

Borough of Alburdis
Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2025

The January 8th, 2025, 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, Alburdis, PA. The meeting was also streamed on zoom.

Council members in attendance via in person:

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

Associates of Alburdis in attendance:

Kathleen Palmer- Mayor, Stephen Nemeth-Manager

Associates of Alburdis Via Zoom:

Dave Knerr- Solicitor, Tony Alsleben- Police Chief, East Penn Press

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Steve Werley, Ray Ricketts, Mike Gerhart

Visitors in attendance via zoom: Brooke, Tom

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mehmet Birtek mentioned that we should all be thankful for living where we do after seeing the news tonight that happened in California. A lot of people lost the process. Thank God, we're safe, and we really wish you that those people have been safe as well.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No official report, Steve Hill had a question for Mayor Kathy Palmer over the holidays. A fire truck went through town for Santa. It wasn't one of our fire trucks. Kathy mentioned No, it was the mighty paws. That was through the AACC. Steve Hill stated my question is, and this is only because I've been asked this question. The police were also leading it. Usually when something like that happens. The request comes through council. Kathy Palmer mentioned the only way I knew about it was when I talked to Tony, and I found out from Tony that Hector called and asked about having someone there, but I do know that the chief specifically stated that if they had an emergency, if they had a call, if there was anything that they needed to do. They were not going to be bringing them around. They don't mind doing an escort, but it should have been done through the proper channels, I think, because everybody's going to come down on the police department. It's not the police department's fault. To my knowledge it was never brought before the council. Ron DeIaco mentioned that's where it should have been born. Kathy mentioned it was all run through the AACC. We didn't have any direct connection, we could get in. Steve Hill mentioned Would anybody mind if we got an answer to that. People were asking me if you know why the police department is leading the way wide. I'm like, I don't know. This is the first thing that I'm hearing about.

Kathy asked Chief Alsleben, can you clarify anything other than what I've already stated? Tony Alsleben mentioned no, you think you summed it up correctly. There was no extra officer brought in for that. There was no extra money spent on that the duty officer that was working was asked to assist, if possible, and if he was not busy on any calls or anything more pressing.

Steve Hill mentioned okay, it's just. It's all I'm saying is, usually if the police are even the fire come, if they need fire police, it. It comes through Borough Council and we okay it usually when there, if there's a function at the police involved, usually we kind of okay. But none of us were aware of it. Ron DeIaco mentioned I agree, Council should have been aware, but that falls under just an escort, it's true, but remember, it was not our fire department.

Steve Hill mentioned let's just say anytime someone needs an escort like that. They should run it by the mayor and chief, and then the council should be aware of it and give it to prove it's usually a rubber stamp. Kathy

Palmer mentioned yes, I think that proper channels and proper knowledge of all of us knowing is the right etiquette.

POLICE REPORT

Chad Atkins made a motion to approve the police report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd 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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MEETING MINUTES of December 23rd, 2024

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 25th, 2024, Mehmet Birtek 2nd 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 – January 8th, 2025

Mehmet Birtek asked about the garbage the \$49,607.30. What was it last time? I don't remember. That was a topic on social media, too. Last month it was \$32,520. So, it was a difference of \$17,086 and 84 cents. In today's newspaper it discussed the rates in the area where it has happened across the state.

Chad Atkins made a motion to pay the bills of January 8th, 2025, Mehmet Birtek 2nd 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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TREASURERS REPORT

Hector Moss made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Mehmet Birtek 2nd, 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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MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS

Ron DeIaco mentioned in the report stated 421 calls for Macungie Ambulance in December, with 9 being in the borough.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mehmet Birtek asked So when it goes to number 11, when it goes to the planning commission. Is there anybody from our side who will be there? Or are there going to be any reviews? I don't know how the process works. Steve Nemeth mentioned I mean there could be, you would just be sitting in public portion. If you want, anybody can, Dave and I will be there. Ray will also be there. Mehmet Birtek mentioned that it'll come to the council again on the 29th for an actual public hearing. Steve Nemeth mentioned that it's the time anybody can be open for all the public, and then also give their input.

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the engineer's report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd 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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ADMINISTRATION

Resolution No. 2025-1

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ALBURTIS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.

