

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

July 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 Reinl 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. Rankin; J. White
S. Coppola; M. J. Corrigan

Council members absent: M. Xavier; S. Oropollo

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

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Rankin seconded by Councilman Coppola the minutes from the June 11, 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 will report next month on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. This is reminding motorists to Drive Safely by paying special attention to officers on the roads and to follow other common-sense traffic safety measures.

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	\$ 714,503.20	\$ 81,493.74	\$ 315,034.94
Interest	\$	\$	\$
Receipts for period	\$ 67,257.31	\$ 2.37	\$ 22,830.34
Expenditures	\$ 126,814.14	\$ 6,568.37	\$ 2,018.12
Ending Balance	\$ 654,946.37	\$ 74,927.74	\$ 335,847.16

Terry is asking Council's approval to release check this evening; for checks from the General Fund totaling \$158,681.42 checks from the State Highway Fund totaling \$6,568.37; and checks from the Sewer Fund totaling \$164,662.75. 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 White and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported last month we were in the process of preparing 10 law suits for 2012 delinquencies. We also prepared 30 liens for 2013 delinquencies for sewer rental and refuse disposal fees. As a result of filing the law suits we are now down to seven: we have received payments for \$1,590.81 for 116 Aldan Avenue; \$1,602.36 for 126 Stratford Avenue; \$1,620.72 for 133 Oak Avenue. For 2013 we did receive payments for \$1,315.25 for 20 South Woodlawn Avenue and 126 Stratford Avenue. We entered payment plans with the owners of 313 E. Rivley Avenue and 31 Albert Avenue and the folks from 31 Albert Avenue have already started the payment plan and 313 E. Rivley Avenue will start on July 23rd.

Mr. Seflin did receive notice of an upset price sale to be held on September 11, 2014. This is the County Tax Sale for unpaid taxes and there are 11 properties listed and many listed are properties that are delinquent in 2012 and 2013. Mr. Seflin reported that 6 of the 11 have delinquent sewer and refuse taxes and Mr. Seflin will write a letter to the upset price sale coordinator at the Tax Claim Bureau to let them know about our back taxes. Mr. Morse will also write to the Coordinator of the Tax Claim Bureau, as he did last year, advising of any outstanding real estate taxes for 2013.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported relative to our 2014 CDBG project, our sewer I & I rehab work on our Meter #3 Collection System. On Tuesday, June 24th Council President Short and Mr. Close attended a kickoff meeting with the Office of Housing and Community Development to discuss project implementation for the \$100,000.00 grant. The next step is the Borough will receive sub-recipient agreements and be executed and submitted back OHCD.

Over the next few months Mr. Close will prepare the plans and the contract documents for the actual construction work and the bidding should occur in late fall with construction to occur in winter 2014 or early 2015.

Mr. Close reported relative to our 2014 Road Program and our Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant Application; we worked on both projects this month. These will be the subject of Councilman White's report so Mr. Close will defer his updates on that report and will be available during the Councilmen's report for any questions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Corrigan reported pool inspections have started by our Health Inspector.

Councilwoman Corrigan reported the Board of Health meeting will be on Monday, July 14th at 7:30 in the Municipal Building and open to anyone who would like to come to the meeting.

HIGHWAY

Councilman White reported we received a few calls from concerned residents: one call was about the children crossing the street at Rosewood Avenue going to the pool so we installed Children at Play signs; and the other call was a concern about a sink hole in the 300 block of W. Magnolia Avenue. We did contact Aqua and they did a repair for now.

Councilman White reported we also received paperwork from A F Damon for the construction contract for the 2014 Road Resurfacing Program and we will be submitting it to PennDot for approval with work starting in July or August.

Councilman White made a motion to approve a Resolution for the GTRP Grant Application for the Pavilion & Snack Bar project in the amount of \$203,500.00 for the construction costs. This Pavilion & Snack Bar will also have bathrooms that will be used when ball games are going on but we may also move the Founders Day celebration to this location and will also be used for the 4th of July festivities. Councilwoman Rankin seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo is not here tonight and there were no questions for his committee.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Rankin reported we will start having meetings to work on the budget to make it the best budget possible for the tax payers.

Councilwoman Rankin wanted to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in our 4th of July festivities. Many right in this room stepped up and helped and it turned out to be a nice day despite the little bit of rain. This is always a great community day so thank you for all your help.

Councilwoman Rankin reported the Historical Commission date for Founders Day is Saturday, September 20th.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Xavier is not here tonight and there were no questions for his committee.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Coppola reported for the month of June, 2014; the Building Inspector issued 30 Building Permits with a construction value of \$127,831.00; the Residential Inspector completed 27 Transfer and Mid-term inspections during the month of June.

Councilman Coppola reported the Building Inspector reported progress has been made on some of the complaints that were made last month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building and Council will meet on Wednesday, August 13, 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

Tom Morse, our Tax Collector, reported the School Tax Bills will be mailed out on Thursday morning so residents should receive them Friday or Saturday.

Mr. Morse also reported when he received his paycheck from the School District and they cut the pay of the Tax Collector. Tax Collectors were being paid \$3 per parcel and are now being paid \$2 per parcel and that was voted on by the School Board at the January, 2013 meeting. This was in compliance with the timing of voting for Tax Collector Compensation. Tax Collector Compensation has to be voted for every 4 years by the taxing authority before January 15th of the year the Tax Collector is elected. There is nothing in the Tax Collector manual that states a minimum amount but there are maximum amounts stated.

Mr. McBlain wanted to echo Councilwoman Rankin's comments on the 4th of July Committee. As President of the 4th of July committee Dan Procopio did a great job we had some greater participation this year with new things added and think it was a great celebration and optimistic we can build upon that getting bigger and better for next year.

