

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

December 30, 2020

The December 30, 2020 meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00 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

Steve Hill

John Aleszczyk

Vanessa Taggart

Stephen Kaufman

Hector Vazquez

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Visitors in attendance:

Tony Vanim

Gary DeRoner

Chad Atkins

Amy D.

Tom Moss

Sherryann Oels

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer thanked Council for all working together during these trying times. We were in unchartered waters and we were fortunate to not have any major losses.

MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2020 – Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2020, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – DECEMBER 30, 2020 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to pay the bills of December 30, 2020, Steve Hill 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.

MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – The monthly report was reviewed. There were fourteen calls in the Borough in November.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comment – Chad Atkins addressed residents concern regarding the storm drain at the Post Office. John Aleszczyk said the drain has been like that forever and that the drain by the Tavern and one on Quarry Road also have issues. Ron DeIaco asked Sharon to have Donnie Derr look into it.

AACC Parking – Members of the AACC were present to questions why the lot is not being plowed again. Hector said the decision was made at the last meeting because residents do not think it is fair to plow the lot and not be able to park in it. Steve Hill believes we should plow the lot because, according to our Emergency Management Plan, the Community Center is the place residents can go in the event of a disaster. Ron agreed with Steve and John said it should be the last thing plowed in the Borough and we should not be doing sidewalks. Tony Vanim was present and said they do their own sidewalks. He also stated his disappointment that this has come up again. It seems we go through this every year. The AACC does allow residents to park at the pool. The issue with the lower lot is that people parked there and never moved. Stephen Kaufman added that it is not a big expense to plow the lot. Steve Hill made a motion to plow the lot, Stephen Kaufman 2nd, Hector Vazquez was opposed, and the balance were ayes.

AACC Lot – (cont.) – Kathleen Palmer asked what happens if damage is done to our vehicles. She stated Donnie Derr said the stones could cause damage and maintenance fixes the stones in the spring also. Sherryann Oels said the stones are put back in place utilizing the AACC tractor. Ron Delaco said the motion has passed and it is a part of our emergency plan, so we are going to plow it. Any damage done to the vehicles will be fixed by us.

Resolution No. 2020-10 – Police Pension Plan – Hector Vazquez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-10, a Resolution reducing contributions by Police Officers to the Borough of Alburtis Police Pension Plan for the Year 2021 to four percent of compensation. The motion was 2nd by Steve Hill and a unanimous vote followed.

Ordinance No. 564 – Mileage, taxes, and fees – The only increase to residents in 2021 will be to garbage. Rates will go from \$74 to \$98 per unit. Vanessa Taggart made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 564, Stephen Kaufman 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Ordinance No. 565 – Compensation and Bonding – Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 565, an Ordinance revising the compensation or compensation ranges from certain positions of employment or appointment by the Borough, effective January 1, 2021, including certain administration employees, maintenance employees, and professionals, and confirming the existing fidelity bond requirements for certain Borough employees. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Motion to Establish the Hourly Rates for the Maintenance Department – John Aleszczyk made a motion to establish the hourly rates for the Maintenance Department as follows: Donnie Derr - \$31.75, Russell Kressley - \$27.99, Gary Hartman - \$24.08 and Joseph Kelly - \$21.32. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Drug and Alcohol Consortium – When the consortium with other municipalities ended, we were automatically retained by Lehigh Valley Pain & Primary Care. Their charges are \$60 for a urine screening and \$35 for a breath alcohol test. Sharon asked Council if they would like her to look into other options and was told that these costs seem reasonable. Steve Hill made a motion to utilize Lehigh Valley Pain & Primary Care for drug and alcohol testing, Hector Vazquez 2nd, Vanessa Taggart and John Aleszczyk abstained due to their employment and the balance were ayes.

Fire Department – Sanitizing Sprayer – Using the Covid Grant money, Sharon purchased two Antistatic Sanitizing Sprayers and Sanitizer. When she previously spoke with the Fire Department about an AED, she was told they were covered in that area, but could use a sprayer to sanitize equipment. Sharon would like authorization to donate one of the sprayers to the Fire Department. Council believes this is a good idea. Hector Vazquez made a motion to donate a sanitizing sprayer to the Fire Department, John Aleszczyk 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Zoning Spring Creek Development - Lot 9 – Sharon was contacted by a representative of Lower Macungie Township regarding the zoning for Lot 9. They are asking if we would want to utilize the same zoning officer to make the process simpler. We would be charged for our portion, but Sharon has not heard what the fees would be yet. Council asked her to find out the charges and bring this back to the next meeting.

Sewer Station – Ron reported to Council that there were two mop heads in the sewer station again. Maintenance was able to remove them, but this can be dangerous if they continue to get stuck in the system. Ron asked Sharon to get a quote from Jeff Ott for a basket like we had previously talked about. John Aleszczyk does not believe it needs to be engineered and thought LCA could help. Ron was not asking Jeff Ott to engineer the basket; he thought the leg work was done previously. Sharon will check into it.

Spring Creek Development – Lot 9 – Dave Knerr asked for a motion to authorize officers to sign a Subdivision Agreement and a Stormwater Management Operations and Maintenance Agreement prepared by the Solicitor. Hector Vazquez made the motion, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

DEP Recycling Grant – The Borough received \$2,409.10 from the DEP Recycling Grant.

A motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. was made by Vanessa Taggart, 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.

An Executive Session was called at 7:29 for Personnel with no action taken and ended at 7:49.