

APPROVED

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
December 23rd, 2024

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The December 23rd, 2024, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President 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, Ashlynn Rivera, Mehmet Birtek

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Mike Preston- Borough Engineer, Stephen Nemeth- Manager, Kathleen Palmer- Mayor

Associates of Alburtis in attendance via zoom: David Knerr- Solicitor, Tony Alsleben- Police Chief

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public comment was made.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No Mayor Report.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 11th, 2024

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 11th, 2024, Chad Atkins 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 4-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- not present
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – December 23rd, 2024

Chad Atkins made a motion to pay the bills of December 23rd, 2024, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed, motion passes with a 4-0 vote.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- not present
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FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Chad Atkins made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant's Report of November, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 4-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- not present
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New Business

2025 Budget- motion to adopt the 2025 budget.

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Chad Atkins made the motion to Adopt the 2025 Budget, motion 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 4-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- not present
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ORDINANCE 591

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 AT 4.58 MILLS (4.50 MILLS FOR GENERAL BOROUGH PURPOSES AND 0.08 MILLS FOR FIRE PURPOSES), WHICH IS THE SAME AS THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024; CONFIRMING A 2% DISCOUNT ON REAL ESTATE TAXES PAID WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE DATE OF THE TAX NOTICE AND A 10% PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PAY SUCH TAXES WITHIN FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE TAX NOTICE; CONFIRMING WITH NO CHANGE IN RATES FOR 2025 THE PER CAPITA TAX, EARNED INCOME TAX, LOCAL SERVICES TAX, REALTY TRANSFER TAX, WATER RENTALS AND FEES, AND SANITARY SEWER RENTALS AND FEES; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND CERTAIN RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FOR A FIVE YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025 (WITH A SIXTH YEAR AT THE OPTION OF THE BOROUGH) AWARDED TO SOLID WASTE SERVICES, INC. D/B/A J.P. MASCARO & SONS ON OCTOBER 9, 2024; INCREASING THE FEES FOR COLLECTING MUNICIPAL WASTE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 BY RATES PER UNIT WHICH ARE FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$55.00) PER CALENDAR QUARTER HIGHER THAN FOR 2024; DELETING LEAF WASTE AND GRASS CLIPPINGS FROM THE LIST OF MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY RECYCLABLE MATERIALS; ELIMINATING CENTRALIZED COLLECTION OF LEAF WASTE AND GRASS CLIPPINGS; AND REVISING CERTAIN RECYCLING PROCEDURES.

Chad Atkins made the motion to approve Ordinance 591, motion 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a roll call vote followed. Motion passes 4-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- not present
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ORDINANCE 592

AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE COMPENSATION OR COMPENSATION RANGES FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OR APPOINTMENT BY THE BOROUGH, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025, INCLUDING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES, MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES, THE CHIEF OF POLICE, AND PROFESSIONALS; AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 12-403(b.1) (2) TO REVISE THE RATES OF EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE BOROUGH'S HEALTH PLAN; AND CONFIRMING THE EXISTING FIDELITY BOND REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN BOROUGH EMPLOYEES.

Steve Hill made the motion to approve Ordinance 592, Chad Atkins seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 4-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- not present
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Motion to establish hourly rates for members of the Maintenance Department

- a.) Donnie Derr \$36.48
- b.) Gary Hartman \$27.66
- c.) Joe Kelly \$25.56
- d.) Herbert Schumaker II \$24.72

Chad Atkins made the motion to establish hourly rates of the Maintenance Department, Ashlynn Rivera seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 4-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- not present
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A RESOLUTION REDUCING CONTRIBUTIONS BY POLICE OFFICERS TO THE BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS POLICE PENSION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2025 TO FOUR PERCENT (4%) OF COMPENSATION.

Ashlynn Rivera made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-18, Mehmet Birttek seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 5-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birttek- yay
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ORDINANCE 593

