

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

December 27, 2023

The December 27th, 2023, 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. The meeting was also live streamed on Zoom.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco	Steve Hill	Mehmet Birtek	Chad Atkins
Hector Moss	Ashlynn Rivera	John Aleszczyk	

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor	Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager
Kathleen Palmer, Mayor	Tony Alsleben, Police Chief

Visitors in attendance: Jason Bartos, Tiffany Hawk, Mike Gerhart, Denise Holland

Visitors on Zoom: Tom, Brooke, FBM, Olivia

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jason Bartos believes that tax increase, more people should have been made aware. Highly believe that budget should be voted on at a different meeting. Thinks many residents would have been willing to show up at the meeting. Thinks that voting on minutes of last meeting and voting on an issue that was discussed last meeting is not right. Reads all the meeting minutes, has seen that purchased two new police cars and a water/ sewer truck. Thinks that we should look at the franklin street project and thinks that we should use franklin street mistakes to prevent them in the bicentennial project. Mehmet Birtek mentioned that everything has gone up, it's how the economy is going. Items will continue to go up. Fiscally responsible and we will be watching everything closes to prevent those mistakes. Ron mentioned that nobody wants to raise taxes. Jason said we should be doing project if we are financially struggling. Doesn't think it is fair to be voting on the budget in a meeting between the holidays. Thinks that we should have done a call out for when voting on the budget. Ron mentioned that next year when we are about to do the budget, we can send out a phone blast.

MAYOR'S REPORT – no mayor's report.

MEETING MINUTES OF December 13th, 2023 – Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 13th, 2023, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT – December 27, 2023 – John Aleszczyk questioned bill 24027 purchase of evidence locker Kathy mentioned had enough money in the small equipment budget line. Kathy mentioned that piece of equipment is very important to have for that department for the chain of custody of evidence, it should have been there a long time ago. John agrees should have been there, issue is that item was \$4000.00 the limit before coming to council is 1,000.00 should have come to council prior to purchasing.

Mehmet asked if the yard waste bill was the last bill that we will be paying on the year. Steve Nemeth mentioned we will be expecting one more since dumpsters are being taken out tomorrow.

Chad Atkins asked if we could do away with the camera modem that is at the yard waste facility. Steve Nemeth mentioned would prefer to keep that so that we can use it to watch for illegal dumping and since sewer station is located there.

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to pay the bills of December 27, 2023, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd the motion, and followed by a nonunanimous vote followed, concluding with a 7-0 vote in favor of the motion.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- nay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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FISCAL CONSULTANT'S REPORT –Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Fiscal Consultant's Report of December 27th, 2023, Mehmet Birtek 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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2024 Budget -

Steve Hill made a motion to increase taxes three quarters of a mill, motion was 2nd by John Aleszczyk, and a non-unanimous vote followed. Motion passes on a roll call vote of 5-2

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- nay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- nay	Rivera- yay
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Ordinance No. 583- Chad Atkins made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 583, an Ordinance establishing the real estate tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2024 at 4.58 mills (4.50 mills for general Borough purposes and 0.08 mills for fire purposes) which is an increase of .75 mills over the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023; 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; and confirming with no change in rates for 2024 the Per Capita 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 John Aleszczyk, and a non-unanimous vote followed. Motion passes on a roll call vote of 5-2

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- nay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- nay	Rivera- yay
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Ordinance No. 584 –Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 584, an Ordinance revising the compensation or compensation ranges for certain positions of employment or appointment by the Borough, effective January 1, 2024, including certain administration employees, maintenance employees, the chief of police, and professionals; making the position of chief of police a salaried position working a minimum of forty (40) hours per week; clarifying the effect of salaried status; and confirming the existing fidelity bond requirements for certain Borough employees. The motion was 2nd by John Aleszczyk and a non-unanimous vote followed. Motion passes on a roll call vote of 6-1

Delaco- yay	Hill- nay	Moss- nay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Motion to Establish hourly rates for members of the Maintenance Department – Ashlynn Rivera made a motion to establish the hourly pay rates for the Maintenance Department at:

