

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2020

The October 14, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00 p.m. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the meeting was held via video conference. The change in venue was announced on the Borough website and by a posting notice on the Borough Hall doors. The meeting was open to the public where participants could attend the meeting by using an assigned web link and access code.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco	Steve Hill	Vanessa Taggart	John Aleszczyk
Stephen Kaufman	Hector Vazquez	Kathleen Raines	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager	Kathleen Palmer, Mayor
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Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner

Chad Atkins

Scott Shotwell

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer reported that extra police officers will be on duty for Halloween and Election Day. If you plan to drop off your ballot, you can do so at the Government Center. Dave Knerr added that you can also drop them off at the Emmaus Borough Hall and Upper Macungie Township Building.

MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 30, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – OCTOBER 14, 2020 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of October 14, 2020, except for #21543, payable the Alburtis Rod and Gun Club and #21560, payable to Ott Consulting unless the fee for Ft. Sumpter Road is a previous fee. Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Since Council decided to hold off on work on Ft. Sumpter, they should not see any invoices with this referenced.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS MONTHLY REPORT – The monthly Macungie Ambulance Corps Report was reviewed. There were 12 calls in the Borough in August.

LOWER MACUNGIE FIRE DEPARTMENT – The Quarterly Report for the Fire Department was reviewed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – None

Ordinance No. 563 – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 563, an Ordinance awarding a contract for the collection and disposal of municipal solid waste and certain recyclable materials for a three year period commencing January 1, 2021 (with a fourth year at the option of the Borough), providing for weekly collection of municipal waste, every-other-week collection of recyclables, and central collection of leaf waste, to Solid Waste Services, Inc. D/B/A J.P. Mascaro & Sons. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Bird Sanctuary – There have been questions regarding the Bird Sanctuary lately and Ron DeIaco noted that Borough Council decided not to do anything regarding this area until the pandemic has passed. Steve Hill agreed that we should let it go for now. Kathleen Raines is concerned that many people are dumping their garbage there and Hector Vazquez added that there is a lot of garbage in there. John Aleszczyk suggested that a letter be sent to all of the properties surrounding the Bird Sanctuary telling them they need to clean up the garbage that they are responsible for. Sharon will take care of this. Sharon informed Council that she received several phone calls regarding hunting and asked if she could purchase “No Hunting” signs. Council agreed that it is Borough property, and it should be posted.

Church – Painting Update – Sharon spoke with Maintenance regarding the status of the Church. They would need a lift to have the steeple done and a pressure washer. Steve Hill agrees with Hector Vazquez’s suggestion at a previous meeting and would like to see it put out to bid.

Fort Sumpter Rd. – There have been suggestions of making Ft. Sumpter Road a walking path partway up and Hector Vazquez suggested making it a one way. Stephen Kaufman had asked Sharon to check with the Fire Department for their thoughts. She was told when the house burned last year, two trucks used the road to approach the home. Also, if it becomes a walking trail and there is an incident on W. 5th Street, there would be no way for some of the residents to leave. Council decided to do nothing with the road at this time.

Zoning – During the last Budget Meeting, Council decided that they would not replace the Zoning Officer and Sharon could sign off on permits. If she is not sure about an application, Barry Isett and Associates has agreed to be the Alternate Zoning Officer for \$75 per hour. Sharon has signed the permits as Manager and Asst. Zoning Officer but was told she should sign as Zoning Officer. Dave Knerr will prepare a Resolution with the changes.

Workers’ Compensation – Optimus Risk Audit – A Workers’ Compensation representative met via Zoom with Sharon and Donnie Derr. The audit went well, Sharon is continuing to work on the Safety Manual and Donnie is making any necessary changes. Steve Hill likes that there are training videos and staff intends to use them.

Recycling/Shredding Event – The Borough will hold a recycling and shredding event once again with the Borough of Macungie. The event will take place on October 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sharon may not be able to attend. Steve Hill has helped in the past and asked if anyone else would want to help. Sharon will find out how many volunteers they are looking to have.

Failure to Monitor – Sharon received a phone call from the Department of Environmental Protection this week. In July of 2019, a chlorine sample was missed. There is nothing wrong with the system, but we are required to notify residents of the error. Sharon will put this on the website, Facebook Page and it will also be in the newsletter.

Water Service – Mountain Road – Kohl Bros. will be here on October 26th to install a Pressure Reducing Valve that is needed in the system. The work should take one day and while it is being done, residents in this area will not have water service.

Alburtis Area Community Center – Sharon received a phone call this afternoon from the AACC. The Alburtis Majors won the championship so the sign will be changed. It was also said that the entire baseball season had zero Covid cases.

Speed Bumps – Hector informed Council that the speed bumps on W. Penn Avenue are broken again. He would like to see them permanently placed before we spend too much money repairing. John said we should visit this in the Spring and Council agreed with Stephen Kaufman’s statement that it was not in the Budget.

A motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. was made by Vanessa Taggart, 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.

An Executive Session was called at 7:40 p.m. for a Personnel Issue with no action being taken. The Executive Session ended at 8:01 p.m.