John Aleszczyk mentioned Just so I clearly understand this. We weren't aware of this. It came about in January. We really should know about this around October and November. that, hey? He might not be using this vacation. But and second of all, this is going to be paid at 2025 rates. Correct, not 2024 rates, anyway, because we know the contract. David Knerr mentioned yeah, but we'll eventually make that up. John Aleszczyk mentioned So it'll be a retroactive then to 25, so you'll be paying them more for this time than you pay them would have paid and he was the only one affected by this. Nobody else took vacation. Everybody else uses their vacation. Tony Alsleben all I hear is John questioning my management. I didn't hear a question. John Aleszczyk mentioned I didn't say to your management that we were aware of this. We should have been aware of it. Tony mentioned well, then, that's the point of making aware of it. Now it's There, it's a unique situation. Personnel, wise in 2024. We had to manage a couple of things, and to make sure that we're under budget total, we don't want to spend overtime. So had to do some creative things, and the officer in question worked a lot of 8-9-day weeks and took vacation where we could. We moved around for the days. Just. It's a quirk of what happened, and those hours were extra. So, all I did was simply say, you know, the Cba. Allows for 80 h, and in this unique circumstance to protect the borough from any future instances of this or anybody trying to take advantage of this, and purposely not scheduling vacation that we do this mou there's no intent of hiding it from anybody in council. It's just as we got to the end of the books, and to the end of the year there was a lot of hours there that had to be used, and you know, didn't want to punish the guy for helping out all year long when we were short people that's all. Steve Hill mentioned if I understand you correctly, we couldn't fit in with work, and the point being that we just should have been notified. You knew about this in October, November. It didn't come about in January. That's my only point. I agree with John. I was a little flabbergasted. When I saw. We should have been warned that this was coming.

Ron Delaco mentioned we have done this for some people, I think, even in administration as I recall. But we were notified ahead of time. Steve Hill mentioned if I understand you correctly, we couldn't fit in with work, and the point being that we just should have been notified. You knew about this in October, November. It didn't come about in January. That's my only point. I agree with John. I was a little flabbergasted. When I saw. We should have been warned that this was coming. Ron Delaco mentioned we have done this for some people, I think, even in administration as I recall. But we were notified ahead of time. John Aleszczyk mentioned surprised Nobody else had the same issue. Did everybody else use their vacation? Tony Alsleben Oh, there's going to be other carryovers that nobody else makes that kind of vacation. David Knerr mentioned Well, other folks could transfer something up to 120 h. It all depends on how many hours you know how many hours they have. But you know, so the officer question is at the top of the scale even if he had scheduled all this stuff for November or December. It isn't all that egregious in his case, for the other folks. The amount that they're allowed to carry over. I mean and frankly, that's you know, that's to your benefit. I mean the reason in the contract that it says that you can only carry it over for the 1st 3 months is just so that you don't allow people to. You know. Figure that they want to have it all transferred over to the next year at a higher pay rate, and, you know, spread it out over the year. But from your perspective you really don't. If you could have him spread it out as opposed to him, taking it all up front, that would be to your benefit, because you know, you don't have that. Many people rush to take it at the beginning of the year. Steve Hill mentioned I absolutely agree with John. This should not have been sprung on us like this. We should have been made aware that there was a lot of vacation. That's all, man. It's just if something like this is going to happen. Just tell us. Tony Alsleben mentioned I understand that, Steve, this wasn't something that I have withheld from you guys. It was as we do the audits at the end of the year that we realize there's a lot of time there and it's one of those things that time is like, if it's going to carry over, it's going to carry over. If not, it doesn't. It's not, you know. There's no, you know, no intent on that on that. Steve Hill mentioned I know there was no intent or anything. The only thing we're asking is that we'll say when you get into your 4th quarter, and you see that you're going to have some of this stuff roll over just let Council know. Tony Alsleben mentioned absolutely, and I hope that I hope that we don't have the exit in circumstances that we had this year, either. So, I'm certainly confident, going forward. We're not going to have to even broach this issue again.

Steve Hill made a motion to approve resolution No. 2025-1 approving a memorandum of understanding with

the Alburdis Police Officers Association, motion was 2nd by Hector Moss. 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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Wescosville Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association compliance audit for January 2022- December 2023

Informational, no further discussion was given.

Request to purchase street banners towards chamber main street grant reimbursement.

Stephen Nemeth mentioned that this is a request to purchase the banners towards the reimbursement. Last year we were awarded \$1,000.00 from the chamber from the main street grant program. It is a 50/50 matching grant. Stephen mentioned that he would prefer to go with the quote from EBC printing since they already do the veteran banners.

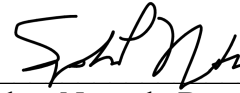
Hector Moss made the motion to purchase the street banners from EBC printing, motion was 2nd by Mehmet Birtek. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:



Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.

APPROVED