

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2022

The November 9, 2022 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:

Steve Hill	Hector Moss	Ron DeIaco
John Aleszczyk	Mehmet Birtek	Chad Atkins
Stephen Nemeth		

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

David Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor	

Visitors in attendance:

Ashlynn Rivera	Rev. Geoff Whitcomb	Lydia Jones
Robert Wimmer	Sheila Wimmer	Gary DeRoner
Gary DeRoner	Denise Figuera	Danielle Rivera

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Palmer congratulated the parade committee and to Hector Moss for organizing it. Mayor Palmer prepared Certificates of Appreciation and gave them to Hector to hand out. Ashlynn Rivera, Denise Figuera, Danielle Rivera, Stephen Nemeth and Lydia Jones were all present and those missing were Josh Heminitz, Risha Bower, Nicole Miranda and Nolan Kascur. Ron DeIaco noted that he was involved in a lot of parades and none of them have been this organized.

John Aleszczyk questioned whether or not any officer can issue a ticket to a truck and was told yes, but they cannot do inspections.

POLICE REPORT – No Report

MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2022 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 26, 2022, Mehmet Birtek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – NOVEMBER 9, 2022 – Hector Moss made a motion to pay the bills of November 9, 2022, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Hector Moss made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Mehmet questioned why we are not investing money in something because the interest rates are very low for our cash balances. Dave Knerr replied that there are restrictions on where money can be placed. John suggested short term bonds and Ron asked Sharon to look into this.

ENGINEER REPORT – Stephen Nemeth made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Lockridge Historical Church– Sharon spoke with Maintenance regarding a ramp at the Church and Donnie does not believe this is something they can handle, and they would need the engineer involved. John Aleszczyk does not want to involve an engineer. A letter was received in reference to Pastor Whitcomb's request to have an active congregation at the Church. There are deed restrictions and in order to have this approved, it would need to go through Planning Commission, the Zoning Hearing Board and Council for a Conditional Use. Places of Worship would need a Conditional Use in the Zoning District the Church is in. Parking will also be an issue since you need a minimum of two acres. This would require a variance. If Council is willing to lease the Church, there are procedures and variances. John Aleszczyk asked if a Christmas celebration could be held here and Dave Knerr replied, yes it could be if it was once and done and not ongoing. Mehmet Birtek asked if the property could be sold and was told yes, but it could still only be used per the deed. Stephen Nemeth made a motion to have the engineer look at the ramp project, Hector Moss 2nd, the motion failed, and Sharon offered to look into a contractor for a cost of a ramp. Dave Knerr reminded Council that prior to Zoning being done, a lease would have to be offered. Council suggested that Pastor Whitcomb check with the Zoning Officer prior to proceeding.

Borough Manager Retirement – Motion to accept and advertise – Steve Hill made a motion with deep regrets to accept Sharon's resignation, Chad Atkins 2nd with regrets and a unanimous vote followed. John suggested that an ad be run in December.

Civil Service – Hector Moss made a motion to certify the names on the list for the position of patrol officer, Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. The list is posted on the bulletin board.

Pump Station Improvements- Recommendation to Pay Blooming Glen - Ron informed Council that Blooming Glen still has a punch list that includes the riser needs to be sealed off properly. The basket almost performs too well, but we have learned that people are flushing rags, wipes and other items down the toilet. The Maintenance Department has to crank the basket up and they were bringing it out of the well. They were also reaching into the basket with just gloves and no other protection. Ron told them they should not be doing it this way and should be in a Tyvek suit and get a rake or some sort of tool to collect what is in the basket. A representative from Saucon Valley met with Ron and Maintenance and he showed them how they handle this. Water should be on site and our crew can do most of the work.

Church Street Bridge Closure – Stephen Nemeth contacted Lower Macungie Township regarding the repairs to the Church Street Bridge. The bridge needs to be replaced. The Township will be replacing a bridge in Lower Macungie in 2023 and the bridge on Gun Club Road is set to be replaced in 2024. The Township has not decided if they will replace the Church Street Bridge or not as of yet, but if they do, it will be after 2024.

W. Penn Avenue Speed Humps – After the last meeting Ron DeIaco requested that this item be placed back on the agenda. After thinking about his decision, he realizes there is a safety issue that the Borough is aware of, and it bothers him to have the taxpayer pay for this work. He would like to the Borough to have the speed humps installed. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to have the Borough install and pay for the speed humps, Hector Vazquez 2nd, Ron DeIaco and Stephen Nemeth were ayes and Steve Hill, John Aleszczyk and Chad Atkins were opposed. The motion passed 4:3. Ron added that if anyone complains, their situation will be reviewed. Bob Wimmer was present and thanks Council for their decision. He has met with Donnie Derr and they are on board as to place them. After discussion, Council decided this can be done along with the water line placement.

ARPA Water and Sewer Grant – We have received information and Sharon attended a Webinar in regard to a new grant available with ARPA Funds. The grant must be at least \$30,000, but cannot exceed \$500,000. Sharon asked for permission to work with the engineer to have the pressure reducing valve on Mountain Road replace. Steve Hill added that we could also look at old water lines. Hector Moss made a motion to proceed, Chad Atkins, 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Maintenance Quote for Plow – Donnie Derr submitted a quote for a new plow from E.M. Kutz in the amount of \$6,812. Council asked Sharon to remind Donnie that they would always like to have three quotes prior to deciding. Hector Moss stated that there may be a lead time on receiving a plow at this point, so he made a motion to purchase a plow once three quotes have been obtained. Stephen Nemeth 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Halloween Parade – Wrap up – Hector Moss stated that the parade went better than anyone expected. He thanked everyone for volunteering. The parade for next year is scheduled for October 28 or 29th of next year. The band in the parade was from Lehigh University. Eight of the food trucks sold out by 8:30 and the entire community pitched in with cleaning up.

A motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. was made by Hector Moss, 2nd by Mehmet Birttek and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.