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND IMPLEMENTING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS AND THE ALBURTIS POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEARS 2025-28, INCLUDING PROVISIONS RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, TERM, BASE COMPENSATION (INCLUDING INCREASES FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF 7.185%, THE SECOND YEAR OF 4.470%, THE THIRD YEAR OF 3.570%, AND THE FOURTH YEAR OF 4.150%), OVERTIME, SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL, LONGEVITY PAY, DISCRETIONARY BONUSES AND HIRING BONUSES, HEARINGS, CALL-OUT DUTY, HOURS WORKED AND MEALS, TRAINING, HOLIDAYS, VACATIONS, PERSONAL DAYS, SICK OR INJURY LEAVE (INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN THE LIMITED CASH-OUT AT RETIREMENT), BEREAVEMENT LEAVE, MILITARY LEAVE, SHORT-TERM DISABILITY PLAN, LONG-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE, LIFE INSURANCE, FUNERAL COST DONATION CAMPAIGN FOR OFFICERS WHO DIE FROM CAUSES RELATED TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH INSURANCE (INCLUDING INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS), PENSION PLAN, EDUCATIONAL MERIT AWARD FOR EARNING CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL DEGREES, GUN RANGE, SCHEDULING, UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN THE ANNUAL UNIFORM ALLOWANCE AND MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE), VOLUNTARY PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EXAMINATIONS, WRITTEN REPRIMANDS, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE, CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS, ACTING CHIEF, MEET AND DISCUSS MEETINGS, RESERVATION OF RIGHTS, APPLICABLE LAW, AND SEVERABILITY; AND ALSO AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO CONFORM TO THE NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, INCLUDING: AMENDMENTS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES TO SIMPLIFY APPLICATIONS FOR PROMOTIONAL POSITIONS, INCREASE THE DISTANCE FROM THE BOROUGH THAT AN OFFICER MAY RESIDE TO TWENTY-FIVE (25) MILES, AND INCREASING THE PRIOR SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR PROMOTIONAL POSITIONS TO FIVE (5) YEARS; REPEAL OF § 12-505 (RELATING TO MEALS DURING WORK HOURS); AND AMENDMENT OF THE HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT FOR POLICE OFFICERS TO DENY BENEFITS FOR EXPENSES FOR THE OFFICER'S SPOUSE WHERE THE SPOUSE IS ONLY COVERED BY THE BOROUGH HEALTH PLAN IF THE OFFICER PAYS 100% OF THE BOROUGH'S COST FOR COVERING THE SPOUSE.

Discussion and vote on Ordinance were tabled until a later time.

Request to Approve Assignment Consent, Contract between Borough of Alburdis and Standard Pipe Services, LLC

Mike Preston mentioned This is for the 2020 PA. Small water Grant application. So, in 2019, we submitted a Grant application. This was primarily geared towards lateral. But it'll kind of go hand in hand with. We've got 2 bids.

One was about 5, almost 8, \$600,000, the other was almost 900. So, what we decided to do was awarded the contract to SPS and then we worked selectively to go through the scope of what the bid items were 1st go through, and CCTV. The instructions were to go through and CCTV. All the laterals in the borough. So, we have an understanding or before we went in and authorized the parent group because we were told not to go over the man and over the course of the number of months. Here, in December 21, they did 370 laterals in April of 2022, they do another 226, June of 2022 they did 208, as of April of 2023, they came back into the last 16. Yes, that we could, that we could locate, and by and large they were structurally acceptable kind of in conjunction with that, I think. In 2022 we had definitely circle a number of other things, kind of occupying thanks. Angela, about 2 months after SPS did the last 16 laterals for the Ccpd. Work. They had requested a closeout and return a release of the retainage. As I mentioned, the contract had been for over \$500,000. It may be worth noting that at that time I became aware that the lateral prices for the lining to be the primary improvement. But is it a coincidence or not? I don't know if that upsets other folks to decide. But basically, we said, the year between June 23 and 8 and July of 24 going back and forth. SPS thing, we have a contract done. We'd like to have prices that are in that contract. So, it took about a year to get to. We are now in that time, you know, as I said, there were a number of different days or time periods that we came back to be working with a mechanical. so on and so forth. So, we figure in fairness. We spotted some time also from these devices. The way it stands right now. We only have about 50 linear feet of lateral work done. So, we

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have been in discussions with Frank, he said, yes, we do agree to come back to the work that the borough has requested. We'll honor those prices. The SPS had since been bought out by Agl and another company. I think they now have a 3rd or 4th name that they're going by, but they did agree to come back and do the work they're on their second subcontractor right now that I've difference. And so, as of December 20th of this year, we received the document, it's basically an arrangement that they have it, probably because they've changed hands so many times. Basically, where this document came from SPS saying, look like some time has passed, you know we're no longer SPS. and we like to come back and finish the work front in order to do so. They had requested that. Ron Delaco asked what is left in the grant right now. Mike Preston mentioned there's probably about 200 little over \$200,000, and 50 feet. That has to be done. We're going to still have money in the grant. I mean, it may be on the order of 200 to \$300. The remaining grant funding we are going to reallocate towards addressing a few manholes.

Chad Atkins made the motion to approve the assignment consent contract between Borough and Standard Pipe Services, LLC. Mehmet Birtek seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 5-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Atkins-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay
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Public Comment

Steve Werley mentioned I just wanted to say something, because Gary and I came to all this meeting. Can we hear all the stuff between you guys and all the arguments and conversations with all the stuff that goes on. I think you guys do a great job. That's what needs to happen in anything you need to go back and forth. So, everybody gets their opinion. So, I know you guys get frustrated amongst each other, But you guys do a great job.

Ron DeIaco mentioned that we will be going into an executive session for personnel, he then asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. was made by Steve Hill, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

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