

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2018

The May 9, 2018 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

Stephen Kaufman

Vanessa Taggart

Sherryann Oels

Kathleen Raines

Hector Vazquez

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer attended the last three Lower Macungie Township Planning Commission Meetings regarding warehouses. The Planning Commission voted to deny the Conditional Use on Schoeneck Road. Steve Hill has also attended the last meeting. The Commissioners will vote on May 21.

The Mayor reported that there has been a Facebook post about an incident in the Lower Macungie portion of the development. This was handled by State Police and we cannot just voluntarily go. Our Department cannot get involved unless requested by State Police. Anything that lies in the Township portion of the development goes to State Police and not the Borough Police Department.

POLICE REPORT – There were no questions.

MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2018 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2018, Sherryann Oels 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – MAY 9, 2018 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of May 9, 2018, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comments – None

May Festival – Ron DeIaco noted that the May Festival was a success despite the weather and having to move it indoors at the Community Center. Ron thanked everyone involved for a job well done. Sherryann Oels mentioned that people are encouraged to contact Lehigh County regarding the building at Lockridge Park. Typically, when weather is bad, the production is moved into the cast house. This year, no one was allowed in the building due to the condition. In the past, the County put a lot of money into repairs, but lately nothing is being done to maintain it. If enough people contact Lehigh County, maybe they will allocate funds to make repairs.

2004 Truck Bid Opening – Eleven bids were received for the 2004 F250 Pickup Truck. The highest bidder was Daniel Hendricks for \$10,200. Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept Daniel Hendricks' bid in the amount of \$10,200, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed with Sherryann Oels abstaining.

Macungie Ambulance Corps – Chris Greb, Operations Manager for the Macungie Ambulance Corps was present to give Council an update on their services. The Ambulance Corps responded to 3,645 calls in 2017 with 117 of them being in the Borough. Last year they started building for the future. Two bays were added to the station and there is additional space for future additions, if needed. The Ambulance Corps purchased a 5th ambulance and they added a fifth set of life support equipment. Thanks to a Federal Grant, they were able to purchase and install Stryker powered cots and load systems in each of the ambulances. These units lift patients up to 700 lbs. The Corps is split into four areas-General Operations, Administration, Community Outreach and Special Operations. Community Outreach certified 600 people in CPR and Special Operations responded to 40 calls last year. They currently have a staff of 15 full time, 20-25 part time and 12 volunteers. Resident Gary DeRoner inquired whether they receive donations from the warehouses. They receive an annual donation from Lutron. Vanessa Taggart told Mr. Greb that her experience with the staff of the Ambulance Corp has always been very good and the responders are very compassionate and treat people with kindness.

Mailbox Ordinance – The proposed mailbox Ordinance is again being reconsidered. It did not pass previously due to the proposed size of the pots. Kathleen Raines measured the pots along Franklin Street and believes the dimensions should be 20" wide and 18" high. Otherwise, everyone along Franklin will have to replace theirs. Per Dave Knerr, the real issue with this is that some of Council questioned if we should even allow containers. Ron DeIaco stated that Home Depot buckets should never be allowed, nor other buckets. Vanessa Taggart suggested we just say no buckets. Hector Vazquez would like to see all of them have a 4x4 pressure treated post fastened with brackets and do away with all containers. Stephen Kaufman and Sherryann Oels stated that Ridgeview and other areas have nice metal poles. Stephen Kaufman's concern is safety. Kathleen Raines would like to have all members of Council present prior to making a decision. Dave Knerr suggested that, whatever the decision, permits should be pulled so that the location can be checked. Ron DeIaco agreed that everyone should be present and tabled this until the next meeting.

I & I – Ron and Sharon met with LCA engineer, Jim Shelton. New meters have been placed and the results were not what we expected. Even with the work we have completed, the results are not much different. Mr. Shelton believes we should be looking at laterals. The laterals are the responsibility of the homeowner. Sharon mentioned that they did not include the homes in the new development. That would account for extra flows. There are also issues in the development that need to be addressed. Also discussed were the pots that we have inserted in the manhole. If they are not sealed, they won't work properly and will leak.

Engineering Update – Donnie Derr and Sharon meet with Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott, once per month to discuss what is being worked on in the Borough. The Engineer bills have been questioned, but there is a lot going on at the moment such as MS4, SCARP, The Hills at Lockridge, several grants and additional items.

Lehigh County – Urban County Designation Renewal – Every three years, HUD requests the renewal of the urban county designation. The Borough has always been included with the County and will keep this position.

DCED Multimodal Fund Grant – The new round of grants are due July 31, 2018. Ron DeIaco asked if we could use this grant for curb and sidewalk along Franklin Street starting at the S-turn. It is a multimodal grant and Sharon would like to extend it towards the park so people are safe. Council is in agreement and Sharon will speak with the engineer.

W. Penn Avenue Crossing Update – Sharon received information from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission that upgrades to the crossing will be in 2021 and will include crossing gates.

Lower Macungie Township Legal Notice – Notice was received from Lower Macungie Township regarding the upcoming meetings that Mayor Palmer has been attending regarding the warehouses.

Rolling Stop Sign – Hector Vazquez is interested in placing signs under existing Stop Signs warning drivers that rolling stops warrant a fine. Mayor Palmer stated that the stop sign itself means stop, but drivers do not do this. Borough Council is interested in looking into this further and Sharon will obtain a cost for the sign.

Chamber Main Street Grant – Sharon is working on the grant for holiday decorations. There was an interest in purchasing decorations for the PPL poles that have lights on them. Sharon checked with Macungie Borough and the last time they did this it cost \$450 per pole for the outlet drop. Council would like to look into other options and the Mayor suggested planters for the poles. Sharon has also obtained prices for new lights for the tree and carolers also. She will check on the planters and unlit pole decorations.

LED Pole Lights – Sharon spoke with a PPL representative and was told if we would want to convert the poles to LED, PPL would pay for them if they are older than 10 years. If less than 10 years, the Borough would be responsible. Borough Council would like Sharon to proceed with this.

A motion to adjourn at 08:27 was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.