

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2018

The September 12, 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:

Steve Hill	Sherryann Oels	Hector Vazquez	Stephen Kaufman
Kathleen Raines	Ron DeIaco	Vanessa Taggart	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
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Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner	Michael Gerhart
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MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report

MINUTES OF AUGUST 29, 2018 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 29, 2018, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of September 12, 2018, Kathleen Raines 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 – Resident, Gary DeRoner, was present with a concern regarding a letter he received from an Alburtis resident regarding a website called Nextdoor. He was not sure if this was a legitimate mailing. Vanessa Taggart has received one also. It is a social media site for local information. This is something new and Sharon has seen Facebook posts regarding this lately. Mr. DeRoner also expressed a concern regarding people discarding cigarette butts on the Borough parking lot. An Ordinance has recently been passed prohibiting smoking on all Borough properties. Sharon will have a No Smoking sign ordered and placed in the parking lot.

Ordinance No. 548 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 548, an Ordinance establishing regulations for the use of fireworks in the Borough of Alburtis, including definitions, time restrictions prohibiting the use of consumer fireworks on any day before 10:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., provisions establishing that the Borough does not permit the use of consumer fireworks on or from property owned, leased, or controlled by the Borough, provisions relating to permits for display fireworks, and establishing penalties for violations. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Resident, Michael Gerhart, was in attendance because of the callout and Facebook Page post that said an Ordinance was being created. The telephone callout was very effective and Mr. Gerhart told Council that he heard people talking about it around town. Mr. Gerhart appreciates Borough Council acting on this.

MS4 Stormwater Fees – An MS4 Fee (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) was discussed at the last budget meeting. MS4 has new requirements and per DEP, we must make repairs to the storm water system. This line item would be added to the water bills and would be about \$12.50 per quarter. Stephen Kaufman recommends that we eliminate the Per Capita tax when this is done. The annual registration requirement would stay in place in the event Per Capita would have to be added back in. It is a lot harder to reinstate a tax once it has been removed. Vanessa Taggart suggested that we suspend the tax for a year. Sharon will keep the line item in for the next budget meeting.

Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. Payment Recommendation – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay payment #2 to Zgura's Concrete Services in the amount of \$30,375.00. The motion was 2nd by Sherryann Oels and a unanimous vote followed.

Ott Consulting Monthly Engineering Report – The monthly engineering report was reviewed. The engineer is currently working on twelve projects for the Borough. Vanessa Taggart made a motion to accept the Engineering Report, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Maintenance – Snow Blower Request – Quotes were reviewed to purchase three new snow blowers for the Maintenance Department. Steve Hill made a motion to purchase three snow blowers from Eckroth Equipment Company in the amount of \$2,295, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Lockridge – The sidewalks and road are in need of repair throughout the development. Stephen Kaufman suggests that we use 2019 as a planning year for the project and have work completed in 2020. Borough Council is in favor of this idea and it was suggested that we have the Engineer put it on his radar for some time next year.

345 Franklin Street – Complaints are being received regarding the mud that continues to be dragged onto the alley. The rear yard is being used for parking. Ron asked if there is a right of way in the alley, and if so, could we put stone there. Ron and Steve Hill will speak with the resident to see if they will put stone in the parking area. If this does not work, the Borough could place a guardrail in the right of way of the alley.

Trees – There is a tree from the bird sanctuary that is leaning over a residence on Fifth Street. Council instructed Sharon to have this quoted out along with the trees behind the Historical Church. Hector Vazquez made a motion to have the trees removed by the lowest bidder, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Sewer Issue – A local business had a sewer issue after the rain in the last couple of weeks and is asking to be reimbursed for the cleanup. The Borough system was stalled due to the backup at the Allentown Plant, so Council does not believe we are at fault for this. Dave Knerr stated that the Borough has a government immunity and we should not set a precedence in paying for repairs for one establishment and not all. The Borough could help with the insurance deductible as has been done in the past. It was suggested that all properties have a backflow preventer to stop this.

Flagger Force – Maintenance would like to utilize Flagger Force for the closure of Front Street. The Company provides the Penn Dot approved signage along with two flaggers. Hector Vazquez made a motion to contract with Flagger Force, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

December Council Meeting – The last December Council Meeting is scheduled for December 26th and Sharon asked if enough members of Council would be present or should she advertise another date. Some Council members may not be there, but at this point it looks like there will be a quorum so there will be a meeting.

AACC – Sherryann Oels questioned the millings and pipes being stored at the AACC. There is a wedding coming up and they would like it cleaned up some to make room for parking. The pipes will be used on Front Street and the millings are in the process of being hauled away. Sharon will double check with Donne Derr.

Executive Session – An Executive Session was called at 7:52 for a Personnel Issue and ended at 8:35.

A motion to adjourn at 7:52 was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.