

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
July 9th, 2025

The July 9th, 2025, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeIaco at 7:00p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburtis, PA. The meeting was also streamed on zoom.

Council members in attendance via in person:

Ron DeIaco, Steve Hill, Hector Moss, John Aleszczyk, Mehmet Birtek

Council members in attendance via zoom:

Ashlynn Rivera

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Kathleen Palmer- Mayor, Stephen Nemeth- Manager, Dave Knerr- Solicitor

Associates of Alburtis via Zoom:

Tony Alsleben-Police Chief

Visitors in attendance:

Gary DeRoner, Mike Gerhart, Carl Rotenberger, Ray Rickets, Dave Kutzor

Visitors in attendance via zoom:

Brooke, Tom, Craig

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MEETING MINUTES of June 25th, 2025

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 25th, 2025, Hector Moss 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to pay the bills of July 9th, 2025, Steve Hill 2nd and a unanimous vote followed.

Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay
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Reports:

MAYOR'S REPORT

Kathy Palmer mentioned 4th of July was not bad. The ones that I did see issues about it would have been good if they would have phoned in. so the officer could see what's going on. But again, putting it on, social media does not do the officer any good because he's not looking at social media now. So, it would be nice if you would call in and say, hey, I know where they're being set off. and everybody must remember. You either must tell the police where it's going on, but you also must be ready to be the witness to that action. It does no good for the officer to write something up. But you don't want to be the witness. That is something that I really wish everybody would keep in mind. Every year we see it on social media. We see where people are saying they're still going off. It's 11 o'clock. It's 1130 yet when I checked in, nobody has received a phone call here. So, what are we supposed to do with that? If he's at this end of town. He's not looking at social media. So, I think the police should find out about the fireworks. I don't think so. You still don't have a witness again to the government that way. How do you fight that? And believe me, I've been in the courts long enough. If you don't have the witness that sees it. The officer that wasn't there didn't see it. Can't say why, how you've got to be ready to stumble but I think the lesson that we learned is we spend too much time on social media, and we think it's a panacea for everything. you know. But there are other ways of dealing with this. It's very sad, because I think that people don't even know how to communicate anymore. We see each other day in and day out, they're standing up in front of the judge. Well, wait a minute, Judge. I'll show you on my phone, and the judge is looking at him like, how do I know if it's the truth or not? How do you know if it's fabricated or not? Yeah, because it's on social media? It's true.

POLICE REPORT

John Aleszczyk asked, "What classifies an abandoned vehicle?" What category would the State inspection, slash registration falls under an event, you know, out of date one? Traffic stops truck traffic. I'm assuming they're down due to staffing. Tony Alsleben: Yeah. So, the abandoned vehicle someone calls in an abandoned vehicle. That's what the com centers title it. So that's what's classified on that report. They must call it in. So, if they call it in, it's your car that's been there for 6 months with flat tires that they'd have to call in. Well, they called in, and then. But we've been through this before. Again. We talk about this all the time. The only thing we can do is make sure it's not stolen, and it's not a hazard. So then, when it's not that any of those things, then it then sits there. If we can find an owner, we can tell them. Hey, can you? You know you have got to get this car taken care of, but we have no mechanism to tow it. That's the pinch that we're in. And that's we kind of go through that a lot. And we've talked about this before. There's no ordinance that says you can't leave your vehicle on a street legally parked if it's illegally parked. If it's too close to the corner. If it's in front of a fire hydrant, then we can obviously act. But if it's just parked there, and it's someone's not driving it now, if it moves and it's got expired inspections and the plates expire. If it moves, then we can write citations, and at that point the vehicle code allows us to tow it so. John Aleszczyk: If it's parked on a no parking street or parked in a snow emergency road. Tony Alsleben: Well, snow emergency road. If we need to move the car, then we can tow it at that point. John Aleszczyk: The problem is that our ordinances need to be updated. But if there's no snow emergency, if the car is legally parked, it is legally parked. But if there was a snow emergency and the car plowed around and it's still there and it's still there. It's supposed to be towed. It wasn't. But anyway, regarding what? Your question with the state inspection and things of that nature, right? It is a discussion that we had previously, and I thought we changed our ordinance to do that. No, we must get an ordinance created because originally it was just a \$10 fine, and we didn't want to do it, I think. Correct me if I'm wrong, Dave. One that we do have in place, only certain. It only applies to having 2 abandoned or unregistered vehicles on your property, or something like that. Dave Knerr mentioned Well, we have, we have something about. If you have it on your property. There's also the vehicle code provides. If there's a quote abandoned vehicle on the street, and it's a long process. But you can go through the process. Hector Moss mentioned it's almost the same thing as when the chief was asking us to reinstate the 72-hour car park and I think that we really need to put that back again. Dave Knerr mentioned You can't put that in unless you're willing to have number one signs everywhere that say that and number 2. It's very difficult to enforce because you must show that they were moved, that they weren't moved for that whole 72-hour period. which is impossible, which is why the recommendation that I've given to you in the past to deal with long-term parking like that is, and we've been successful with the situation. When you had Mr. Shades, a vehicle, and a couple of others. Is that instead, what you do is you? There's an area where you think this is a problem, you designate a time during a week. That says no parking between 2 and 3 Am. On Wednesday of the week. Then if they're not. If they're there you can see them there. You can easily tick them and tow them. Kathy Palmer Well, that's true, except that you go out to Ridgeview. People are parked all over the place, and they're parked not even legally. Some of them are parked half on a driveway, half on the sidewalk. Some are parked with wheels hanging off the curbs. They just park wherever they want And I think it's something we really need to look at. Steve Hill mentioned You got to understand how part of that poor planning was when that development was, and I understand that there's just no parking. And what do you do with all these vehicles? Mehmet Birtek mentioned We should give them a parking option. There should be a parking lot close by. You have an overflow parking spot that we do not own. Lockridge. No, what I'm trying to say. I think whoever developed it was a great idea, that parking spot that people use it. And I think that's very useful, because sometimes we have guests, and we tell them Park over there overnight, and then they move over the next day. I just think it's something that we need to look at and look at closely, because it's not even just Ridgeview anymore. When I see 3 and 4 cars bang up against each other. And then you get people go on social media and they're complaining. Why can't they park here? Why can't they park there? I got to the park so far from us. I don't know. What would you tell them clearly as a city. We have a parking problem.

