

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2018

The March 28, 2018 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:01 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburtis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco
Stephen Kaufman

Sherryann Oels
Vanessa Taggart

Kathleen Raines
Hector Vazquez

Steve Hill

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner
Ted Miller

Rayne Reitnauer
Barry & Amy Byler

Collette Jones-Cuffy
Collin Cuffy

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer thanked the Police and Maintenance for the great job they did during the snow storm.

The Mayor was approached by the Fire Company Social side regarding closing S. Main from School Street to 2nd Street for a motorcycle run on April 21. They would like it closed off for the beginning and end of the run. The run will benefit the Opioid epidemic. Hector Vazquez made a motion to allow the closure, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2018 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2018, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – MARCH 28, 2018 – Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of March 28, 2018, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comments – Hills at Lockridge – Ted Miller was present regarding the trees that will be planted in the development. He is not in favor of having a tree. He has an existing Maple tree in front of his residence and the proposed tree is only a few feet from this tree. According to the Plan, the trees along Furnace will be in the grass strip by the curb, but the homes on Racite will have them between the house and the curb. Mr. Miller also noted that the trees being proposed are Red Oak, White Oak, Linden and Ash. The Ash is susceptible to the Ash Borer and all of them are susceptible to the Spotted Lantern Fly. He proposes that trees not be planted along Racite and if planted, they should be ornamental. Ron DeIaco noted that when these trees were decided upon, we did not have the issue with the Spotted Lanternflies. Dave Knerr stated that as a general matter, showing a street tree on a plan, showing it on the deed and the approval of the Borough creates an agreement amongst everyone that this will occur. All residents are entitled to have the trees located on their deeds. Maybe they would not have to be one of the four species chosen and location could maybe be changed. Collin Cuffy is also a resident of the Hills at Lockridge and he is in favor of the trees. The Borough does a good job taking care of them. Borough Council asked the residents to contact their neighbors to see what their opinions are and we will ask the engineer to attend the next meeting. Mr. Cuffy inquired about when the streetlights are being installed. This should be one of the next steps. Mr. Cuffy also asked about additional Children at Play signs at the bottom of Racite. They currently have them at the other end. Hector Vazquez made a motion to install signs, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Public Comment – W. Penn Avenue Railroad Crossing – Rayne Reitnauer of Cold Nose Lodge was present to express a concern to Borough Council. Norfolk Southern was recently approved to increase their speeds to 60 mph through the Borough. There are no crossing bars at the crossing at W. Penn Avenue and Front Street and Rayne sees cars crossing the tracks unsafely all the time. The bars would be up to Norfolk Southern, however, the Borough has authority to the street. She has begun a petition to have W. Penn Avenue closed to through traffic. Her top choice would be to have crossing bars placed, but if this does not happen, she would like to see the road closed. There is a major cost to have crossing gates installed. Steve Hill noted that if we were to block that intersection, it would put a whole lot more traffic on Front Street. After further conversation, it was suggested that Rayne contact our U.S Representative Charles Dent.

Alburtis Area Community Center – Barry Byler was present to introduce himself to Borough Council. He is the current President of the Board for the AACC. He has heard there were discussions regarding the AACC and invited all to come to the Rec Center to volunteer so that they can see what is going on.

Ordinance No. 545 – A draft Ordinance amending Codified Ordinances Chapter 61 to prohibit smoking on property owned or leased by the Borough; amending Codified Ordinances Chapter 35 (Property Maintenance Code) to prohibit the parking, storage, or driving of vehicles or trailers in the grass area of any lawn or on any surface other than concrete, asphalt, stones, or other surface which prevents the disturbance or erosion of soil caused by vehicle tires; and amending Codified Ordinances Chapter 97 to require applicants for peddling licenses to submit criminal history record information reports, to authorize denial of licenses to persons whose reports are unsatisfactory, and to increase the fee for a license. Stephen Kaufman asked how the parking on grassy areas would be enforced and was told that it would be our Property Maintenance Company. Stephen also questioned event parking at different places throughout the Borough. This would affect these events. Vanessa asked if it could be written for just residential. Stephen Kaufman also suggested that the organizations get permits for parking on the grass each year. Hector Vazquez also suggested that instead of excluding the organizations, signs be put up saying no parking for no more than 24 hours. Dave Knerr will create another draft for the next meeting. Sharon asked if a requirement to secure garbage be added also. The Maintenance Department spends hours picking up trash and recycling from residents that do not tie their bags. This will be added.

