

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

January 11, 2012

The Borough Council met in a 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.

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**ROLL CALL**

Council members present: H. Short; P. Brookes; T. Owen; S. Coppola  
J. Cosgrove; S. Oropollo; R. Lowery

Council members absent: None

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

Officers absent: None

**MINUTES**

On a motion made by R. Lowery seconded by S. Coppola minutes from the December 14, 2011, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No written correspondence tonight.

**VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Mary Anne Paoletti, 452 Walnut Avenue asked Council if there were any progress or up dates since the October Council Meeting about the renters at 448 Walnut Avenue. The owner of the property told Mrs. Paoletti that he does have representation and has filed but in checking with Judge Perfetti's office, the amount of the check was wrong and they sent it back to him. Mrs. Paolitti wanted to thank Council and the Code Office; the renters have been behaving lately except for the expired tags on the car. President Short explained we have been in contact with the owner who lives in South Carolina. He was cooperating in the beginning, we have copies of letters sent to the renters that they must vacate the premises but that did not go anywhere. We are not sure what legal actions he is taking. As far as the pick up truck you are referring to we have been informed they are current. The Officers on duty are diligent in checking that kind of information. Mrs. Paoletti just wanted to let Council it is still an ongoing situation. President Short assured Mrs. Paoletti that we will keep an eye on everything.

Dan Procopio on behalf of the Aldan Boosters Association presented the awards for the Best Decorated Houses for 2011. The Aldan Boosters have their annual Christmas Program starting with the Santa Letters, Booster Letters to the Troops, the Tree Lighting Ceremony, and the Best Decorated House Awards. The Roopert Family from 216 N. Clifton Avenue was the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, the Matelli Family from 29 S. Sycamore Avenue was the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, and the Ritz Family from 128 Stratford Avenue was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner.

Dan then presented the Hall of Fame Award to a multiple past champion the Boyle Family from 600 W. Magnolia Avenue. Dan presented the Boyle Family a plaque inducting them into the Hall of Fame and we thank you very much.

**MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Hopely reminded resident to be sure to lock windows and doors when they go to bed at night. Several burglaries have been reported in the area in the overnight hours.

Mayor Hopely also reported police officers are beginning the state mandated training. This includes 4 courses in the classroom as well as firearms and first aid/CPR training. This will be the first year that officers can take two of the four courses on-line. We are also sending 2 officers to New Jersey to attend the two day “Street Survival Training”. This is a tactical training course that is credited with saving the lives of many police officers. They will bring much of what they learn back to the other officers.

Mayor Hopely said again if you see something please call immediately. A resident call last night that she saw someone in her yard with a flashlight but when the officer arrived they were gone. This may have saved some one from getting burglarized. Please lock up and don’t make it easy for someone to get in.

**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	\$ 82,695.00	\$ 10,669.02	\$ 584.49
Interest		\$ 2.21	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 15,587.60		\$ 3,113.25
Balance	\$ 98,282.60	\$ 10,671.23	\$ 3,697.74

Terry commented in addition to the balances there was beginning of the year transfers made from the Reserve Funds to the working funds so bills could be paid. There was \$200,000.00 transferred from the General Reserve to the General Fund and there was \$40,000.00 transferred from the Sewer Reserve to the Sewer Fund.

Terry is asking Council's approval to release check this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$131,439.07, and checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$ 7,444.51 and from the Sewer Fund \$7,795.40. Councilwomen Brookes 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 Councilwomen Owen and unanimously approved.

### **SOLICITOR**

Mr. Seflin reported on the 2009 Tax Delinquency Program, we did receive a check last month for \$500.00 for the property at 120 West Providence Road. In 2009 we filed a lien against not only the property owner but his companion, because we received some evidence that she was participating in the management of that property before he abandoned it. We did reach a resolution with the co-manager and we did withdraw the lien against her solely but the lien is still sitting there against the property owner. The property is delinquent for about 5 years. He just came out of Bankruptcy, which provided him protection from us pursuing him and for the past liens we can't pursue him personally but we can go forward. Mr. Seflin would hope and anticipate the Bank that owns the property will take it over at a Sheriff's sale at some point in time. That is when we will get paid when the property transfers to the mortgage holder.

