

Borough of Alburtis

Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2018

The January 31, 2018 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.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeIaco

Kathleen Raines

Steve Hill

Stephen Kaufman

Sherryann Oels

Hector Vazquez

Vanessa Taggart

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor

Robert Palmer, Police Chief

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner

Kyle Bower

John Aleszczyk

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Palmer swore in new part-time patrolman, Dan Wiedemann.

The Mayor would like an area set aside for an “Exchange Zone”. This is for custody exchanges and for private sales. People are currently using the Alburtis Tavern parking lot for this. Sherryann Oels agreed and stated that other municipalities have them also. The ideal spot would be in the Borough Parking Lot since it is on camera at all times. Hector Vazquez made a motion to have the exchange zone, Sherryann Oels 2nd and unanimous vote followed. Steve Hill made a motion to have the sign posted in the parking lot at Borough Hall, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Sharon will obtain the cost of the sign.

Mayor Palmer also showed pictures of 128 W. 2nd Street. This property has been sent violations in the last two weeks. Vanessa Taggart made a motion for the Maintenance Department to board up the broken window, Hector Vazquez 2nd but would like it to be done tastefully and a unanimous vote followed. This should be done after 30 days of the violation notice.

POLICE REPORT – Ron DeIaco asked Chief Palmer if all of the signage is up on Spring Creek Road. We are expecting another sign. John Aleszczyk stated that at the November 8th meeting it was said that an LED sign was being ordered. This has not happened yet. The police have stepped up truck stops again.

Chief Palmer reported that today was the closing day for applications for a full time police officer. We received 12 applications and the written exam will be on February 10.

The new part time officers are still being trained, but things are getting easier as far as staffing.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2018 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2018, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT – JANUARY 31, 2018 – Stephen Kaufman asked if a copy of the engineer's bill could be attached to the bills for payment since it is usually the largest bill. Sharon will see that this is done. Resident, John Aleszczyk asked if the bill was reviewed and Stephen Kaufman replied that yes he reviewed it prior to the meeting. Kathleen Raines stated that it was split between five projects. Kathleen Palmer questioned the fuel bill and does it include the new maintenance building. It does not, the new building does not have heat. Steve Hill made a motion to pay the bills of January 31, 2018, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

FISCAL CONSULTANT REPORT – Ron DeIaco was very pleased with this report and it shows what a good accounting business should do. John Aleszczyk asked if this could be made public and was told that it was a public document and is available upon request. Resident, Kyle Bower suggested that a packet be made available to the public at a meeting. Ron stated that no one is trying to hide anything and all information can be made available upon request. Mr. Bower asked if just pieces can be made available if someone didn't want to see the whole packet. Sharon said it would just be easier to attach the information, excluding the minutes, to the agenda on line. Stephen Kaufman made a motion to accept the Fiscal Consultant Report, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Comments – None

Resolution No. 2018-4 – Steve Hill made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-4, a Resolution appointing the Independent Auditor for Fiscal Year 2018. The motion was 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2018-5 – Vanessa Taggart made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-5, a Resolution re-appointing June Ellen Claydon to the Alburtis Zoning Hearing Board. The motion was 2nd by Kathleen Raines and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2018-6 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-6, a Resolution re-appointing Brian DeRienzo to the Alburtis Planning Commission. The motion was 2nd by Stephen Kaufman and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2018-7 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-7, a Resolution re-appointing Kyle Bower to the Alburtis Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was 2nd by Hector Vazquez and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution No. 2018-8 – Kathleen Raines made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-8, a Resolution appointing David Kutzor, Ralph Gambler and Sharon Trexler to the Alburtis Environmental Advisory Council. The motion was 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed.

Walnut Street Project Award – The bids for the Walnut Street Project were opened and reviewed by the engineer. The bids were for the installation of curb and sidewalks on the west side of School Street to 2nd Street. The engineer also recommends that curbing is installed along the east side of Walnut at 128 W. 2nd and a small portion on the west side of Walnut Street near Front. If a change order were done, these could be included in the bid. 128 W. 2nd Street is vacant and bank owned so a lien could be put on the property. Hector Vazquez made a motion to award the contract to Zgura's Concrete Services, Inc. in the amount of \$108,655, Sherryann Oels 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Sewer CCTV Inspection – LCA has been TVing throughout the Borough and we have found that we have some major root issues. Borough Engineer, Jeff Ott, reviewed the videos and advises that this is taken care of sooner than later. Donnie has been in contact with Dukes Root Control and they are scheduled to come to the Borough in February.

Maintenance Backpack Blower Request – Maintenance is requesting to purchase a third backpack blower. They use these during the winter to clear snow as well as for springtime use. The cost is \$439.96 from Bower's Sales and Rentals. Two other quotes were received and both of them were for \$499.99. Steve Hill made a motion to purchase the blower, Vanessa Taggart 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Fire Police Request – Vanessa Taggart asked how the merger will affect future requests. Per Dave Knerr, they are still the Borough Fire Police while assisting other areas. Hector Vazquez made a motion to allow the Fire Police to assist with the private function at the AACC, Kathleen Raines 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

DCNR – Correspondence was received by DCNR reminding the Borough that the Playground of Adventure 1 and 2 were both funded by them and that they must remain recreational areas.

Dog Park – Kathleen Palmer asked if there was an area to have a dog park in the Borough. Vanessa Taggart likes this idea and added that there may be a grant to assist. The Tot Lot behind Church Street, Lockridge Lane and Roberts Street may be a good spot for it. Council asked Park and Recreation to look at this area. Sharon will give the Plans to Kathleen Raines that shows the entrance to the project.

PA Small Water & Sewer Grant – Council had previously approved applying for this grant for additional sewer work, however, Donnie Derr has spoken with Sharon and Jeff Ott and informed them that Well 3 will need updating. Borough Council has no issue with either project.

Historic District – Kathleen Raines asked Sharon if she has heard anything regarding the Historic District. Sharon heard from one of the women last week and they are hoping to have a review sometime next month.

Water Meters – Kathleen Raines asked what the situation was with the water meters in the new development. Sharon spoke with two residents and they are not having an issue with the Borough. She was told there was a private Facebook page for the new development. The Borough has been working with one of the residents and she was just questioning her neighbors on Facebook to see if they were having this issue. The issue has been resolved. The other resident posted that her reading was the same as last quarter. This was not a problem for the homeowner and this is very normal if you are consistent with your water usage.

NIMS – Kathleen Raines asked if everyone was up to date with their NIMS. Several are not and Sharon will email them the links.

Maintenance Dryer – The clothes dryer in the Maintenance Building needs to be replaced. Vanessa Taggart made a motion to purchase a new dryer, Hector Vazquez 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Recycling Event – We have received information on the Recycling Event that we usually have with Macungie Borough. The price went up but Council believes we should do this for the residents. Sharon will contact Macungie Borough and if they choose not to have one, arrangements will be made in the Borough.

Church – Sharon asked Council if she could pursue an idea to make the Lockridge Historical Church more rentable. She would like to contact the scouts and see if one of the prospective Eagle Scouts would be interested in building a pavilion. We currently turn residents away when they are looking for an outdoor area to rent. Council likes this idea and Sharon will continue to research.

A motion to adjourn at 8:01 was made by Kathleen Raines, 2nd by Vanessa Taggart and a unanimous vote followed. Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager.

Executive Session – An Executive Session was called at 8:01 for a personnel issue and ended at 8:38.