

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021

The November 22, 2021, 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	Vanessa Taggart	Chad Atkins
Kathleen Raines	Hector Vazquez	John Aleszczyk	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor	Robert Palmer, Police Chief

Visitors in attendance:

Mike Miller, TWG Security	Gary DeRoner
Sherryann Oels	Zach Bernhart
George Bernhart	Stephen Nemeth
Tom Moss	

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MAYOR’S REPORT – No Report

MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2021 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2021, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – NOVEMBER 22, 2021 – Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of November 22, 2021, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT’S REPORT – Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant’s Report, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Zachary Bernhart – Eagle Scout Presentation – Zachary Barnhart, a Scout with Troop 86, was present to discuss his potential Eagle Project with Borough Council. Zachary is proposing to place a bench at the Historical Church near the memorial plaque that is currently there. The project would include a red stoned path to the memorial and another path to the bench. He is planning to have boxwoods around the bench such as green luster. The plants may be donated. He would use 3/8-inch red stone for the path and place new mulch around the plaque and have power edging there as well. The bench will be a TREX Outdoor bench and will cost \$409. Hector suggested the bench be a darker color and Zach stated that he was thinking it would be a black bench. The cost of the project is \$1,174.48 if shipped and \$1,051.52 if picked up. If the plants are not donated, the cost would be \$1,300. Ron DeIaco asked if he was going to raise money or ask the Borough for help. Zach was hoping to have both of these options. Hector Vazquez suggested that the bench be locked down. John Aleszczyk suggested we wait and see how much Zach can raise on his own and then see if we can help. John also gave suggestions to help with the funding. Kathleen Raines made a motion to accept Zachary Bernhart’s Eagle Project proposal, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Vanessa Taggart praised Zach for his presentation and how he handled himself.

Park and Recreation – Swing at Upper Ball Field – Kathleen Raines had Donnie Derr mark the area where she is proposing a swing set be placed. The AACC believes the swing should go behind the volleyball court due to the number of foul balls hit in the proposed area. This is where Kathleen originally wanted to put the swing, but Donnie told her they warm up at this area. Sherryann Oels, from the AACC, stated that spectators also sit in this area to watch the games and that the proposed spot is on a hill. Steve Hill and Hector Vazquez agree that the marked spot is not a good one. John Aleszczyk believes this is a lot of work for just four swings. He stated that if we were going to do this, it should be done right. He suggested that the volleyball court be removed, and a play set be placed there. Hector agrees with John that a jungle gym would be used more than the volleyball court. Sharon will check with Rotary to see if they would be willing to help. She will also check on prices. This will be tabled until next meeting. Kathleen Raines informed Council that in 2023, fencing needs to be replaced.

Meeting Dates – Steve Hill made a motion to advertise the meeting dates for 2022, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2021-8 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-8, a Resolution appointing Brandon Mengel to the Alburtis Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was 2nd by Chad Atkins and a unanimous vote followed.

Security System – Upgrade and Repair – Michael Miller of The Wire Guys was in attendance to answer questions about the current security system the Borough has. The system is in its original state and there are several cameras that should be replaced. The recycling center cameras are not working at all due to the hard drive being in disrepair. The hard drives at the sewer station and in Borough Hall were not supplied by his company but they could provide one so that it could be serviced by them if needed. John Aleszczyk asked what the yearly maintenance fees are and was told there are no yearly fees unless we want a contract. It is our system, and we can opt to have it cleaned by them if needed. Vanessa Taggart asked when it would be available, and Mike replied that he did not know what the current stock is. Steve Hill would like to have the system upgraded. Hector Vazquez made a motion to upgrade and repair the security system, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed with John adding that he is an eye as long as there is no annual fee.

PA Multimodal Grant – The Borough was awarded \$303,000 from the PA Multimodal Fund Grant. This will be used with the already awarded \$725,000.00 and \$363,127.00 to make curb, sidewalk, and road upgrades to Bicentennial Village. Ron Delaco stated that this money came from Pat Brown and Ryan Mackenzie's offices. They pushed hard for the money, and we could not do this without raising taxes. Ron reached out to Pat Brown's office to extend thanks.

Holiday Luncheon – Sharon asked Council if she should arrange to have a larger Holiday luncheon as was done in the past or should it be kept to the employees. Council would like it kept to the employees again this year. Vanessa noted that in other years, the office staff would make some of the food and bring it in. She feels they do not need to do this, and the entire lunch should be catered. With the Mayors permission, the luncheon will be paid for using her discretionary fund.

Police Department – Police Chief, Bob Palmer was in attendance to give an update on the Police Department. He will be retiring January 7th. He has recently lost two part-time officers and will probably lose another one in the beginning of the year. He put an ad in for part-time help, but people do not want to do this work for the amount of money offered. He suggests a 5th full-time officer is hired. This would alleviate the need for most of the part-time hours. Chief Palmer was contacted by a retiring Allentown police officer and will bring his name to Council at the next meeting for a part-time position. Mayor Palmer thanked the Chief and his staff for what they do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An Executive Session was called at 7:52 p.m. for Personnel and ended at 8:25 p.m.

A motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. 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.