

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
December 10th, 2025

The December 12th, 2025, 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 streamed on Zoom.

Attendance:

Council: Ron Delaco, Steve Hill, Hector Moss, Ashlynn Rivera, Chad Atkins, John Aleszczyk, Mehmet Birtek

Associates: Stephen Nemeth- Borough Manager, Kathy Palmer- Mayor, Dave Knerr-Solicitor, East Penn Press (zoom)

Visitors: Mike Gerhart, Gary DeRoner, Carl Rottenberger, Leon Jackson, April Knerr, Family of April Knerr

Mayor's Report: Swearing in of Officer April Knerr

Prior to swearing in Chief Alsleben read a brief bio about April and her career accolades. Mayor Kathy Palmer then swore Officer April Knerr in to become a member of the Alburtis Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mehmet Birtek mentioned that 10 days ago, our president called a demographic of our population garbage. I wish to apologize to those in our community who felt affected by our President's bad comment, and that nobody should feel singled out because of their heritage.

MEETING MINUTES of November 29th, 2025:

Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 29th, 2025, Chad Atkins 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- aye	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

Chad Atkins made a motion to pay the bills, Mehmet Birtek 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- aye	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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Reports:

Mayor's report:

Kathy Palmer thanked everyone that made it out to the tree lighting and thanked the chamber for their, it was a great turnout. Ron Delaco and Steve Hill echoed the statement and thanked everyone that was involved and for those that came out for a great turnout.

POLICE REPORT:

No comments were made. Chad Atkins made a motion to approve the November Police Report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- aye	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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TREASURERS REPORT:

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the November Treasurer's report, Steve Hill 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk-aye	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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ENGINEERS REPORT:

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the December Engineer's report, Chad Atkins 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- aye	Birtek- aye	Rivera- aye
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New Business:

Norfolk Southern Presentation- Leon Jackson

Leon Jackson presented a power point on behalf of operation lifesaver that teaches safety at railroad crossings. He highlighted which crossings in the county rank in the top five as most incident prone. Two of the top five reside in the borough, the main street crossing and the West Penn Ave crossing. Mehmet Birtek asked why when there is an incident on the tracks, they shut down all the crossings that lead out of the borough. mentioned that perhaps the train company should investigate shortening the length of trains to prevent this from happening. Leon Jackson mentioned that he could definitely take this concern back to his bosses, but they are at a shortage for drivers and that is why the trains are longer, trying to be the most efficient that they could. Leon also highlighted the importance of the blue ENS sign on the crossings and if we ever need anything to please reach out to him.

Ordinance No. 601- AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES; RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ALBURTIS POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION GRANTING FIVE (5) YEARS SERVICE CREDIT FOR BASE COMPENSATION AND VACATION PURPOSES TO FULL-TIME OFFICERS APPOINTED FOR THE FIRST TIME BETWEEN OCTOBER 29, 2025 AND APRIL 30, 2026; AND AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCES § 12-102(b) TO UPDATE THE REFERENCE TO THE POLICE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT TO REFER TO THE CURRENT AGREEMENT.

John Aleszczyk asked Dave why the MOU had to be included in this ordinance, Stephen Nemeth mentioned that it just codifies the agreement. Dave mentioned correct, you approved it, but it wasn't in an ordinance, so now it is. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 601. Mehmet Birtek 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-1.

DeIaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- nay	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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Resolution No. 2025-12-A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

No comments were made. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-12. Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- aye	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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Resolution No. 2025-13- A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ONE VOTING DELEGATE AND TWO ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATES TO THE TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE LEHIGH COUNTY TAX COLLECTION DISTRICT.

Stephen Nemeth mentioned that we needed to update our alternate delegates since the previous one was Tracy, who retired; therefore, we are just swapping her out and replacing her with Brenda, and everyone else remains as the selected delegates. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13. Hector Moss 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- aye	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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Continued discussion on possible new e-bike and similar micromobility devices ordinance regulations.

Stephen Nemeth mentioned that he checked around with other municipalities, and nobody is really touching this at the moment, most of them either already have added bike lanes or have no intention at the moment to address this. Kathy Palmer mentioned that the Pennsburg Chief was on the news about this and stated they were waiting for more assistance from the state on this because it is so hard to enforce. Ashlynn mentioned that again it ultimately comes down to parents educating their kids about bike safety. Hector Moss made a motion to leave ordinance as it is, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- aye	Birtek-nay	Rivera- aye
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Adoption of 2026 Budget

Dave Knerr mentioned that you don't need to pass the budget tonight but need to know by tonight so I can know what we're going to put in the ordinance, because I have to advertise it, and I have to file it with the county. So, I need to know what that, you know Presumably, the only number is, what is the administrative assistant's salary? That is in question. Steve Hill and Ashlynn Rivera argued that the Tiff has been underpaid for years and now performs expanded duties, warranting an increase to \$19-\$20 per hour. Hector Moss and John Aleszczyk noted that the employee recently received an 8% raise less than five months ago and questioned what job responsibilities had changed. Steve Hill and Ashlynn Rivera emphasized the value of retaining experienced staff, citing past situations where denying a raise led to losing employees and ultimately hiring replacements at higher cost. John Aleszczyk countered that if an employee chooses to leave, the borough can replace them as it has done before. Ron Delaco mentioned, we need to agree to a number so Dave can complete the ordinance.

Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to make administrative assistance rate of \$19.00/hr. Steve Hill 2nd the motion, and a roll call vote followed. Motion passes 4-3.

Delaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- nay	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- nay	Birtek-nay	Rivera- aye
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Hector Moss mentioned that he wanted it on the record that those that voted for this increase be ready to explain to the other administrative staff, maintenance, and officers as to why this position got bumped to industry standards.

Hector Moss made the motion to pass the budget with three officers. Mentioned that currently in the budget we have it listed for 4 full-timers plus the chief, which we never agreed to. Stephen Nemeth mentioned this has been in the budget for the last 4 years the same way. Hector Moss stated again that he would like to make the motion to approve the budget but not with the 4 listed in the budget. Kathy Palmer then mentioned that you wouldn't be able to pass the budget. Dave Knerr mentioned correctly, you would need to request to amend the budget. Chad Atkins asked the fourth officer isn't the fourth officer the one that just got sworn in tonight. Hector Moss then Steve Nemeth confirmed. Ron Delaco asked how many full-time officers we have, and Steve Nemeth stated that we now have 4 plus the chief again. Steve Hill mentioned that when we voted to hire the new officer, he had stated that he would not vote in the future to add another fifth if the opportunity came up. Ron Delaco agreed with Steve that he felt the same way and would vote the same way. Hector Moss then rescinded his motion. Ashlynn Rivera made the motion to adopt the budget as advertised. Steve Hill 2nd the motion and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-1. John stated that he was only against it because of the one wage increase otherwise pass the budget.

Delaco- aye	Hill- aye	Moss- aye	Atkins- aye	Aleszczyk- nay	Birtek-aye	Rivera- aye
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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Hector Moss and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

 Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.