Donnie Derr - \$35.07

Russell Kressley - \$30.92

Gary Hartman - \$26.60

Joseph Kelly - \$24.58

The motion was 2nd by Steve Hill and a non-unanimous vote followed. Motion passes on a roll call vote of 6-1.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- nay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Resolution No. 2023-18 – Mehmet Birttek made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-18, a Resolution reducing contributions by police officers to the Borough of Alburtis Police Pension Plan for the year 2024 to 4% of compensation. The motion was 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birttek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Request to advertise part-time maintenance position– Stephen Nemeth asked for approval to advertise for a part time position while we are short-handed. Ron Mentioned that these people would just be per diem hire for a day or a week to fill in while regular person is out. Mehmet asked if we will be paying the existing person and additional person at the same time. Steve Hill said we will be paying both but no benefits for part timers. Mehmet Birttek made a motion to approve and advertise the part time maintenance position, Steve Hill 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birttek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Parking stalls on Park Lane– Chad Atkins mentioned that maintenance, Steve, and himself went down to location to measure the area. Measurement came to 108 feet. So, we came to the conclusion that we should be able to get 5 parking stalls if we painted each stall 21.6 feet per stall. Chad Atkins made a motion to have maintenance paint parking stalls on park lane, Mehmet Birttek 2nd the motion, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birttek- yay	Rivera- yay
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School Zone signage– Stee Nemeth mentioned that the normal basic signs came to about 490.00. spoke to Mike Preston on his experience with traffic consultants, he mentioned that in his experience they normally run about 8,000-10,000 and the flashing signs are about 5,000. Dave said you could ask the school district if they would contribute towards or at least see if they believe that there is a need for them. Ultimately, they will need to sign off on it anyway. Ron Delaco said how about we table this for now until we gather more info.

Bicentennial Village Preconstruction meeting– Steve Nemeth mentioned that these are the minutes from the preconstruction meeting, wanted to share them with everyone. Hector Asked if we need a motion for them to start sooner than the spring. Steve said we could. Ultimately that is the council's decision. I believe we should wait until spring due to parking and possibility of snow. I would want to put residents further away from their homes then have to dig the cars out from another location. Steve Hill mentioned just his opinion he would like to wait. Hector mentioned that in the meeting minutes it discusses two different methods of forming the curbing. John asked for a better explanation of the two options. Steve Mentioned that we already mentioned with contactors that we would like a second preconstruction meeting; to discuss any extra concerns, discuss parking, and we would like to allow enough time to inform the residents. Ron mentioned another meeting at the rec hall, John mentioned that only concern with that was not many people came to the last meeting at the rec hall. Ron mentioned that he would like Steve Nemeth to schedule the contractors to attend one of the meetings in January.

Notification of receiving PA small water and sewer grant– This is just a letter notifying us that we were awarded 192,000. That when he spoke to Senator Coleman's office, they stated that they tried to get us the most that they could for this project. Mehmet asked if we applied to any of the other grants in this program. Steve Nemeth stated that this grant was applied for last year. Steve Hill mentioned that this is a very important item since current pressure reducing valve was built in 1930. John Aleszczyk believes that we should attempt to do

this while Donnie is still here. Ron asked Steve Nemeth if we can get some feelers out yet on pricing, Steve Nemeth mentioned that once we receive the actual contract we will.

PADEP Notification Letter– letter from Trinity Consultants just notifying us about a logistics company going in at 9901 Congdon Hill Drive. Statting that we have a 30-day comment period regarding the application. No comments we made.

JP Mascaro Letter– Letter from JP Mascaro stating that percentage increases throughout their company. Dave Knerr mentioned that this letter has no impact on our current contract with them since you are locked into a contract. If anything, it could be signaling you to what is to come with rates.

Non-Agenda Items- Steve Hill asked on the status of 128 s main street, has noticed that it is shifting a little, Steve Nemeth mentioned that he spoke to code enforcement officer and currently update it that there is a dispute between homeowner and the insurance company. John Aleszczyk asked about 121 S Main Street. Steve Nemeth mentioned that if anybody catches this property having work done, please snap a photo and send it to him so that he can send it to code enforcement for the file and it can be used for evidence incase it needs to go legal route. Kathy Palmer stated she has done that, and Chuck from Barry Isett was out very quickly.

Additional Public Comment-Mike Gerhart asked about how far from the intersection should the yellow paint be, Dave Knerr mentioned that it should be about 15 feet. Mike asked then why don't the police ticket. Tony mentioned that when the complaint comes in, they check the issue out and then take action, yellow lines would help though. Mike also asked how about cars being parked in opposite direction on a street. Tony mentioned that again, please just call the department and we will take action on the matter.

A motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birttek, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:

Stephen Nemeth

Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.