Steve Hill made a motion to approve the police report, John Aleszczyk 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay
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MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS

Ron Delaco mentioned in the report stated 400 calls for Macungie Ambulance in June, with 7 being in the borough. Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the Macungie Ambulance report, Hector Moss 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay
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LMFD Mid-Year Report

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to approve the police report, Hector Moss 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay
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TREASURERS REPORT

Steve Hill mentioned that the sewer account looks low, Steve Nemeth mentioned that we are waiting on two reimbursements from DCED to come back in. He reached out to DCED, and they are just waiting to be released.

Hector Moss made a motion to accept the June treasurer's report, Mehmet Birtek 2nd, and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Rivera- yay	Birtek- yay
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ENGINEER'S REPORT

Steve Hill made a motion to accept the engineer's report, Mehmet Birtek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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New Business

Request to allow Dave to create an ordinance adopting the 2021 IPMC and 2021 IFC

Steve Nemeth mentioned this is to have Dave create the ordinance for adopting 2021 IPMC and 2021 IFC mainly due to us relying on the 1996 boca and not having a fire code. This could kind of go hand in hand with John's request in a way, with abandoned vehicles. Because that's also highlighted in the international property maintenance code. Dave Knerr mentioned it's probably worth doing that because it hasn't been updated since 1996. And it and it, the changes that they're talking about are not, you know, things for people? We never had a fire code before. I must say I was kind of shocked to see how large it is today. I think probably would be useful for you to have Somebody at the fire company tell you what's in there, what they're asking people to do. I'm sure it's all for safety, but when there's that much to it, it certainly makes you wonder what exactly they're asking you to do. Steve Nemeth mentioned That would be more so, for like rentals and businesses, Dave Knerr mentioned you rely heavily on 1996 boca. Steve Nemeth mentioned so you'll see that I attached memos. I had Chris Guada, from Lehigh County. He has been like a consultant throughout the State on this type of matter we met, and he gave his support. Chuck wolf from Barry Isett gave his support because he's finding that it's hard for him to truly enforce certain requests that we must enforce our violations. Because when he takes it to court on 90, 1996 codes. They're no longer up to date. They've changed since. So yeah. And the changes that again, Dave Knerr mentioned the changes that they made are not, you know, earth shattering, or things that would cause people to have to. Oh, my God! I have got to do something terrible in my house. I mean, like, like one of the biggest changes was 96. Code said that you had to have enough heat in your building to keep that raise the temperature to 65 degrees. The new code said, 68, you know, that's like one of the big rules. Some of the other stuff is just improving the efficiency of enforcement. So, I don't really have any issues with the property made it will not have, like any old homes, must adjust to anything in the future. I mean, the thing is one thing, they don't have to meet the rules that would be if you were building property maintenance. But it just says you must keep your property at a certain level and it and its pretty basic stuff, just like, so it's supposed to basically say things like your electrical stuff is broken. You have got to fix it. I mean, it really isn't saying much more than that. To tell you the truth, it's a little thin book. But you know it's basic stuff that you really do need to be able to have, you know, to be able to be able to point to somebody and say, Yeah, you have vermin over there, you need to take care of them or you know, if something is not in a state of repair that you need to fix it. Now, the fire code I really can't speak to, because it's so large, and I think it would be useful to have them give you at least their overview of what they're asking people to do. I'm not sure whether what's in that code is just saying the same thing as you need to do the smart things that everybody should just do, anyway, or whether there's actually some things. And you're asking the whole town to do

something that they never did before. I don't know that. And I did include I had a couple of my pocket. I did include a response from the chief, the fire chief about it, also to the fire code.
Tabled until the next meeting to see if a representative from the fire department could speak about the 2021 IFC.

Request for approval for use of engineering assistance towards Multimodal grant application

Mehmet Birtek made the motion to use engineering assistance towards multimodal grant application; motion was 2nd by Hector Moss. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 4-0, with 2 abstaining due to location affiliation with AACC.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Request to apply for TA Set-Aside Grant Program

Steve Nemeth mentioned that this is a newer PennDOT transportation grant, that has no match needed towards constructions costs. Allentown was awarded multiple awards recently under this grant, and several categories can be focused on in the grant application, such as stormwater, pedestrian walkways, etc.

John Aleszczyk made the motion to apply for the TA Set aside grant program with focus towards stormwater management; motion was 2nd by Hector Moss. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Request to apply for DCED LSA Grants- backhoe, police car

Hector Moss made the motion to apply for the DCED LSA grant; the motion was 2nd by Steve Hill. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Resolution 2025-4- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF ALBURTIS AND THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO FACILITATE AND ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE REQUESTED MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT

Steve Hill made the motion to approve resolution 2025-4; motion was 2nd by Hector Moss. A unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 6-0.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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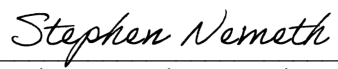
Notice of reception of 2023 Municipal Recycling Grant - \$2,415.48

Informational, no further discussion was given.

Adjournment

Ron Delaco mentioned that we would be going into an executive session for personnel, with no vote needed. A motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. was made by Hector Moss, 2nd by Mehmet Birtek and a unanimous vote followed.

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:


Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.