraut Ln to speed up the project. Steve mentioned Bruce mentioned he is looking into ways to assist the borough in alleviating the truck traffic that we deal with, his plan is to work with PennDOT to add signs above the road prior to the turning lane. Stephen mentioned that these meetings will be happening more often on a bi-monthly schedule. Steve Hill likes the idea of having meetings with Lower Macungie regularly as mentioned.

William B. Butz Memorial Fund donation received- (\$3,000)- informational, Mehmet Birtek asked what exactly these funds were for, Ron mentioned that it goes towards the upkeep of Lockridge church.

LVPC Government Academy- informational if anybody would like to attend. Stephen mentioned that it's a great organization and that he submitted a transportation request to the transportation committee in regards to the church street bridge. Stephen mentioned that when he talked to Susan Wild's office, they recommended that was a good place to take that issue too.

Entering executive session for personnel no votes will be taking place after, a motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. was made by Chad Atkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.