

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

April 9, 2014

The Borough Council met in an Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. and in a regular session at 8:00 p.m. at the William Reintl Recreation Building on the above date with President Short presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by President Short.

ROLL CALL

Council members present: H. Short; P. Brookes Rankin; M. Xavier;
M. J. Corrigan; S. Oropollo; J. White; S. Coppola

Council members absent: None

Officers present: G. Sefflin, Solicitor; J. Hopely, Mayor
G. Kaut, Secretary T. Quinn, Treasurer

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Brookes Rankin seconded by Councilman Coppola the minutes from the March 12, 2014, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

No verbal correspondence tonight.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely asked Terry Owen to come up to the front and Councilwomen Rankin read: Borough of Aldan, Delaware County, PA Proclamation Honoring Terry Owen for her service to the Citizenry of Aldan. The Borough of Aldan is able to boast that Terry Owen is a resident of Aldan and has exceptionally served our residents over the past quarter century as a leader in many of our civic organizations. Terry Owen was appointed to the Aldan Borough Council on August 11, 2004 and thereafter resoundingly elected and re-elected to full terms on the Borough Council and spearheading many improvement and new project that have benefited our citizens.

Terry Owen led the Borough’s efforts to establish a single stream recycling program for every household in the Borough of Aldan. Which program has greatly benefited our residents by not only reducing the cost of disposal but more importantly improving our environment for the generations of Aldan residents to come. Terry Owen will always be recalled by her colleagues for her devotion to issues affecting the public health of our residents including her leadership on the Borough’s Board of Health and the establishment of programs to help eradicate the scourge of drug abuse in our communities. Be it Proclaimed this 9th day of April, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Aldan that we recognize and commend Terry Owen for her many years of service to the residents of Aldan and her service as a member of Borough Council. Her dedication to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens deserves the bestowal of grateful appreciation from our residents. Signed; James R. Hopely, Mayor and Harry Short, Council President. Councilwomen Rankin presented Terry Owen with a token of our appreciation. Councilmen Coppola commented from the members of Borough Council and from the residents of the Borough of Aldan for your many years of service to the Borough presented Terry a print from local artist Bill Ressler. Terry Owen thanked everyone, this was a great honor.

Mayor Hopely said we will recognize Joe Cosgrove next month. Joe was not able to be at tonight’s meeting.

Mayor Hopely read a Proclamation: April is Aldan Girls’ Club Month. In 1968, a group of civic minded ladies organized the Aldan Girls’ Club, with the objective of promotion good character, high moral values and respect for others. Since then, the Girl’s Club has been providing healthy recreational activities under adult supervision. The present activities include basketball, bowling, soccer, cheerleading and softball for over 100 girls. In appreciation and recognition, I, James R. Hopely, Mayor of Aldan, do proclaim the month of April, 2014 as Aldan Girls’ Club Month, in the Borough of Aldan.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

TREASURER

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>	<u>Sewer Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 155,010.46	\$ 16,252.99	\$ 185,692.18
Interest	\$	\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 516,070.08	\$.41	\$ 208,507.11
Expenditures	\$ 127,385.83	\$ 6,568.37	\$ 166,604.87
Loan from Reserve	\$	\$	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 543,694.71	\$ 9,685.03	\$ 227,594.42

Terry is asking Council’s approval to release check this evening; for checks from the General Fund totaling \$337,262.90; checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$6,568.37; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$6,173.40. Councilwoman Rankin made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented and authorize her to release the checks as indicated on the bills list, seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Sefflin reported we have had some preliminary discussion with Comcast regarding the renewal of their Franchise Agreement. We hope by the end of the spring or sometime in the summer to have that accomplished and will give Council a more thorough report next month.

Mr. Sefflin reported on the 2012 Tax Delinquent Program. We have made some significant progress the last 2 months. We started last September with 45 delinquencies but we are now down to 10 true delinquencies: 30 have paid; 4 properties are subject to Judicial Sale; 1 we are still in negotiation with. Mr. Sefflin anticipates filing suit on the remaining 10 in the next month. We did receive a check for \$1,382.14 for the property at 317 Birchwood Road; we also received a check for the property at 128 W. Maryland Avenue for \$1,976.57, and we are continuing on with this effort.

Dan Procopio asked in the discussion with Comcast brings to mind Verizon. It is Dan's understanding that some residents are getting Fios and cable service through Verizon is that true and are they paying their franchise agreement. President Short said they were in town signing residents up but not sure if anyone has the service. Mr. Tom Morse lives on the east side of town and said he does have Verizon service. Mrs. Quinn, the Borough Treasurer, responded yes we have been receiving quarterly checks from Verizon.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported relative to last year road program on March 24, 2014 the Borough received PennDot's final completion report, which is the final step for the release of the County Aid Funding that we get for the Road Program. We will receive a check in the amount of about \$5,400.00 in the near future for last year's road program.

