

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

January 15, 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; S. Coppola;
M. J. Corrigan; S. Oropollo; J. White

Council members absent: M. Xavier

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 Oropollo the minutes from the December 11, 2013, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola seconded by Councilwoman Brookes Rankin the minutes from the January 6, 2014 Reorganization Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

No verbal correspondence tonight.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely reported the police department is beginning the State mandated training for 2014. The officers are required to take 4 classes in a classroom setting as well as First Aid/CPR, and pistol qualifications.

In addition to mandatory training we are pro-active in having the officers continue additional training throughout the year. We have seen many instances where this training has proved useful.

Mayor Hopely read a letter from Police Chief Tim Rockenbach of Clifton Heights. Chief Rockenbach would like to extend the appreciation of the Clifton Heights Police Department to your officers for their assistance during our investigation of a fatal crash occurring on January 12, 2014 in the 500 block of W. Baltimore Avenue. Their assistance was invaluable to our officers from scene to the hospital during this tragic crash investigation. Your department is fortunate to have such professional officers representing your borough.

Mayor Hopely added Clifton, Aldan and Collingdale all back up each other and work well together.

President Short turned the meeting over to Dan Procopio, as a representative of the Aldan Boosters' Civic Association. Boosters' Civic Association is awarding the Best Decorated House prizes. All the votes are in and close to 40 houses got votes or honorable mention from our members. All the winners have been contacted and told about tonight. The 3rd place winner is the Perry Family of 108 W. Wayne Avenue. Mr. Perry and his daughter attended tonight and received a certificate and a small numeration to defray your electrical expenses. 2nd place winner is the Regan Family of 119 W. Providence Road; and the Lupica Family of 55 Stratford Avenue was the 1st place winner for the second year in a row with even more lights than last year. The Boosters' thank Council for their help and aid. If the weather cooperates we will take the decoration down on the weekend and we were happy to have the tree lit for the Christmas Season. Thank you to Council again.

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 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 29,271.24 | \$ 0.00 |
| Interest | | \$ | \$ |
| Receipts for period | \$ 33,418.73 | \$ 1.26 | \$ 2,806.44 |
| Loan from Reserve | \$ 150,000.00 | | \$ 175,000.00 |
| Ending Balance | \$ 183,418.73 | \$ 29,272.50 | \$ 177,806.44 |

Terry is asking Council's approval to release check this evening; for checks from the General Fund totaling \$140,613.22; checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$6,453.04; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$155,765.59. Councilwoman Brookes 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 White and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Sefflin reported on the progress we have made on our 2012 Tax Delinquency Program. In the last month we have received 3 payments making 3 more properties paid off in full. Out of the 45 liens filed; 26 have been paid; 15 delinquent; 2 going to Sheriff's Sale; and 2 we are in negotiation with and are owned by banks. We have made significant progress and down to where we normally are at this point in the year.

Mr. Sefflin explained there will be a hearing in front of the Court of Common Pleas on February 6, 2014 at 8:30 AM. The owner of the Carpet Store was cited in the summer and early fall for debris on the property. He did not attend the hearing at the District Justice and was convicted on 5 counts but he appealed so there will be a hearing in front of Common Pleas.

Mr. Sefflin also has been working with Mr. Tartaglia, our Building Inspector, on the property at 34 South Clifton Avenue. The owners have left that property and the Borough has had to abate certain nuisances at that property and have started the process this week of having the owner reimburse the Borough.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported on our 2014 CDBG application. Last month we held a Public Hearing for the application and Council approved the Resolution to submit the application. We did finalize that and submitted the application to the Office of Housing and Community Development. We expect to hear a decision on that around May, 2014 and will keep you posted.

Mr. Close reported with the New Year 2014 we will be looking ahead at this year Road Program, sewer I & I work, NPDES storm water permit work, and things like that. The timing will depend on the severity of the winter so when it breaks we can talk about roads and things like that.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Corrigan reported for the month of December our total for recycling 28.76 tons and for November was 25.39 tons.

HIGHWAY

Councilman White reported we are registered with COSTAR for the 2015 season and they are the State Salt Program.

The Aqua project on Providence Road by Penn Pines Park will take approximately 3 more weeks to complete. Unfortunately the black top will not start for another 2 months so the detour signs will be around for a little while longer. When the streets are done Councilman White will call Aqua to talk about getting the signs removed until the paving is about to begin.

Councilman White updated on the lighting project on Willows Lane and Providence Road. M J Electric is the subcontractor who will be doing the work and we are next on their list so that should start within a month.

Councilman White reported we did have a meeting with the snow removal contractors after the last snow storm regarding the condition of the streets and highways. We received several complaints that Chief Coppola and the Councilmen did evaluate on site. These complaints were addressed at the meeting and the snow removal contractors assured us that this would not happen again.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported there was an incident on December 30, 2013 a backup at 50 South Sycamore Avenue. This was addressed that night and was a Borough issue. Councilman Oropollo spoke with General Sewer about addressing quadrant 1 and will get an estimate and we agreed to do that on a rotating basis 1 quadrant per year to keep that area clean. Quadrant 1 seems to be our major source of problems in that area. We will talk to General Sewer because of the problems in that area to televise and see what the cost would be to do that area again. President Short asked, when was the last time we did that area. Councilman Coppola responded it is in the normal 4 year cycle.

Councilman Oropollo reported the Aqua drain by Wayne and Providence Road in the middle of the road. Aqua told PJ they fixed it but it was not fixed, they were supposed to come out and look at it again, so now we are waiting for them to come out.

Mr. Goldsborough lives at 17 South Sycamore Avenue commented they moved in 2001 and this is the third time they had a back up since they moved in. We had water running into the basement for 3 hours. They had just finished painting from the back up on June 13th but thankful the investigation is going on and something will happen. President Short asked if there was any indication of why there are still problems in the same area. Councilman Oropollo responded General Sewer said they wrote it on the receipt but Sal checked and there was nothing there. General Sewer will call the Municipal Building to let us know what the problem was. President Short said lets get General Sewer to camera the area and keep Mr. & Mrs. Goldsborough up dated on what is going on. Councilman Coppola commented a few years ago a resident in that area had a problem. We did dig the street up had it televised and made a repair to a broken pipe. Councilman Coppola did not know if the broken pipe contributed to the back up at that time. That was the last time it was televised and the repairs were made but it is a good idea to do it again. Mrs. Goldsborough asked does General Sewer clean the area on a regular basis. President Short responded we do it every 4 years, we clean a quarter of the town each year. Mrs. Goldsborough asked knowing that this is a problem area can it be done more often than every 4 years. Councilman Oropollo commented the entire town was done last year. You are in quadrant 1 and that will be done again this year. To do the whole town each would be cost prohibitive. There is not enough money in the budget to do that every year. President Short commented there is something unique in your area that is causing this and we will try to find the problem. Councilman Coppola explained they thought it was a grease problem. P J our Engineer explained if you have a situation where a resident does a lot of cooking and don't know you shouldn't be dumping the grease down the sewer you would be surprised how quickly that can build up and cause problems. Sal will speak to General Sewer to find out another problem what the debris that was cleaned. Was it grease or was it grit or stones or something like that then there is another problem potentially another partial break or something we are not aware of. Once we find out what the reason is then we can figure the solution. If it is a grease problem we don't just want to clean it we would want to find the source.

If we do see it is grease in addition to some letters along the street we know who lives on the street we might do some educational outreach to remind people please don't dump your grease into the sewer. President Short asked could a resident have that much grease from cooking because this was done in less than a year. Mr. Close responded it is somewhat unlikely because it is an 8 inch pipe there but you can't rule anything out. Grease is something you dump it one day it coats on the pipe, you dump the next day the coat keeps getting bigger and bigger till it gets like a clogged artery and doesn't have to be fully blocked to back up into the system. We should really find out what the cause is and the solution would follow.

Dan Procopio asked what the geographic boundaries of quadrant 1. President Short responded Woodlawn Avenue to Oak Avenue and Rively Avenue to Providence Road. The west side of town south of Providence Road.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brookes Rankin reported for the Historical Commission that they will be taking the decorations down tonight from the Trolley Stop. We also have an addition to Memorial Park, we now have 2 new benches 1 donated by Aldan Women's Club before they disbanded and the 2nd donated by Tanya Roccario in memory of her father Dr. Dante Roccario. Councilwoman Rankin commented we are grateful for their contribution and for the efforts of the Boosters to help us out and beautify our park over the holidays.

Councilwoman Rankin reported on Finance it is quiet, and we are waiting for the tax bills to go out and we hope to get a lot of money in, in a short amount of time.

Dan Procopio asked for the Reserve Funds balances. Councilwoman Rankin reported these balances were reconciled on December 31, 2013 prior to the loans mentioned earlier. The balance in the General Fund Reserve is \$98,670.76; in the Sewer Capital Reserve we have \$391,138.94; and in the Police Capital Reserve we have \$17,163.70.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported for the month of December 2013, the Building Inspector issued 10 building permits with a construction value of \$14,200.00; the Residential Inspector completed 28 transfers and mid-terms inspections; and the Plumbing Inspector issued 0 plumbing permits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building and Council will meet on Wednesday, February 12, 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

Dan Procopio asked if there were any updates concerning the Bonding Company with our prior tax collector since last month. President Short reported we have not been notified about anything. We are still waiting for the Bonding Company to see if they are going to accept CID's report or start an audit of their own. As soon as that is determined we will see how long it will take. Mr. Seflin explained it is the same Bonding Company as the School District. They might do their own audit because of the bond for the School District and the amount of money being so much larger. Dan asked is the amount of the claim for the Borough \$207,268.21. Both President Short and Mr. Seflin responded that sounds right.

Councilwoman Corrigan wanted to remind residents that on Monday, January 20, 2014 Martin Luther King Day trash will not be collected but will be collected on Tuesday, January 21, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Coppola and seconded by Councilwoman Rankin unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary