

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2018

The July 11, 2018 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council Vice-President Steve Hill at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburtis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Steve Hill
Kathleen Raines

Sherryann Oels
Stephen Kaufman

Hector Vazquez
Vanessa Taggart

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Visitors in attendance:

Kim Adamson

Mike Gerhart

Janelle Alfano

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

POLICE REPORT - No Report

MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2018 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 27, 2018, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JULY 11, 2018 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of July 11, 2018, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comments – None

Fireworks – Several residents attended the meeting to discuss fireworks. Mike Gerhart lives on Third Street and would like Council to pass an Ordinance for noise that starts at 10 p.m. and a ban on fireworks. Bottle rockets were found on porches, roofs, one of his neighbors found them in their pool and another one needed to wear ear protection because he is a combat veteran. These pose a serious fire damage to the Borough. The officer on duty informed them that this is a state law, not a Borough law and it was a state police issue. The new law does have a provision that fireworks cannot be set off within 150 ft. of an occupied structure and there is nowhere in the Borough that allows for that. Per Dave Knerr, the State law is now allowing them and we cannot prohibit what the State allows. We do currently have a noise Ordinance but he is not sure if the state law will trump the Ordinance. Kathleen Raines stated that the state law has a 150 ft. distance limit. The Borough Police can cite people on this. Sherryann Oels noted that fireworks were being set off within 150 of the pool which houses chlorine. Mr. Gerhart stated that other Boroughs have passed Ordinances regarding fireworks but was told that we cannot because the state has control over the issue. Janelle Alfano lives in the Borough and witnessed neighbors setting off major fireworks in the street. She and her neighbors were afraid that their houses would catch on fire. The police were called three or four times and the neighbor was directed to go to the parking lot of the rec field across the street. Steve Hill suggested that the Mayor speak with the Chief regarding the 4th of July and future coverage and Dave Knerr will look further into the issue.

Ordinance No. 546 – Dave Knerr informed Council that one item was missed in the Ordinance and if passed this evening, can be taken care of next meeting. The item missed was regarding reimbursement for the deductible. They currently wait up to two weeks to get a reimbursement since it goes through Council. This change would allow for the reimbursement to happen prior to a Council Meeting. Hector Vazquez made a motion to allow for this addition, Stephen Kaufman 2nd, Vanessa Taggart was opposed and the balance were ayes.

Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 546, an Ordinance implementing an arbitration award by approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Alburtis and the Alburtis Police Officers' Association for the years 2018-2021, including provisions relating to definitions, term, base compensation (including full-time increases of 3% plus \$1,200 for the first year, and 3% increases for the second, third and fourth years), overtime, shift differential, longevity pay, hearings, call-out duty, hours worked, training, holidays, vacations, personal days, sick or injury leave, short-term disability plan, long-term disability insurance, life insurance, funeral cost donation campaign for officers who die from causes related to their employment, health insurance (including an increase in the required employee contributions for medical plan coverage in the second, third and fourth years), pension plan, educational merit award for earning certain educational degrees, scheduling, uniforms and equipment, voluntary payroll deductions, physical and mental examinations, grievance procedure, civil service, provisions for an acting chief in the event of an extended absence of the chief, meet and discuss meetings, reservation of rights, applicable law, and severability; and also amending the codified ordinances to conform to the new collective bargaining agreement, to revise the compensation and benefits of the chief of police to conform to the increases earned under the new Collective Bargaining Agreement by the highest ranking officer, and to increase the rates of compensation for Non-Uniformed Employees effective July 1, 2018. The motion was 2nd by Stephen Kaufman and a unanimous vote followed.

Stephen Kaufman made a motion to set the rates for the Maintenance Department as follows: Donnie Derr - \$29.06, Russell Kressley - \$25.61, Gary Hartman - \$22.04 and Kyle Dietrich - \$19.51. The motion was 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed.

Ott Consulting Meeting Notes – The Monthly Engineering Report was reviewed. The engineer is currently working on 15 different projects for the Borough.

Macungie Ambulance Monthly Report – The Macungie Ambulance Corps Monthly Report was reviewed. They responded to 11 calls in the Borough in June.

Upper Milford Township Correspondence – Correspondence was received from Upper Milford Township in reference to zoning. The Borough has no comments.

Lower Milford Township Correspondence – Correspondence was received from Lower Milford Township in regards to the Borough of Emmaus not signing the Memorandum of Cooperation for the SW Comprehensive Plan. There will be a meeting soon regarding this.

Lower Macungie Township Correspondence – Correspondence was received from Lower Macungie Township in reference to zoning. The Borough has no comments.

Resolution No. 2018-12 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-12, a Resolution appointing Christina Kaufman to the Planning Commission. The motion was 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed with Stephen Kaufman abstaining.

Engineer Estimate Survey Work – Gravity Sewer Study – With the issues we have been having at the sewer pump station and the upgrading that will be needed, the option of perhaps having a gravity fed system is being considered. Ott Consulting has submitted a quote in the amount of \$2,000-\$2,500 for the field work. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to allow the study be done for the quoted amount, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Walnut Street – Invoice No. 1 – Concrete Work – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to pay \$67,414.50 to Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. for the work that has been completed, Sherryann Oels 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Borough Hall Air Conditioning – The air conditioner/heat pump needs to be replaced. The office has been working from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in an effort to beat the heat. Sharon has received two quotes and is waiting on a third. Hector Vazquez made a motion to allow Sharon to have the unit replaced by the company with the lowest quote after the third quote is received, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Fire Police Request – An email was received from the Lower Macungie Township Fire Department requesting the use of the Alburtis Fire Department Special Fire Police for the Ben Event on July 21 and for the Wheels of Time Car Cruise on August 24. Sherryann Oels made a motion to allow the Alburtis Fire Department Special Fire Police to assist for these two events, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Multimodal Grant – Sharon and Donnie Derr met with Jeff Ott and a member of his staff to do a walkthrough of Franklin Street. They are proposing to apply for curb and sidewalk on both sides of Franklin Street from School Street to Lockridge Park and also to install a parking lot at the lower end of the Lockridge Historical Church. They would like to apply for \$1,000,000 and the Borough's responsibility would be \$100,000. They will try and have the match waived. Hector Vazquez made a motion to have the grant submitted as outlined, Sherryann Oels 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

A motion to adjourn at 7:55 was made by Sherryann Oels, 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.