

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
November 25th, 2024

The November 25th, 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, Hector Moss, Mehmet Birtek, Ashlynn Rivera, John Aleszczyk

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

John Karoly III- Assistant Solicitor, Stephen Nemeth- Manager, Kathleen Palmer- Mayor

Associates of Alburtis in attendance via zoom: David Knerr- Solicitor

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

Visitors on Zoom: Tom, Brooke

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public comment was made.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No Mayor Report.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 13th, 2024

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 13th, 2024, Hector Moss 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – November 25th, 2024

Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to pay the bills of November 25th, 2024, Steve Hill 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed, motion passes with a 6-0 vote.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Hector Moss made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant's Report of October, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS

Ron DeIaco mentioned in the report stated 400 calls for Macungie Ambulance in October, with 11 being in the borough.

Hector Moss made a motion to accept the ambulance report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ADMINISTRATION

Recommendation of Pay Final Application to Linde Corporation- This is a request to pay for Linde and close out the Chestnut Circle Stormwater Improvements Project.

Hector Moss made the motion to pay Linde Corporation, motion 2nd by Steve Hill and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Construction Masters Services LLC change order request.

This is a request to address the issues associated with the curb stop boxes in the bicentennial village project. Stephen Nemeth mentioned at the last meeting Mike Preston discussed, was mentioning about the curb stop boxes that need to be replaced on there because they're either angled or whatever this is the quote that they got from construction masters. This would be a change order to fix the issues, and this will come out of the grant. Hector Moss mentioned my biggest thing is, it shouldn't have been. This is why there should be accountability. I wouldn't pay for it. Ron Delaco mentioned, the problem is, we can't. We can't prove that it wasn't like that before they came. Hector Moss mentioned that our engineers should be aware of this right. They should have taken pics before and after anything. Ron Delaco mentioned it was brought to their attention when maintenance couldn't get on a few curb boxes, but the process of the project was already underway, and almost done when he brought that to our attention. So being that we can't say, you guys made a mistake, or it was that way before you put it together. It's not something the engineer should be checking. John Aleszczyk mentioned they must give approval before they move on. They were there on site, observing. Mehmet Birtek mentioned I mean, the question is, it's not going to hurt our budget. We already have the funds allocated. We can't use the funds, we'll lose it. That's the case. Pretty much so we use somewhere else. It's like on this project. Those funds are allocated for the project, but also if we continue, it will go there. John Aleszczyk mentioned it's 12,000 you can't use in Robert Street because you're using here. This is a repetitive pattern. Throughout multiple projects that have been taking place throughout the previous several years we have encountered similar situations like this, where we're forced with a decision like this? Hector Moss mentioned no one is being held accountable. Mehmet Birtek mentioned If that's the case, then we put it out that we get a new engineer. Kathy Palmer mentioned This is not stuff that can easily be found. Stuff shifts. They're not going to look down that far to see what happened. You could dig up almost any old place in this borough. I guarantee you're going to find some that shifted. Hector Moss mentioned so let me ask you this question. We got this estimate from them from construction Masters, right was it even presented to construction masters saying, Listen! Are you willing to flip this bill? Are you willing to flip a portion of this bill and take some accountability. I'm going to go back to the Franklin Street project. We paid our engineer to monitor that entire project. What did they do? They came to us after the sidewalks. Oh, we forgot to put the drains through the sidewalk so frankly. That's what is what happened, and I can pull up the note. Then they came back to us and said, it's going to cost you this much extra to make the cuts and put the steel plates in. What did we say again at that time? Well, we need to get the project finished. Let's just get this paid. So again, it's a repetitive issue. So, we're not holding anybody accountable. Kathy Palmer mentioned this is why I made the comment months ago. We are coming to the end of the year. Where is the Committee on this stuff, where we use the engineer going out watching over these projects? That is what you're elected to keep an eye on the taxpayer's money. So, with that being said, I also mentioned, where are we going to look, then, for another engineer? To this day I have not heard a response either, not from

anybody from the committee, or from the ones who are suggesting that we need to look for another engineer. If we are unhappy with the services. Why would you stick with them? What else do you do? Somebody comes up with an answer, somebody come up with a suggestion. What do you want to do? Do you want to keep sitting at these meetings saying the engineer, the engineer, the engineer, the engineer, the engineer, the engineer, the engineer but no one does anything. Mehmet Birtek mentioned if this is OTT causing this, and this is the second or the 3rd time this is happening, and we are thinking of. This is an engineer issue which the engineer is responsible for. We also must hear the engineer on this because we don't know what we asked to pass them, but it's their job they should be accountable for this. They should also put a part of this bill if they miss it if they're accountable for it. That's what I would say. Ashlynn Rivera mentioned not Mike say something at the last meeting that he was going to go back and see if something would be part of this. Stephen Nemeth mentioned yes, and that's the lid part that they're able to that they can actually prove that they messed up this portion. They are struggling to point the blame for the other portion, because there is a property on Park Lane that has the same issue that was not even touched by this project. Ron DeIaco mentioned Hmm, so that's where he has a trouble trying to lay blame on for this and I will say that as far as the plates for the for Franklin Street there was supposed to be just no plates and plastic pipe underneath, but there wasn't enough rise from the road to the top of the sidewalk to give enough cement on top of those on top of the PVC pipe that we're back and forth walking bikes whatever would have cause it to crack, and then the sidewalks would look like crap, so when they caught it, when they caught it, they said. We can put plates in, but it will cost X. So, it was really like a change order just like this is a. This must be a change. John Aleszczyk mentioned That wasn't a change. That was poor planning. That was just. They missed that, Ron. They missed that completely. Ron DeIaco mentioned you are right, that's what it that's what occurred. That's why they ultimately put the plates in because it was too thin.

Steve Hill made the motion to approve the change order, motion 2nd by Mehmet Birtek and a roll call vote followed. Motion passes 4-2.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Request to advertise 2025 Budget.

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to advertise the 2025 Budget, Ashlynn Rivera seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

Tabled for the time being, to be discussed during executive session.

Request to advertise 2025 meeting schedule.

Steve Hill made the motion to advertise the 2025 Borough meeting schedule, Hector Moss seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Borough Hall floor replacement

Hector Moss made the motion to approve the maintenance quote to replace the borough hall floor, Hector Moss seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Alburtis Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 8th 3pm-5:15pm

Stephen Nemeth mentioned that this is informational, tree lighting ceremony will run from 3pm to 5:15pm, but the overall event will run all day starting with breakfast with Santa at the ACCC at 8am and events running throughout the borough like tradition.

Ron Delaco mentioned that we will be going into an executive session for personnel, he then asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. was made by Hector Moss, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.