Mr. McBlain also reported on another matter from Delaware County Council is some good news for the Borough in terms of maintenance on the Woodlawn Avenue tracks for SEPTA's 102 trolley line. This has been a concern for Borough Council and had expressed to make sure with the tracks being constructed in 1984 and starting to show their age. We are not at the point of an emergency or problem but we do have patches here and there where the tracks are in the cement. With Aldan Borough Council and Delaware County Council made the request to add that to SEPTA's Capital Improvement list and we did just receive correspondence from the General Manager of SEPTA confirming they have added the replacement of the Woodlawn Avenue tracks to their Capital Budget Items. They have a 10 year program and we are certainly hopeful it will be in less than 10 years. The estimated cost for the track renewal project is \$4,400,000.00. We did follow up with General Manager Joseph Casey to get a more definite time period when that would occur. Mr. McBlain wanted to thank all of Council for your efforts getting that project listed on the SEPTA Capital Improvements.

Mr. McBlain reported with the Delaware County Council, along with Aldan Borough Council, and President Short has been involved in these meetings before, there is currently a study underway, with a grant from the Delaware Valley Planning Commission for \$80,000.00 to study the viability of a Primos Train Station Area Redevelopment Plan. This would be in conjunction with the improvements SEPTA made at the Primos Station to take in the whole area surrounding that, to devise a strategy for the redevelopment of that area. We have for sale the Delaware County Daily Times Building that has been on the market for several years and is a large industrial site which could potentially have difficulty selling but could be redeveloped in conjunction with the tremendous success of the Primos area train station. All the new parking that was added, the original design was an additional 55 spaces and soon became clear that was not adequate and additional spaces were made at the corner of Secane and Oak with another commuter lot at the end of Secane Avenue that SEPTA would like to make permanent but even those lots are filled up. SEPTA changed the schedule in that the Primos Station is now express. We think that will even make that more of a popular destination. The hope is to redevelop that area add more parking and make it a more walkable area for pedestrians and bicycle and make it an even better area for some of the retailers in the area. We are taking a comprehensive look and it may be an area that can be improved. We did a nice job developing our area where the Giant Food Store is good but we want to look for ways to make it even better and plan for 20 years down the road. Mr. McBlain explained that is just an update on the Primos Train Station area. President Short commented that station is a very convenient stop for the commuter and parking is very accessible and will continue to grow. Mr. McBlain commented, SEPTA points to that Station as a model for designs they are using going forward.

Bill McNally, Willows Lane, about a year ago he asked for the lights on Willows Lane to be brighter, then one of the bulbs burned out and was very dark. Mr. McNally talked to the Chief if he could do anything and 3 days later a new light bulb and the other light was cleaned. Mr. McNally wanted to thank him.

President Short reported we have received the money from the Bonding Company for the last Tax Collector. We received a check for \$207,268.21 and now we can move on we have the money back. We did get through it with not any real damage or lack of things we would normally do in town.

Resident asked has there been any discussion in terms of lessons learned from this experience and how there can be controls in place to prevent something like that from happening in the future. President Short commented the main thing that allowed him to do this was State Laws that we have no control over. He is a separate entity altogether; he opens up the accounts, he collects the money, he determines how it is sent to a bank or to him, he cashes the check. Fortunately, with our new tax collector, with his cooperation we have made changes where everything goes directly to a bank into a Loc Box. Tom Morse, our tax collector, commented all the tax money goes into an account that is an Aldan Borough Tax Account; nothing goes into an account in my name. Resident asked was that a State level that made that change. President Short responded no it was with the cooperation of our new Tax Collector, Tom Morse, this is the way he cooperated to collect the taxes but by law he could have it put back or to any way he wanted. This is a state law that we have no control over.

Mr. McBlain asked if the amount that was repaid was that 100% of what the Borough requested. Yes that was the exact figure on our claim form. In the beginning there was a larger amount that was spoke of but there was an amount of money taken out of the accounts but some money was put back in. The crime was on the larger amount of money but the money we recouped was the amount we actually lost. Mr. Seflin explained we received 100% of our net loss.

Dan Procopio wanted to thank almost everyone in the room for their help with 4th of July. There are advertisers who help us get to where we need to be in order to hold our event; Mr. Seflin, Mr. Close, Mr. Tartaglia and the McBlain family; the collectors Mr. McNally and Mr. Borders; also Councilwoman Rankin and Corrigan who participated. Want to thank Mr. Short and Mr. McBlain helping get the book published this year, which is not an easy task. Even with the uncertainty of the weather we did manage to get the parade in on July 4th and it was a good day. Dan thanked the Chief and the Police Department for helping to control the traffic and to all the residents in town "it takes a Borough" and there are people in this room and not in this room that make it happen. Thank you very much and look forward to doing it again next year and it will be on a Saturday.

Resident asked if spraying for mosquitoes is done in the Borough. President Short explained the Borough doesn't do it but we have not heard if anything is going to be sprayed in our area but next Monday Councilwoman Corrigan will meet with our Health Officer, Jim Maloney, and will ask if has heard of anything going on. President Short commented if the County does decide and deem Aldan as an area that would be sprayed they give us plenty of notice and the Borough takes it upon themselves to post the areas that would be sprayed. Resident asked is this something we could request. The answer was the County comes around and inspects and there is a certain criteria they follow. Mr. McBlain commented it is determined through the Department of Inter Community Health where they have had a pattern of positive West Nile but in Aldan there was one positive West Nile back behind Maryland Park Apartments but that was just a single instance.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilwoman Rankin and seconded by Councilman White unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:40 PM

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary