

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2020

The November 23, 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

Kathleen Raines

Vanessa Taggart

Stephen Kaufman

Hector Vazquez

John Aleszczyk

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Visitors in attendance: Matt Hook, Jaindl Land Development

Gary DeRoner

Chad Atkins

MAYOR'S REPORT – No Report. Ron DeIaco questioned what the Police will be doing due to the rise in Covid cases. There will be no changes in the Police Department and truck stops will continue. Council will leave the decision regarding the office staff up to Sharon. Kathleen Raines mentioned that she has seen the State Police stopping trucks at Spring Creek Road and Congdon Hill.

POLICE REPORT – Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the Police Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 11, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – NOVEMBER 23, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of November 23, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd, John Aleszczyk was opposed to check #21647, payable to Ott Consulting and the balance were ayes.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Hills at Lockridge - Matt Hook, from Jaindl Land Development, was present to speak with Council about an issue with tree replacements happening at the Hills at Lockridge. He, along with a representative of Ott Consulting and the tree company, walked the area and found trees that were either dead or ones that were not going to survive. There were issues with 552 Racite and 543 Racite. One would not move their truck for work to be completed and the other has the tree landscaped with pavers. Ron asked if the trees are in the Right of Way and was told yes. Council agreed that the truck and pavers must be moved so that the work is completed. Matt can have the Police assist if it is needed.

Public Comment – None

Block Party – Sharon received a request for a block party to be held on June 5, 2021. The area requested is on Gold Alley between Franklin Street and E. Stone Alley. There is one neighbor along the alley and they are helping with the party. Council has no issue with this request.

Request to Purchase Water – There have been two requests to tap into the Borough water system. One is on Mountain Road and the other is on Reservoir Hill Road. All costs to do so will be the homeowner's responsibility and they need to pay the tapping fees.

Sanctuary at Haafsville – A representative from the Sanctuary met with Sharon and informed her that they cannot cap what we pay them any longer. The limit last year was \$500. We previously paid \$1,200 to the Humane Society. Council would like residents to let us know when they are dropping animals off so that we can keep track of the charges. Hector Vazquez made a motion to enter into an Agreement with the Sanctuary for 2021, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Winter Storms – Last year the Borough was going to pay the people that mowed for us to shovel the sidewalks that the Borough is responsible for. Sharon noted that it is cheaper doing this than paying someone \$40 per hour overtime. Steve Hill is concerned with Workers' Compensation. Several Council members do not believe there is that much sidewalk to do and asked Sharon to find this out for the next meeting.

2021 Meeting Schedule – The 2021 Meeting Schedule was reviewed and will be sent to the East Penn Press to advertise.

Covid Grant Update – Sharon has been stocking up on cleaning supplies, disinfectants, wipes, etc. The phone system may be more expensive due to needing an additional modem. Sharon is looking into cameras for the Council Room so that meetings can be livestreamed when we are back to face to face meetings. Kathleen Palmer suggested looking into cameras for the Bird Sanctuary, but Vanessa said that would not be Covid related.

Zoning – The work at Spring Creek Properties Lot 9 will soon begin. Barry Isett and Associates cannot do the Zoning work on this due to a conflict of interest. Council asked Sharon to check with Ott Consulting and see if they will perform the Zoning at the same permitting costs as Barry Isett and Associates.

A motion to adjourn at 7:58 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.