Mr. Close reported on our 2014 CDBG project, our meter #3 Collection System I & I Rehab Project. On March 27th the Daily Times published the Delaware County Fiscal Year 14 Housing and Community Development Action Plan. This is the proposed list of activities that is out for public comment. Our sewer project was included in the list which is good news. The funding amount listed was \$100,000.00 less than the \$225,000.00 requested but good to see that some money is being considered. We have 13 sections of pipe that we were targeting; if the \$100,000.00 comes through we could do 5 to 7 of the worst ones on the list. We can certainly continue to make headway on our I & I problems. Generally at the May meeting of County Council would approve the list and if we are approved we would be authorized to put our contract documents together for fall of this year or spring of next year project. Mr. Close will keep us posted.

Dan Procopio asked if there was any update on the Act 537 approval with the PA DEP. Mr. Close responded nothing new from last month. Last month it was reported 30 or 31 municipalities had signed on but have not gotten any new updates from DELCORA but hope to hear in the near future and will report back on that information.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Corrigan reported on April 7th met with Jim Maloney, Health Officer, for the Board of Health and he had some updates. The Department of Health does not think the flu was as bad this year as it has been in previous years but during the month of February there were 2 sites for Free Flu Clinics where they gave out over 600 flu shots to the public. Councilwoman Corrigan reported in Upper Darby at Anna's Place 248 Long Lane Upper Darby the PA Department of Health is offering low cost shingles vaccines. The cost is \$5.00 payable by check or money order only, no cash.

Councilwoman Corrigan also reported the Heroin Drug Task Force is now able to carry Narcan in case of emergencies. Another update from the Board of Health on Saturday, April 12th at Wills Eye Hospital is a Free Kids Sight Day any children under the age of 17 are eligible for a free eye exam and glasses by appointment only from 7am to 5pm.

Councilwoman Corrigan reported Aldan will host on Saturday, April 26, 2014 the National Take Back Drug Program at the Municipal Building from 10 to 2. There are also 14 new sites added this event. This will give Delaware County 25 drop off spots.

Councilwoman Corrigan reported on West Nile Virus, Penn State Co-Op will be in charge of trapping and surveillance and will see flyers and billboards on prevention of West Nile Virus.

Pool inspection letters to residents with pools will be going out sometime in May with inspection dates sometime after July 4th.

Councilwoman Corrigan reported for the month of February our recycling total was 24.16 tons which is running a little behind and the trash total was 132.96 tons.

Terry Owen commented on the Heroin Drug Task Force provide a tremendous amount of education and the Police Officers will be trained on how to use the Narcan which will prevent an overdose. Our Health Officer was also going to try to get us some informational flyers to hand out at the Drug Take Back Event.

HIGHWAY

Councilman White reported the screen over the storm grate at 101 South Glenwood Avenue has been repaired. The storm grate at Providence and Woodlawn was scheduled for this week or by early next week.

Councilman White reported on the lighting project at Woodlawn and Providence is finally finished. They changed the light from 800 to 1200 watts.

Councilman White met with Mike Barnhart from Kelly/ Close to start the Road Resurfacing process. We evaluated every street on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being the best 3 being the worst. We will compile a list of streets and see how much money we have left in the Highway budget and will proceed from there.

Councilman White made a motion for Kelly/Close, the Borough Engineer, to submit an application to the County for supplemental pothole repairs, seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

Councilman White made a motion for Kelly/Close, to execute the 2011 – 2014 Master Casting Agreement with an accompanying Signature Resolution, seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

Dan Procopio asked, do we know the amount of the Pot Hole repair money coming from the County. Councilman White responded, thanks to Mr. McBlain and Delaware County Council we will receive \$2,055.00.

Dan Procopio asked about the work on Oak Avenue will extend from where to where. Mr. Close commented it is a resurfacing project and will involve many municipalities along Oak Avenue. In Aldan Borough will be from the train tracks to Rively Avenue. We have about 10 manholes in that area and this allows us to have our manhole castings incorporated into the PennDot project for adjustments. We need to do this Master Casting Agreement allows this work to be incorporated.

Dan Procopio asked about the lighting upgrade on Willows Lane has that work been done. Councilman White reported there is a dilemma of who actually owns the lights. Councilman White and Mr. Tartaglia will be having a meeting to see who actually owns those lights.

Mr. McBlain wanted to give his thanks to Councilman White because he has been working diligently to get the Aqua project detour signs removed. Back around Thanksgiving PennDot and Aqua had detour signs that were posted, like you have ever seen before. For the Aqua Project on Providence Road in Upper Darby the lines have been installed but they were going to leave those signs up for another few months until the paving was redone. With the onset of the spring weather and people wanting to clean up their properties the signs were an eyesore. Councilman White worked hard to convince Aqua and PennDot to remove the detour signs which were an eyesore and coincides with spring being a clean up time here in Aldan. Mr. McBlain wanted to thank Councilman White for his work on that.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported we had a problem with a manhole and the concrete around it at 503 Rively Avenue. We also found out there was a problem with the sanitation line, which was an unexpected expense with the total bill being \$4,195.00 this matter has been taken care of.

