



Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2024

The February 14, 2024, 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. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco Steve Hill Chad Atkins John Aleszczyk Ashlynn Rivera Mehmet Birtek

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor; Kathleen Palmer, Mayor; Stephen Nemeth, Manager. East Penn Press

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Steve Werley, Mike Gerhart

Visitors by zoom: Brooke.

OPENING STATEMENT- Ron mentioned that he seen on tv the attack at the parade for the Superbowl, this kind of stuff needs to end, blames lawmakers for inaction on issue. Thinks citizens should start using their power of voting to voice concern.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Steve Werley asked about the 121 S Main Street property, how can 75% be residential in the commercial district. Ron stated that it is listed like that way in the ordinance. Dave Knerr mentioned that back in the early 2000’s it was added to the ordinance. Kathy Palmer mentioned that she believes that we messed up with the parking situation associated with this property.

MAYOR’S REPORT- Kathy Palmer mentioned that the chief is requesting an executive session prior to the meeting on March 13th.

The Chief also wishes to advertise for a part-time officer; at a chief’s meetings it was mentioned that it is becoming extremely hard to hire full-time officers let alone part-time officers. There just aren’t enough people coming out for the profession anymore. Ron DeIaco mentioned that even if he eventually needs to go out to hire it doesn’t necessary effect the budget because there are x number of hours that they have to cover, if covered by fulltime officer, if can’t cover with full timer he needs to cover with part timers. Mehmet Birtek doesn’t agree, if were hiring the part timer to cover the vacations and time out that’s already in the budget this year; so additionally paying for that. When it comes to treasure reports it’s just that were going to be over budget. The tax increase is not going to cover our expenditure going forward. As I’ve looked into it well discuss it when we get to the treasurer’s report. Kathy Palmer mentioned that first of all this is not to hire, this is simply to advertise and explore what is out there or around here or if there is going to be any interest. Ron DeIaco mentioned that we have at least 1 part-timer leaving this would potentially allow us to replace an outgoing part-timer with a new part timer. Ron DeIaco recommended that we put out the advertisement. Mehmet Birtek mentioned that he isn’t opposed to advertising, just would like to see all of the numbers before making decision. Ashlynn Rivera stated that this isn’t to hire at the moment and said that only if the time comes to hiring which could be six months to a year. John Aleszczyk asked how many full-timers we have, Steve Nemeth mentioned five which includes the chief and six part-timers, one leaving, two actively taking shifts and three occasionally depending on their full-time jobs. John Aleszczyk asked about the costs associated to advertising, Kathy Palmer mentioned he plans to advertise on police websites and on borough sites at no costs. Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to advertise part-time position, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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POLICE REPORT- Mehmet asked if there is a breakdown of where the EMS assist calls were dispatched to. John mentioned that those could most likely be received by asking Macungie ambulance or Lower Macungie fire company.

Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to accept the police report, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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MEETING MINUTES OF January 31st, 2024

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 31st, 2024, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – February 14th, 2024

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to pay the bills of February 14th, 2024, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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TREASURER’S REPORT - Mehmet mentioned that just a note for everyone is that your January allowance on the budget is 8.3 if you’re below 8.3 for this month on any item you have not hit there if you’re above 8.3 you are over your budget for the monthly allowance. Obviously, there are expenses that we pay upfront and there’s some expenses that go out at the end of the year so looks like some of the items that we will go over for the year. What he would like to see going forward, can have a report that displays that month threshold. John Aleszczyk mentioned they can send you the monthly reports so you can see the numbers in QuickBooks. John asked about the street grant number, Steve Nemeth mentioned that is the school street grant reimbursement. John asked about the remainder of franklin and chestnut street; Steve Nemeth mentioned that we received 149,009 of the chestnut street grants, it will show up in the next report. John Aleszczyk mentioned that the 3000 in here of the 180,000 but the 3000 on here is not included on your report, that’s because it was from December. So really for this year will be 182,000 so we will be over.

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ENGINEER’S REPORT – John Aleszczyk mentioned the bicentennial village project we really have to watch how we pay for this; project is going to start in March. Ron DeIaco mentioned will give it to them in increments then submit for reimbursement. We won’t be paying all at once. Mehmet Birtek mentioned that there is nothing wrong with that concept, have 700,000 in account right now; let’s say first phase is about 400,000 they submitted to us, we have to pay within 30 days if they submit first of the month can we submit next day. Steve Nemeth mentioned that we would need the cancelled check in order to submit. Mehmet asked how long to get approval. Steve Nemeth mentioned about 4-5 days from DCED, also we will start to see the tax money come in during April and May. John Aleszczyk mentioned we need to prevent the double billing, why can’t approve it at the same time, we will have to stay on top of that. Ron agreed. Mehmet Birtek asked if anyone attended the engineers meeting, Steve Nemeth said it was just him.



Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – Ron mentioned report stated 404 calls for Macungie Ambulance in January, with 12 being in the borough. No further comment was made on the Ambulance report.

Chad Atkins made motion to accept the Ambulance Report, Mehmet Birtek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ADMINISTRATION

Financial Consultant- Tabled until February 28th, 2024. Ron asked if Steve Nemeth can see if Chris wants to do this by zoom or in person.

Written Decision on Conditional Use for 121 South Main Street- John Aleszczyk mentioned just to summarize this is for six units, three doubles, and three singles with an office on the first floor.to occupy the building still needs to be inspected; that’s where the fire escape gets addressed and anything else.

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to close the yard waste facility, motion 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Request to Advertise for part-time officer- Discussed during mayor report; Motion passed 6-0.

Ashlynn Rivera made the motion to advertise for part-time officer, motion 2nd by Steve Hill and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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SECTV- Franchise Fees Received- \$16,317.02- mentioned that we received this portion of our franchise fees, SECTV portion is 180 less than last year’s total received.

PSAB Conference- June 2-5 Hershey Lodge- Ron DeIaco mentioned that Steve Nemeth should go to this. Steve Nemeth mentioned that if anybody else is interested, highly recommend it to all of council to attend, great seminars. John Aleszczyk mentioned that we should watch the budget, were going to be tight; Ron DeIaco asked if Steve Nemeth can find out exactly how much it costs to do the conference. We can approve it at the next meeting. Tabled until February 28th council meeting.

A motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

