

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2020

The October 28, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council Vice-President Steve Hill at 7:01 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 – 7:05

Vanessa Taggart

John Aleszczyk

Steve Hill

Stephen Kaufman

Kathleen Raines

Hector Vazquez

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner Chad Atkins Steve Werley Steve Reichenbach

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Palmer reported that firearms were ordered, extra police will be on duty for Halloween and the police will also be visible on election day. The Mayor reported that she was in contact with the Topton Fish and Game Commission and the President of the Association agreed to waive the \$75 fee per officer to sign up. He called back and told her that the Board agreed to also waive the dues. Council thanked her for this effort.

MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 14, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – OCTOBER 28, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of October 28, 2020, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

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

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Hector Vazquez made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report, John Aleszczyk 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Resident, Steve Werley, was present with questions about the status of the Bird Sanctuary. He lives next to the property and tries to keep an eye on it. He sees people going by with trash on their vehicles. Dumping has been a problem and Sharon just sent letters to all of the surrounding properties telling them to clean up what is there. Hector questioned if “No Dumping” signs are posted and was told not as of yet. Kathleen Raines said the property was posted for “No Hunting”. John Aleszczyk explained to Mr. Werley that the discussion of the Bird Sanctuary started when a scout approached Council and wanted to put in walking paths and a discussion was had to pave Ft. Sumpter also. Mr. Werley is glad that it has been tabled. Cars already drive too fast on W. Fifth Street and if you put paths in the Sanctuary, you will see less nature. Ron DeIaco agreed with him and Kathleen Raines responded that the paths would not have been paved. Steve Hill noted that nothing is being done at this time.

Mail Issues – We are continuing to have mail issues on Ridgeview in two areas and another one on Front Street. Hector asked if you could post on a State Road and Dave Knerr answered that we could. John Aleszczyk said that there is only parking on one side of Front Street and there is not much that could be done. The police continue to get called onto Ridgeview and parking is at a premium here.

Resolution No. 2020-8 – Stephen Kaufman made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-8, a Resolution appointing the Sharon Trexler as the Borough Zoning Officer and Barry Isett & Associates as Assistant Zoning Officer. The motion was 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed.

Lehigh County Covid-19 Block Grant – The Borough received the entire \$41,829.72 on Friday and the Agreement was received today. Sharon has been in contact with County and they are in favor of the budget she prepared except for the lost income from truck stops. She is working on other expenses to replace this.

Drug and Alcohol Consortium – A letter was received from Whitehall Township stating they were not going to be a part of the consortium any longer and therefore, they would not be coordinating either. They have asked for another municipality to coordinate it. Sharon told Council that she is not volunteering to coordinate the consortium and will look into other options of no one else does either. Council agrees with this.

Lehigh County Authority – The Final 2019 Bill has been received and the result was a credit. This credit has been reflected in the current bill.

PSAB Plus Membership Training – A letter was received from PSAB regarding the annual training fee. Last year the cost was \$450 for unlimited webinars and they will offer it for \$225 for those who participated last year. This training was utilized a lot during 2020 and we will continue to participate.

Zoning Solicitor – A letter was received from John Ashley, Esq. requesting the opportunity to again serve as the Borough Zoning Solicitor. Dave Knerr will include this in the end of year Resolutions.

Holiday Parade – Since we are not having the Holiday Festival this year, Hector Vazquez thought it would be nice to have a small parade consisting of Fire, Police and Public Works. Stephen Kaufman asked if that would result in overtime and was told yes. That could add up pretty quickly. John Aleszczyk said that the Fire Department will probably be going around town as they always do. Sharon said the Santa Run is on the Fire Departments calendar and Vanessa believes this is enough for now. Ron DeIaco agreed that we should put this off and maybe, in the spring, we could do something.

Lockridge Church – Sharon spoke with Officer Chris Lubenetski this morning and he asked if he would be able to use the Church for the Town Watch Meetings and also his Venture Crew Meetings. Sharon said she would personally like to see this happen to hopefully, give the Church more exposure. Stephen Kaufman agreed. Kathleen Raines made a motion to allow the Church to be used for Town Watch and Venture Crew, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Covid-19 Concern – Mayor Palmer informed Council that the numbers are rising, and we need to be careful. The homicide case she was working on has been postponed and two of the DA's have the virus as well as others. She and another person may be requested to be tested since they were there also. She would like to make sure that we have enough supplies at Borough Hall. She was told the police were out of gloves. Sharon spoke with Donnie yesterday and he said we are good on supplies. She will order additional items also to cover us and this will be paid for by the Lehigh Valley Covid-19 Grant.

A motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. was made by Vanessa Taggart, 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.