Mr. Seflin reported on the increasing problems of Municipal Liens arising from nuisances on properties. We have made some progress on 2 of the properties. The property at 119 South Woodlawn Avenue, was abandoned by the owner and seized by the mortgage holder Citizens Bank, last month they sent a check to the Borough for \$1,420.00 and we removed the lien on that property. The nuisance was high weed and grass and overgrown bushes and on many occasions the Borough hired a contractor to go in and clean up. Citizens Bank made good on their obligation and is now maintaining the property. The property at 122 Merion Avenue, the owner also abandoned the property; this property has been a real problem for the Borough. Not only with overgrown grass and shrubbery on the outside but the inside of the property had to be removed down to the refrigerator, freezer, cabinets, and that sort of things because of the rotting food and the danger it presented to the community. All that had to be removed and the property boarded up. Right now our Municipal Lien on that property is \$2,121.00, the good part of that is last month the property was seized by Fanny May and they have hired a realtor to market and sell the property and maintain the property. Mr. Seflin has been in contact with the realtor and he asked for copies of the liens currently on the property and any subsequent bills. Mr. Seflin is hopeful that within 60 days we will have payment on those liens.

Mr. Seflin reported last month we did tender to the Delaware County Animal Control Board a Letter of Intent to enter into agreements with that new County Agency for the purpose of dealing with animal control issues, specifically stray animals. We have been working on and preparing a formal agreement for Council to consider over the next few months.

### **ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported last month we had our hearing for our Community Development Block Grant Program. At the Council Meeting a Resolution was approved authorizing Mr. Close to prepare the application and submit it which was done on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

We should hear around May the outcome of our request.

Mr. Close reported on the 2011 Road Program, we did contact Penn Dot Municipal Services Representative and they have approved our final completion report, we have to do an auditing of the project at the end of the job every year, they will send a letter to the County saying it's approved and that is what the County is waiting for to release our County Aid Money. You may recall we did not have a program in 2010, so we get 2 years worth of money about \$10,800.00 which should be coming in about a month. Since we are now in 2012 we will start thinking about our 2012 Road Program. Next month Mr. Close will bring a County Aid Application that we do every year and we will start the process all over again.

Mr. Close reported on sewers, metering and I & I as reported last month we have noticed some anomalies at our Meter #2 at Linden Ave and Rively Avenue. We are coordinating with DELCORA with some ongoing discussions and will report more on that in the up coming month.

Mr. Close also report there was a request from the US Censes Bureau submitted a 2012 Boundary and Annexation Survey, this is a verification that your boundary has not changed and after 13 pages of electronic and at the end we just have to send an e-mail that there is no change to Borough. Mr. Close has done that and fulfilled that obligation. This is something they request about every 10 years which coincides with the Censes every 10 years with the most recent one in 2010.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councilwomen Owen reported last month's report on the new Recycling Program gave all the details of the start up of the program and the over all opinion that all went smoothly. This month Councilwomen Owen would like to thank those who were instrumental in helping. The first person is Casey Stauffer, who has been on the Recycling Committee since it was formed. Casey is responsible for the flyer and a smaller form on the magnet. Casey also asked Wawa to donate juice and tea for the morning and the lunch the day of the delivery event. Casey has been there every step of the way and Councilwomen Owen's heartfelt thanks go out to Casey for all the hard work and a job well done. We really do hope you will stay on the Committee so that when we move forward with follow up education you will be there to help.

Councilwomen Owen also wanted to thank Aldan Boy Scout Troop #2 and troop Master Mark Wilson, who volunteered when he first heard of the curbside recycling going to start in Aldan. Mark solicited through their meetings and e-mails as many scouts as he could and for the support and help with what we were going to do. Three of the scouts who stepped up immediately were Andrew Kauffman, Ryan Kelly and Brendan Sullivan other scouts did show up as well as some of the parents of the scouts. Councilwomen Owen asked Mark to please pass on to your scouts our appreciation for the time they gave and the help with this project.

Councilwomen Owen would next like to thank the drivers who volunteered their time, their trucks, and their gas to deliver about 220 bins each along with helpers to different sections of the Borough.

Councilwomen Owen thanked Scott Brookes, Harry Short, Shawn Brewer, George Owen, Dan Procopio, Ken Hopely, and Greg Brutschea because they certainly deserve Councilwomen Owen's gratitude and without your help we would not have been able to get this task out.

Councilwomen Owen also wanted to thank the Aldan Volunteers, who are the masses of residents who step up whenever the help is needed. These are the same men, women and youths who already wear a few hats with the Borough and the organizations they belong to. They amounted to about 35 people and without their help we would not have been able to pull this off.

