

**Borough of Alburtis**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 11th, 2025

The June 11th, 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.

Council members in attendance via in person:

Ron Delaco, Steve Hill, Hector Moss, Chad Atkins, Mehmet Birtek

Council members in attendance via zoom:

John Aleszczyk, Ashlynn Rivera

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Kathleen Palmer- Mayor, Stephen Nemeth- Manager, Dave Knerr- Solicitor

Associates of Alburtis via Zoom:

Jeff Ott- Borough Engineer, Chris Cope- Entech, East Penn Press

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner, Mike Gerhart

Visitors in attendance via zoom:

Brooke, Tom, Roxann C, Kate, Susan's Ipad

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**MEETING MINUTES of May 28th, 2025**

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 28th, 2025, Hector Moss 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

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| Delaco- yay | Hill- yay | Moss-yay | Aleszczyk-yay | Atkins- yay | Rivera- yay | Birtek- yay |
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**BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to pay the bills of June 11th, 2025, Chad Atkins 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

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**Reports:**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Kathy Palmer mentioned the 1st one is I really like to acknowledge the work that the maintenance guys did on that lower part of Chestnut Street that one came out nice. It's beautiful. It's nice. Number 2 is, we have a fully executed agreement with the school district allowing us to use the Alburtis Elementary School as our new emergency shelter. Our emergency management director is working on everything, making sure that everything is Updated for the borough. Okay, and Number 3 is between our networking. Steve and I have been working with municipalities to try and get a resolve on the yard waste matter. Steve was with Upper Macungie, and I reached out to Emmaus. Emmaus has agreed to let our residents come and use their yard waste facility and it will be \$50 per year, If they want to use it, they must go to the borough of Emmaus fill out their permit fee.

They will then get a tag, and they can use that on the days, and they are open on the weekends over there. They'll give them the daily schedules and all that stuff over there. So, anybody that wants to use that must go over to the borough of Emmaus and get their permit, and you're more than happy to use it.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Hector Moss made a motion to approve the police report, Chad Atkins 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

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### **MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS**

Ron DeIaco mentioned in the report stated 431 calls for Macungie Ambulance in April, with 7 being in the borough.

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

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### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Steve Hill mentioned that the sewer account looks low, Steve Nemeth mentioned that we are waiting on two reimbursements from DCED to come back in. He reached out to DCED, and they are just waiting to be released.

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

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### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Steve Hill mentioned it's kind of foolish to be spending any more money, the engineer, when Dave, I guess we just say, you know, not get back to us. Let's just take money out of the escrow and get it fixed. Steve Nemeth mentioned that the CMS reached out to Jeff and myself today to inform us that they will be out on Friday to work on this. Mehmet Birtek asked What's going on the 85 and 86 that a bunch of flags Steve Nemeth mentioned that's a Pa1Call They are surveying the land. Mehmet asked when is that going to come to the table with that? Dave Knerr mentioned well, we're waiting for Jeff to give his comments on it. So, hoping the next meeting was open for this one. Mehmet asked how the smoke test ended up, Steve Nemeth mentioned we have about 40 residents that I sent letters to regarding their clean out caps and stuff like that. There are a few others that are going to have sewer line repairs that they're in. So, Jeff and I are working on that to see how. But overall, we didn't have a big leak in our old pipes, or anything like that. No, we didn't see any of that. Chris Cope: Was better than we thought there were. There were clean out issues So there were some defects on the clean out caps. I think we had one sump pump connection where we saw smoke coming out of the stack of the roof. and we believe there was one dry trap that smoked on into the residence, but other than that, there were many cleanouts. There were a lot of issues on Racite, a ton of issues on Racite. Almost every home had a clean out issue, and unfortunately, they were in sidewalks, the clean outs. So, part of the next round is to have a clean out inspection where you go out, and you physically see what was wrong with the cleaning itself. Was it just a cap? Was there a crack? Was it down further? So that if we do have to do additional rehab. We know exactly what rehab entails. There was one site on Racite where we saw smoke coming from between properties out of the grass at no clean out location. so that might be a cracked lateral in that area. John Asked: Would that be covered by the builder? Chris Cope mentioned "Don't know the maintenance period as to when that was developed." Maybe Jeff has an idea, but I think that might be past maintenance period. But that's just a guess based on the age of development.

John Aleszczyk made a motion to accept the engineer's report, Mehmet Birtek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

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### **New Business**

#### **Recommendation to Pay Insituform Technologies, Inc.- \$22,200**

Hector Moss made a motion to approve Recommendation to Pay Insituform Technologies, Inc., Mehmet Birtek 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

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#### **Awarding of Bid for Pressure Reducing Vault**

Dave Knerr mentioned that I would recommend that we waive all defects regarding the lowest responsible bidder.

Hector Moss made a motion to award the project to the lowest bidder along with waiving the any defects motion to waive defects, Steve Hill 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

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Allgyera is our lowest bidding recipient. John asked what the timing is to get that done now that we awarded it. Chris Cope mentioned So we'll issue the notice to award 1st thing tomorrow, and then the notice to proceed. A few days later we'll look at their submittals. They'll start ordering their equipment. But there's unfortunately lead times, long lead times. My assumption is the hope that we can get construction started by Labor Day. We're going to try to do this work at nighttime. So, the issues will be limited. We'll give the public in that area. Those people who have that water source in that area have plenty of notice.

#### **Sidewalk update**

Hector Moss mentioned A few months ago I had brought up looking into getting a sidewalk put in to connect Ridgeview to the Walnut Street, and I just wanted to see if you have any update. I'm just asking that we revisit this because it continues to be a safety issue and concern for residents. Just the other day I saw someone almost get hit pushing a carriage because they had to walk into the street again. I really have no preference on which side of the street sidewalk goes. I would just like to see and ask Council to consider letting Steve research grants that would be available to get a sidewalk there. So, these residents don't have to cross into the street. John mentioned the bottom part that you're talking about the bottom part of the Rec center. That property. Hector mentioned It could be either side of that, that street and my main something put in there, because our residents should not have to step into that street to walk their dogs, push a carriage, ride a bike like it's getting dangerous. And there's more and more kids starting. Steve Nemeth mentioned It's something that would be needed. I know. When I spoke with Dr. Scalzo she did mention that when it comes to their school evacuation drills, they go that route. John asked that just to be sure, just to be sure, that's for Steve to investigate it. Not engineering costs and everything correct just right now to look in the grants. What about what about thinking outside the box? We still have money from Bicentennial? What if we could apply that money towards that? Steve mentioned that he and Jeff had a meeting with DCED about that and they said it can't be reallocated to a different project in the borough You have to use that scope already.

Steve Hill made the motion to approve Steve Nemeth to search for grants to add sidewalks on west second Street; the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Atkins. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

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### **FEMA NIMS Courses**

Steve Nemeth mentioned that this is a reminder that everyone needs to make sure they have the FEMA NIMS courses completed, if and when completed just email them to me so that I can have them on file. This way incase a FEMA audit occurs we can be compliant. It's important for us to be compliant on these because it will impact future funding from FEMA if we need it. John asked if Steve can send the link out to everyone and what they need. Steve confirmed.

### **Motion to add to agenda**

Ron mentioned want to thank Donnie and his crew for what they've done up on 5th Street also 5th Street is completed, and you can get through. It even actually starts to go into the tree line or the overhanging trees. And that's super and I, as I understand. There he's going to be doing Fort Sumter. About halfway up. My concern is again with the rain. The rocks all came down, and we're all over the rocks, get washed down onto the new macadam that he'll be putting down if anybody drives over it. It pushes the rocks into the macadam, and Donnie told me. That's the start of the pothole, but I thought he had agreed to do all 4. Something really agreed to do that. John stated So not all for it, something or no. There's nothing to mill on Fort Sumpter there up top. It's all stone. Ron stated, okay, so let's just complete the road so that it's a complete road. John mentioned I think you'd want to find out if residents want that completed. I don't think Steve Worley and a bunch of those residents up there want that completed. You know what that's not made for a road. You're not going to be able to get out by Ben, and that's going to be a nightmare. Ron mentioned Well, the nightmare is that the road that they put up on the lower half of it is going to be destroyed by the rocks rolling down again. Dave mentioned, Yeah, we're getting into a whole that should be on the agenda. Ron mentioned that the reason I brought it up now is because next week he starts new and they're going. John mentioned right, the bottom part, the bottom part by yours was approved. That was already done. The other problem was not because there could be other costs involved, too. It's not just laying the asphalt. Dave mentioned I'm going to get into something that I didn't think we I wanted to get into with you just yet, but this comes down to Bear with me on the right to know law when they put this stuff in about having to have an agenda. The original proposal that came in said that you can only do it for 3 reasons. One is because it was. It was something that just came up in the last 24-hr. You can't put it on the agenda, and we need. And it's come up. We need to deal with it. The other is something that doesn't require the expenditure of any money. And off top of my head, I can't think of the 3rd but that in those circumstances, even though it's not on the agenda you can act and discuss. And then but as that went along, an awful lot of municipal officials across the State said, that's a little too restrictive, you know. We get to meetings. And now you can't talk about stuff that really needs to be able to be dealt with. So, in the political process of it all, the language was added that said, there's a 4th reason, which is, if for any reason. There's something that you want to add to the agenda that you couldn't add to the agenda. Then you can make a motion to add it to the agenda, and then you must give the reasons why you want to add it to the agenda, which doesn't have to be those 3 reasons that were otherwise important. But if you tell you what those reasons are, you put it on the agenda, and you make a motion and put it on the agenda. You can then vote to add it to the agenda. Now that it's on the agenda, you can vote on it, and you can ask questions about it. Go on. So, you know, once that came along, I was very comfortable, saying to you all, don't sweat those other 3 reasons, because you can always add anything to the agenda if you really want to. This, this hasn't caused a problem for you, and the way that linguistically, the thing is written. It says Things that are not on the agenda can be dealt with as long as you meet one of these 4 criteria, and they list the 4 criteria. So, then there was somebody who came along, and it happened to be in Parkland School district where this happened and they complained that Parkland acted on something that wasn't on the agenda, and Parkland said, well, we added it to the agenda, and these people said, Well. You shouldn't read the language of this thing, the way that it's written, you should read it in a totally different way, which is to say that only those 3 original ways are the reasons you can change it. And the 4th way is the procedure that you must follow to be able to work on those 3 items and the Commonwealth Court bought that. I think it's a terrible decision that they made. It makes no sense to me at all, and it's clearly not what was intended in the legislative

process. However, you know it's the decision that was made by the Commonwealth Court now that has been appealed, and the Supreme Court accepted the appeal. So, we've been waiting for the Supreme Court to say what the rule is on this. Now, for the moment, technically, the ruling of the Commonwealth court isn't in effect, and of course Lehigh County had not come out that they were overturned by the Commonwealth Court to make this silly decision. So, you know, we're all like well, the current state of the law is that it says you, you can't do. You can't just add things to the agenda. It's only a procedural device to use one of those other 3 things. But I still think that's wrong. I still think we could very well find this, the Supreme Court says it's wrong and allows you to do it. So, I don't mind. Go ahead, add it to the agenda and do it, and then the only the only thing you need to do is make sure you put in the minutes that you had this vote, that the minutes include the reasons that were offered why this should be added to the agenda, and that you all voted by a majority vote to add it to the agenda. Once you do that, then you can go ahead and discuss it.

Hector Moss made the motion to add discussion of fort sumpter paving to agenda; the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad Atkins. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-1.

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Hector mentioned that he would like to see further expenses that additional payment would cost. Ron mentioned he would prefer to have road completed. John mentioned that it can be budgeted for next year to be completed, there are other roads that are used more frequently in the borough such as school, flint hill, and Ridgeview. Ron mentioned He'll do the work up to where he must, and then nothing will be done but we will have a budget to know what it would cost to do the rest of the work and then we could call at the next meeting or the next month. We'll say, if we have the money Council can either approve or disapprove. If not, we'll. I will encourage Council to put it in the next budget so that we can get this done and take this care of this albatross.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. was made by Hector Moss, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mehmet Birtek and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

*Stephen Nemeth*  
Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.