Walnut Street Grant Bid Acceptance – Kathleen Raines made a motion to permit Sharon to execute bid acceptance documents awarding Zgura's Concrete Services the contract for curb and sidewalk along Walnut Street. Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Small Water and Sewer Grant Preliminary Schedule – A timeline was reviewed for the \$300,000 Small Water and Sewer Grant the Borough received. It is being prepared to go out to bid by the engineer.

Well No. 3 Booster Pumps – A cost to replace the booster pumps at Well #3 has been received. This is included in the next round of grants, but it will have to go out to bid.

Grass Cutting – Steve Hill made a motion to hire two part-time persons for grass cutting contingent upon them passing a physical and drug test at a rate of \$10.00 per hour. Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Kathleen Raines made a motion to authorize Sharon and Donnie Derr to handle the interviews and hiring, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Mailboxes – Vanessa Taggart asked Council to revisit the unpassed Ordinance regarding mailboxes. There are many broken mailboxes throughout the Borough and she would like to see this taken care of. Residents have approached her with this concern and she believes it is a legitimate concern. The Ordinance was not passed because of a disagreement on the sizes of the pots. Vanessa would like to see them fastened to the concrete. Dave Knerr will send out what was in the original proposed Ordinance.

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Sidewalks – Borough Council is concerned about the condition of sidewalks throughout the Borough. Ron Delaco suggested that we do not put this off any longer and address the issue this year. Mayor Palmer

suggested that we come up with a plan for roadwork also. This is something Donnie and Sharon have been discussing.

Bird Sanctuary – The Quit-Claim Deeds have been sent out for signatures. Ron DeIaco thanked Dave Knerr and Sharon for their diligence in having this accomplished.

Lower Macungie Township Correspondence – Correspondence was received from Lower Macungie Township regarding a proposed DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program. The grant request is to develop and inclusive outdoor playground at the Lower Macungie Township Community Center. Borough Council has no comment at this time.

Lower Macungie Township Correspondence – Norfolk Southern will be working at the tracks on Church Street and will need to close the road from April 30, 2018 until May 3, 2018.

Fuel and Heating Oil – Sharon has been able to piggyback onto a Fuel and Oil bid with Northampton County. The savings would be about \$.20 cheaper per gallon. The heating fuel company will remain as Lehigh Fuels, but Sharon would like permission to change the diesel provider to Lehigh Fuels also. Hector Vazquez made a motion to piggyback on the bid and to change diesel providers, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

PSAB Conference – Sharon asked if anyone was planning to attend the conference in June or if they would want her to attend. Vanessa Taggart believes we should have someone in attendance. Kathleen Raines made a motion to have Sharon attend the conference, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

NIMS – Sharon sent out the NIMS link for those who are not yet compliant.

Meetings – Sharon has three meetings to attend on Tuesday. She can definitely make two of them, but would like Tracy to attend the third. Tiffany Smith will adjust her hours. Council has no problem with this.

Sewer – There was another mop head found in the sewer station. This has caused damage and Donnie needed to have parts overnighted. The cost is not known, but the parts are needed. Council believes it must be coming from the north side of the tracks, but asked Sharon to check with Donnie. Ron DeIaco informed Council that the sewer station needs to be addressed for repairs and also to investigate other options.

Sinkhole – The sinkhole on West 2nd Street will be addressed by Maintenance next week.

Police Negotiations – There has been no movement since the meeting with the arbitrators.

A motion to adjourn at 8:44 was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.