

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

December 23, 2019

The December 23, 2019 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

Kathleen Raines
Stephen Kaufman

Vanessa Taggart
Ron DeIaco

Hector Vazquez

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner

MAYOR'S REPORT – The Mayor said the Chief will be in regarding a new part time employee. Kathleen Raines asked the Mayor why the police are not locking the gate to the hockey court. The Chief will find out and have an answer at the next meeting.

MINUTES OF December 11, 2019 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2019, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – DECEMBER 23, 2019 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to pay the bills of December 23, 2019, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT – Steve Hill made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – The monthly report was reviewed. There were seven calls in the Borough in November.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – None

2020 Budget – Stephen Kaufman stated that the budget is a good budget and reflects no increases to the residents of the Borough. There were major road and sewer projects this year and we are doing our best to be financially prudent. Ron DeIaco commented that he agreed and thanked Sharon and her staff, Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott, Senator Pat Browne and Representative Ryan Mackenzie for the work in obtaining over one-million dollars in grants. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to adopt the 2020 Budget, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2019-13 – Sherryann Oels made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-13, a Resolution reducing contributions by police officers to the Borough of Alburtis Police Pension Plan for the year 2020 to four percent of compensation. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Ordinance No. 558 – Sherryann Oels made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 558, an Ordinance approving amendments to the Civil Service rules and regulations of the Borough of Alburtis, as recently adopted by the Alburtis Civil Service Commission, providing that applications for the entry-level position of patrol officer shall be submitted through the annual process of the Lehigh County Chiefs of Police Association Consortium, that the Consortium shall conduct the written examination and physical fitness test, that the physical fitness test shall be revised to the consortium's physical performance test battery, and making conforming changes. Steve Hill 2nd the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Ordinance No. 559 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 559, an Ordinance establishing the Real Estate Tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2020 at 3.83 mills (3.75 mills for general Borough purposes and 0.08 mills for fire purposes), which is the same as the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2019, 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 notice; confirming with no change in rates for 2020 the Per Capital Tax, Earned Income Tax, Local Services Tax, Realty Transfer Tax, Water Rentals and Fees, Sanitary Sewer Rentals and Fees, and the Fees for collecting municipal waste and recyclable materials. The motion was 2nd by Sherryann Oels and a unanimous vote followed.

Ordinance No. 560 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 560, an Ordinance revising the compensation or compensation ranges for certain positions of employment or appointment by the Borough, effective January 1, 2020, including certain administration employees, maintenance employees, and professionals; and confirming the existing fidelity bond requirements for certain Borough employees. The motion was 2nd by Sherryann Oels and a unanimous vote followed.

Hourly Pay Rates for the Maintenance Department– Sherryann Oels made a motion to establish the hourly pay rates for the Maintenance Department as follows: Donnie Derr - \$30.83, Russell Kressley - \$27.17, Gary Hartman - \$23.38, Joseph Kelly - \$20.70. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Lower Macungie Township – Proposed Ordinance – A proposed Ordinance regarding wireless telecommunications towers was reviewed with no comments.

Affidavit of Residency – Sharon asked that those who needed to be sworn in at the Biennial Meeting arrive about fifteen minutes early so that the Affidavits of Residency can be notarized.

Sherryann Oels – Vanessa Taggart noted that this was Sherryann Oels last meeting. Borough Council thanked her for her services to the Borough since being elected.

A motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Sherryann Oels and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.