Councilwomen Owen explained last but not least is Joe Masticoli, the owner of Roddy Products. After a phone call to Joe he graciously agreed to have his crew off load the bins, take them to a place that would be ground level and allow us the space to use as our staging area. Joe could not be here tonight but did prepare a Certificate of Appreciation presented to Joe Masticoli and Roddy Products, Inc. for your support with the implementation of Curbside Recycling in the Borough of Aldan, presented this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

Councilwomen Owen also wanted to thank Mike Cocco from Cocco's Pizza who responded yes, absolutely, what do you need, when do you need it and do you want it delivered. Mike is a great friend and neighbor to have and is always there for us.

Councilwomen Owen wanted to remind residents that there has always been a container located behind Aldan Elementary School, for the collection of paper and cardboard. The container has been replaced by a shorter one and placed there by our hauler, Suburban Waste Services and is very well labeled with all the acceptable single stream products. This container will be emptied every Friday. The aluminum collection by the Boy Scouts has been a concern and we will let Mark Wilson speak on their behalf. After much discussion the Boy Scouts will be phasing out of the collection of aluminum. The Scouts have been doing this since before 1995 on the first Saturday of every month for 9 to 11 that is a lot of boys who have been impacted by the program. The Borough have a recycling program will help the Scouts and they will transition back into taking care of Providence Road as part of Adopt a Highway Program twice a year and working with PennDot. This will be phased out probably by June; we will be letting people know. The Scouts are not up set by the Borough have a recycling program it actually prompted us to take action on our decision. Mark also wanted to comment, back in November they have a program called Scouting for Food. The scouts go throughout the Borough and collect food for Food Pantries. In 2006-2007 we collected about 3,000 cans and that is a good number for the Borough of Aldan. In 2008-2009 we were closer to 2,000 cans but in 2011 we were back to 3,000 cans again. People's attitudes seem to be much more giving. The scouts received a lot of positive feedback with being able to help again.

Councilwomen Owen commented the recycling is in the hands of the residents with a good turn out the first week and an even better turn out the second week. With participation we can divert the recyclable products from the solid waste and this will lower our bills and will help the environment.

Councilwomen Owen reported completing the 2010 Recycling Performance Grant and that was submitted at the end of the year and we should hear around June what kind of reward we should receive from the State.

Councilwomen Owen reported there will be no trash collection on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> but trash will be collected on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Procopio wanted to thank the Councilwomen for all the effort in coordinating the event and all the efforts of all the people mentioned and as I often say about events in Aldan “it takes a Borough and the Borough usually responds”. Dan asked if Councilwomen Owen has gotten any numbers yet for the first week collection tonnage. Councilwomen Owen said they will give us a monthly report.

### **HIGHWAY**

Councilmen Cosgrove reported the Traffic Light Maintenance Contract was recently awarded to Signal Service of West Chester and is a 2 year contract. Signal Service was also the previous two years and the reason for mentioning this is the contract price for these 2 years is \$900.00 cheaper than the previous contract. The reason they gave us that price was because we have LED lights. Councilmen Cosgrove commented that because of the LED lights they continue to bring benefit after benefit. Councilmen Cosgrove did speak to the annalist who is handling our paperwork and said that as of Monday our request for adding the additional lights was with the controller, which was step 4 and the last step of this process, and saying 5 to 10 business days, which will be next week.

### **A COMMENT FROM PRESIDENT SHORT**

President Short commented we have 2 new Council Members to introduce the first is Councilmen Oropollo and he will be in charge of Public Works and would also like to introduce Councilwomen Lowery who will be in charge of Public Safety. President Short welcomed the new Council members aboard.

### **FINANCE**

Councilwoman Brookes reported that after the last few months there is nothing new to report. Councilwomen Brookes did comment the Borough Tax bills and also the County Tax bills will be going out in the next few weeks.

Dan Procopio asked if there was going to be a change in the sewer rate. President Short commented there is no change it will stay at \$ 329.00 per unit. Dan also asked for balances in the Reserve Accounts. Councilwomen Brookes responded in the General Reserve the balance is \$339,682.25 and in the Sewer Capital Reserve the balance is \$201,982.86

### **LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

President Short explained Councilmen Coppola will take over the Law and Ordinance Committee.

Councilmen Coppola reported there were 24 Transfer & Mid-Term Inspections by the Residential Inspector; there was 1 Plumbing Permit issued with a construction value of \$2,755.00; and there were 31 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$ 78,224.00.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at 7:30 PM.; and Council will meet on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 8:00 PM.

**PRIVLIDGE OF THE FLOOR**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Councilmen Coppola seconded by Councilwomen Brookes and unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

**ATTEST**

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MARIE V. KAUT  
Borough Secretary