

## **Borough of Alburtis**

### **Meeting Minutes**

July 25, 2018

The July 25, 2018 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:**

Ron DeIaco  
Stephen Kaufman

Steve Hill  
Vanessa Taggart

Sherryann Oels  
Hector Vazquez

#### **Associates of Alburtis in attendance:**

Dave Knerr, Solicitor  
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager  
Jeffrey Ott, Engineer

#### **Visitors in attendance:**

Gary DeRoner

Michael Gerhart

John Aleszczyk

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – The Mayor reported that she attended the Mayor's Conference and it was one of the best ones she has been at. Per a Senator in attendance, they were told that radar is not a finished issue and is hoping it will be resolved within the year.

**MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2018** – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2018, Vanessa Taggart 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

**BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JULY 25, 2018** – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to pay the bills of July 25, 2018, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

**FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT** – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant's Report, Stephen Kaufman 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Public Comments** – Resident, John Aleszczyk was present to question why the drain the Rotary Club had installed is covered at the ball field and was informed by Jeff Ott, Borough Engineer, that it is still under construction there and the drain is being relocated.

**Police Chief** – Chief Palmer was present to speak with Council. The Police Department has some computers that are not being used and he was offered \$1,000 from the Lansford Police Department for them. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to allow for the sale of the computers, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

Chief Palmer also reported that all of the required testing is completed by potential full time police candidates, but the background checks need to be completed in order for the Civil Service Commission to establish a list. The background checks will be done in house by one of the officers. Based on the state regulations, background checks can now be done once the list is done but our regulations still have them being done prior to the list being established. Since we only have six potential new hires left, we will do a background check on all of them and change this process later. Steve Hill made a motion to ask the Civil Service Commission to give a list of eligible candidates to Council, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

Fireworks – Chief Palmer was asked what his thoughts were regarding the fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and he replied that they were briefed by Jim Martin about the new state law. If the Borough were to create an Ordinance, we could not supersede the state law and the Ordinance could not be enforceable. Dave Knerr confirmed that this is correct. Resident, Michael Gerhart believes this to be false. Lancaster, Easton and several other municipalities have all passed Ordinances. Ryan Mackenzie informed him that there is nothing in the state law that says local municipalities cannot have their own rules. He also told him that this law is being appealed. It comes down to it being a matter of enforcement and it will be difficult to enforce whether or not there is an Ordinance. The police can cite people if fireworks are being set off within 150 ft. of a structure and they will do so if they receive phone calls from residents.

MS4 – Pollutant Reduction Plan – Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott informed Council that the review period for the Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) is over and there were no public comments. He would like to submit to DEP by the end of July as required. Hector Vazquez made a motion to submit the permit to DEP, Sherryann Oels 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

2018 Multimodal Grant – Borough Council previously instructed the engineer to prepare the grant with the intent to install curb and sidewalk along Franklin Street from School Street to Lockridge Park. The costs have come in and are very high, partially due to it being a Penn Dot Road. Jeff Ott gave three different options along with the approximate costs:

|                                                                                                           |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Option A—Complete restoration and installation of curbing and sidewalk<br>from School St. to the Park     | \$1,701,699 |
| Option B—Restore and install curb and sidewalk from School Street to<br>about 414 Franklin St.            | \$875,765   |
| Option C—Install and restore curb and sidewalk from about 334 Franklin to<br>the sidewalk at 414 Franklin | \$495,645   |

This is a grant with a 30% match and, if awarded, Council will discuss who is responsible for the match. After discussion, Steve Hill made a motion to submit the grant based on Option C, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2018-13 – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-13, a Resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Alburtis and the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested multimodal transportation fund grant. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Main Street Lehigh Valley Grant – Correspondence was received awarding the Borough \$2,000 in funds to be used to update the holiday decor in the Borough. The Borough is responsible to match this amount. Sherryann Oels made a motion to allow Sharon to make the purchases specified in the grant, Hector Vazquez 2<sup>nd</sup> and a unanimous vote followed.

Paving Projects – Macungie Borough will no longer be doing their own paving and these projects will be outsourced. Sharon sent a letter to Macungie's Borough Council asking if we could utilize the paving machine and manpower this year to complete our projects since we budgeted on the understanding that we would pave our projects together as in years past. A letter was received back from Macungie stating that it would be fine for this year, but not in the future. Borough Council agrees that it may best suit the Borough to also outsource these projects.

Borough of Macungie – Correspondence – Council reviewed a copy of a proposed Ordinance that would amend the requirements for a Home Occupation and changing a Low Impact Home Occupation to a No Impact Home Occupation. Borough Council has no comments at this time.

PA One Call – The Borough will receive a credit of \$70.12 as part of the 2017 Excavator Fee Rebate.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Borough Council reviewed correspondence from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission in reference to the Spring Creek Properties Settlement Subdivision Lots 7 & 8. This proposal is not consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan as this area is identified for use as Farmland Preservation in the General Land Use Plan.

Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV) – Correspondence was received requesting \$500 from the Borough to support their cause. Borough Council will not contribute at this time.

Ordinance No. 547 – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 547, an Ordinance approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alburtis Police Officers' Association to amend the Health Reimbursement Arrangements for police employees as provided in the Ordinance; and amending codified Ordinances Sections 20A-403, 20B-403 and 20C-403 to provide that reimbursements under the Borough's Health Reimbursement Arrangements do not require final approval by Borough Council and are not to be delayed based on Council's meeting schedule. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hector Vazquez, Vanessa Taggart was opposed and a unanimous vote followed.

A motion to adjourn at 8:34 was made by Steve Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.