Councilman Oropollo asked residents to call him if there are any clogged drains or inlets.

Councilman Oropollo reported on Monday, April 14th at 7:30 PM in the Recreation Building there will be a Bystander CPR offered by the American Heart Association along with some basic first aid training. If there is a large amount of people we will offer a 2nd night on Tuesday.

Dan Procopio thanked the Councilmen for doing the CPR training with Townwatch being the main sponsor. Dan said he heard there were 15 people signed up for the training and there were flyers throughout town.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Rankin reported we did receive our Comcast Cable TV Franchise allocation for 2013 in the amount of \$77,850.79.

Councilwoman Rankin reported we moved \$15,000.00 from the line item on the Police Budget to the Police Reserve Fund to be used for a Police Car in addition to the money already in the Police Reserve Fund.

Tom Morse, our Tax Collector, reported for 2014 we have collected almost 1.9 million dollars.

Councilwoman Rankin reported and the balance reconciled on March 31, 2014 in the General Fund Reserve is \$13,683.46; in the Sewer Capital Reserve we have \$291,276.90; and in the Police Capital Reserve we have \$32,165.85

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Xavier read the Fire Marshal's Report for the month of February, 2014 Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 5 calls during the month all resulting in no damage. During the month of February, 2014, Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 28 calls in the Borough of Aldan. During the month of March, 2014 Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 5 calls during the month all resulting in no damage. During the month of March, 2014, Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 31 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

Councilman Xavier reported the Aldan Boosters Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 12th at 12:00 noon at the Baseball Field. All are welcome this is part of the fabric of Aldan.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported for the month of March, 2014; the Building Inspector issued 23 Building Permits with a construction value of \$69,572.00; the Residential Inspector completed 23 Transfer and Mid-term inspections; and during the month of March, 2014 there were no Plumbing Permits issued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building and Council will meet on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 7:30 PM for Executive Session; and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM. at the William Reinl Recreation Building.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Steven Baldt from 20 Chester Avenue asked who do you all work for, who is paying you? President Short answered the Borough. Mr. Baldt asked, why would you raise property taxes the last five years over 42.5%. Maybe those people that are delinquent could pay their taxes do you know why their delinquent? "Older people can't afford it so you are going to drive them out of their homes so you can get it and put section eights in there. Again who do you work for, Aldan, as far as I see you are working for me and I am the guy who pays you. OK but as I see it right now it's like the Government working for the Government, they are taking our money and spreading it around everywhere else. It's like our teachers pension." President Short responded the Teacher's pension has no business here tonight. Mr. Baldt said, "Your government is the ones stealing that and never put it back." President Short asked Mr. Baldt to stop the accusations I will have to ask you to be quiet. Do you have a question you want to ask? Mr. Baldt again asked why you raised our property taxes. President Short responded, because of the cost. Mr. Baldt said, cut back some you up there cut back your help. Councilwoman Rankin asked Mr. Baldt, do you know how much money we make serving on Borough Council. Mr. Baldt said, I don't care. Councilwoman Rankin said you should care and it is matter of public record how much we make. Everyone person here who serves as an elected official on Borough Council makes \$100 a month before taxes. Mr. Baldt said, "yea that's what you're telling me." Mr. Baldt was asked if he has seen the budget on the web site and would you like our web site address. Mr. Baldt just kept saying I want to know why our property taxes are going so d__ _ high". President Short commented if you compare us to the surrounding communities we are still the lowest. Mr. Baldt said, "we are sure we are". Mr. McBlain commented, Mr. President, this gentleman might be responding from a partisan news letter and maybe if he didn't get all his information from a partisan news letter he would know that the Borough of Aldan, compared to other municipalities around us, in terms of real estate taxes, is probably only about 50 or 60 percent of what they are. If you take a look and see what the Borough of Aldan is compared to Upper Darby Township we are about 1/3 and maybe he thinks there is better Government in Lansdowne that has twice the real estate tax than we do here. Also if he was worried and concerned about what his real estate taxes were in terms of the driving force behind it perhaps he doesn't understand that there are 3 components to real estate taxes; the Borough, the County and the School District. Each time the School District raises its taxes only about 2 1/2 or 3%, that means more money to him than any taxes that the Borough Council has raised. Mr. McBlain would ask if he has been over, maybe because it is controlled by a different partisan body, to the school district and asked them why it is that they have raised the taxes and scribe blame to them. Or maybe he gets all his information from a partisan news letter. Mr. Baldt responded, we have one say so on that board that raises the School Taxes and why are we paying school taxes in our property taxes. President Short tried to explain you would have to go to the School Board and asked Mr. Baldt if he has been there. Mr. Baldt's response was he does not even know where it is. President Short said if people all felt like you that is why the school taxes are getting out of hand. Mr. Baldt said, right now everything is getting out of hand, with you raising, with them raising the energy and everything else. President Short said this is a Borough Meeting could you keep your questions and comments to the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Xavier and seconded by Councilman White unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary