

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

August 11, 2010

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 Center 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; M. Xavier;  
S. Coppola; J. Cosgrove

Council members absent: R. Baker

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

Officers absent: J. Hopely, Mayor

**MINUTES**

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by S. Coppola minutes from the July 14, 2010, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

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**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No written correspondence tonight.

**VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Lou Calabrese 100 N. Sycamore Avenue, wanted to voice his opinion on the sidewalk letters. Mr. Calabrese heard that you have a year, if you submit a letter requesting an extension for getting the concrete work done. President Short responded we will work with the residents if they submit a letter for whatever the reason and we will consider each case individually. The letter does state 2 months which is actually 1 month longer than the ordinance allows for. If you do submit a letter you will receive a response. Mr. Calabrese also had a problem with the consistency of the inspections. Mr. Calabrese property was painted before there was any notification by letter or in the news paper.

Also before the letter read you could repair or replace concrete work now it says replace. The Building Inspector, Anthony Tartaglia, responded that we have found over the years the repairs were not holding up. If we had someone propose a repair we would consider it but the vast majority of cases are marked because they need replacement. President Short commented the ordinance has been updated over the years. The actual first date of this ordinance is November 10, 1893 and this was the first Ordinance passed by the Borough of Aldan. Mr. Calabrese also heard a rumor if you complain then you got more blocks painted. President Short responded this is not true.

Kathleen DelGiorno 427 W. Wayne Avenue reported about walking around Aldan all of the time and her opinion is also the markings are not consistent. Some of the hair line cracks with being a walker would not interfere but if they are raised that would make a difference. It is very inconsistent.

Gerald Colaccio 133 Shisler Avenue, reported he had a signed sheet from about 40 residents that are very upset about the consistency and the time frame. There was a lot not taken into account. The Borough sent a letter for 4 blocks and 1 is my neighbors and the neighbor across the street had 3 blocks marked and only 1 was his, there is much inconsistency. Mr. Colaccio thought since we are the Borough we should know where the property lines are. President Short asked why they should know they are not surveyors they are code enforcers. Mr. Colaccio said a map of the Borough would tell you where the property lines are but President Short said it would not. Mr. Colaccio said this was the worst time to require this work to be done. He was laid off for 6 months and does not have extra money at this time and his neighbor just got laid off. Mr. Colaccio has lived in Aldan for 7 years and has never had a dot on his sidewalk and my sidewalks have never changed in 7 years. If this is an annual inspection maybe it should be done annually. President Short responded the sidewalk inspections have been lacking in the past 10 years and the way we were doing the inspections. We implemented a new policy and took it out of Council person's hand and put it into the Code Department. That is why it is more visible this year than in the past. If you are having a problem with the cost or when you will be able to get the work done, just let us know and we will be more than happy to work with you.

Carol Murray 45 South Woodlawn Avenue, first thing is she did not get a letter nor did her neighbor. Ms. Murray commented that many of the sidewalks were done by SEPTA years ago. Many of the sidewalks are raised and some that are dropped. The sidewalks settle because of the trolley. Ms. Murray said there are many blocks that are not marked from the inspection and if a property sold the concrete work should be done at the time. President Short said we will take a look. Ms. Murray again asked where her letter was. President Short told Ms. Murray the letter would go out tomorrow. Ms. Murray commented the sidewalks are not consistently marked and we could have marked every sidewalk block on South Woodlawn Avenue.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **MAYOR**

Mayor Hopely was not at the meeting tonight. Councilwomen Brookes will report for the Mayor during her report.

**TREASURER**

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer's Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 999,526.38	\$ 30,979.43
Receipts for period	\$ 75,809.92	\$
Interest		4.77
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 259,852.25	\$ 7,455.28
Balance	\$ 815,484.05	\$ 23,528.92

Terry Quinn wanted to note one of the receipts we had this month was for an open 2009 receivable for a Police Officer Grant we received for \$25,000.00.

Terry Quinn asked Council's approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$128,627.06 and checks from the State Highway Fund for \$7,455.28. Councilmen Xavier made the motion to approve 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 started with 21 delinquencies we are now down to about 14. Within the last month 2 property owners have paid their liens; 19 Bonsall Avenue and the other 24 North Woodlawn Avenue. We have 5 property owners in payment plans currently. We are left with 14 delinquencies and still continue our efforts to have those delinquencies paid. If by the end of this month they are not paid or in payment plans we will file suite against them. One we will not be able to file against is the property at 31 East Wayne Avenue where the property owners filed for bankruptcy last December but did not tell the Borough and the Borough was listed at a P O Box in West Philadelphia. The Borough or the Tax collector did not know this information. Mr. Seflin filed a motion with the Bankruptcy Court to allow us to open the Bankruptcy up for our claim to be heard and there is a hearing on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Mr. Seflin did ask Mr. Park if he would join him at the hearing and may need a member of Council or the Mayor to attend. The Judge may just grant the motion without holding a hearing.

Mr. Seflin reported on 2008 Tax Delinquents and we still have 3 delinquents, all of which are non-resident property owners. 2 of the properties are going up for Sheriff's Sale on September 15, 2010 at 9:00 am in the Delaware County Court House. The properties are 119 South Woodlawn Avenue and 120 West Providence Road. We hope the County will honor our liens. Mr. Seflin has spoken to the Delaware County Tax Claim Bureau, which run these sales, and advised them of our liens in writing and in person. We hope if those properties are sold and sold for a profit so our liens will be recognized. One 2008 property owner in Maryland Park that is outstanding, does not own the property any more. It is now owned by Fanny May and we have taken efforts to have Fanny May acknowledge our lien. We are also still pursuing the former property owner regarding monies he and his wife still owe the Borough.

Mr. Seflin also reported we are looking at the Borough's Animal Control Ordinance with the possibility of next month or early in the fall of revising the ordinance.

**ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported on the Lobbs Run Interceptor Phase I Project is under way and we have approximately 500 linear feet of the total 1500 feet installed, so we are about 1/3 through the project. This is very difficult terrain we are working in and the pipe is in a difficult condition with snaking and crushed bells and making it slow going with the pulls. For this reason the County has granted the contractor a 60 day extension going from the end of August to the end of October. We hope once we get out of this difficult section we should start to make a lot more progress and will keep Council posted.

Mr. Close also wanted to report on Phase II Project as reported a few meetings ago that we received our second grant. That conceptual design is in the process of being finalized, we are starting the construction plans and bid documents and a start of construction of winter of 2010 or early 2011.

Mr. Close reported we received a preliminary land development submission from the Planning Commission for the SEPTA Primos Station reconstruction. Mr. Close will be providing his Engineering Review letter to the Planning Commission prior to the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Gerald Colaccio asked what we know about the Aqua project that is supposed to happen in the middle of Shisler Avenue. President Short asked he was referring to the ongoing shut off valves replacement. Councilmen Coppola responded Aqua is replacing valves all over the Borough. Anthony Tartaglia commented that Aqua had submitted a map showing the work throughout September of this year. There are still question about Shisler Avenue if they have enough time to come in and slip line the entire service pipe in that area. Aqua is running behind, and in talking with Bill Miller of Aqua he could not give a start date for the actual slip lining. They are finished with Merion, Priscilla and Pennsylvania and they are moving towards Shisler. President Short commented if Aqua was to damage something you had done they would be responsible to replace whatever damage they did.

Dan Procopio asked if the contractor, came down to the Lobbs Run Interceptor, if they are maintaining their environmental fences and do not allow run off into the creek bed. Mr. Close if you have seen this you realize it is very difficult terrain and we have had to open up some excavation along there. They are doing the best they can. The creek itself is not in great shape, so we are trying to be as sensitive as possible especially if we see a forecast of rain we put down hay after they disturb an area and get the silt fence down as soon as we can. As they move equipment they have to pull the fence out so it is like a moving process at this point. Dan had one other concern about the pumping by the No Name Store the manhole is uncovered because they have their two pumps in there one for overflow or backup and at the other end where it is fed back in it seems to be exposed with no cover and close to the water line. If we have a heavy rain is there a possibility of that flooding and is there any way of capping that better so it does not have an ingress or egress. Mr. Close responded we watch the weather very closely but we have certain limitations while under construction.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Anthony Tartaglia reported for the Planning Commission will do the preliminary review of the SEPTA Primos Station project but we are waiting from comments from Delaware County and our Engineer before we do a full review at the end of the month.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councilwoman Owen reported for the Board of Health on the West Nile Virus surveillance continues by the Penn State Cooperative Extension for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. They determined due to budget constraints they would only be spraying in areas found to have volumes of mosquito species that are carriers of the West Nile Virus. Last year there was a target area that bordered Aldan and the spraying was done. Councilwoman Owen was notified today that a target area has been identified in Aldan and they will be spraying on Tuesday evening. One of the locations that has a positive light trap is park belonging to Aldan Union Church and another location is Maryland Avenue at Willows Lane. The plan is to spray at a very slow rate in a low area of the atmosphere where the mosquitoes tend to fly at that time of the evening. They will stop spraying if there are any persons seen outside in the area where they are spraying. Councilwoman Owen and another Council member will put notices up to let residents know what is happening and eliminate exposure to any resident during that time. This is a non toxic chemical that is sprayed.

Councilwoman Owen reported in regards to recycling; some residents have inquired about having a recycling program and what would be involved to have a curbside recycling program. These residents have volunteered to be on a committee since there is a significant amount of work to explore that endeavor. Councilwoman Owen will be starting up some meeting with those residents when vacations are over. Carol Murray commented to Councilwoman Owen thank you for letting residents know about the spraying. Councilwoman Owen reported that dawn and dusk are the highest prevalence hours when mosquitoes are out. There are many different species of mosquitoes but very few that carry the West Nile Virus. Councilwoman Owen had a really good tip from the Penn State Extension Program that a mosquito can't fly beyond 5 miles per hour of wind. If you like to enjoy being outside put a floor fan outside and the mosquito can't survive the breeze from the fan. A resident asked Councilwoman Owen why they can't spray all of Aldan. The Councilwoman explained they put light traps in different sections of the Borough and when collected those with positive findings are the areas the spraying will be done. The light traps are put on a property not a resident's property. The resident asked is it because of money they do not spray the whole borough and the answer was yes.

Dan Procopio asked if the recycling policy has changed regarding the glass igloos behind Giant. There are stickers that say you can put plastic in the glass igloos. Councilwoman Owen did not see the stickers but has talked to the Recycling Coordinator from the County and they were changing and adding some igloos to that area that would allow plastics.

### **HIGHWAY**

Councilmen Cosgrove reported we have received both the Federal and the State Emergency Snow Relief Program money \$18, 251.37 of which \$13,679.00 was Federal money. This is not enough money to do the formal road program that we do each year but we looked to see where we could best use our money to make some improvements. We have 2 sources of money to do this one is the money just mentioned the other is the money that Aqua uses to do the milling and repaving they are doing in town. What Aqua is doing is great because they are replacing mains that are some 80 years old and that is a good thing. But the result of that is a lot of our streets are checker boards with all the trenches, bumps, and cutouts.

What we looked to do on Albert Avenue between Magnolia Avenue and Rively Avenue Aqua was going to spend \$18,000.00 to do their portion of the trench and the bump outs. We asked what that money would be because that street is on our list to dig up the entire street as part of our 2011 Road Program. We asked what contribution Aqua would make to us for them not to do that work because we would dig it up next summer. So there is an amount of money they would give us to do that they would have spent and now we are spending it as part of the whole street. On Magnolia Avenue between Stratford Avenue and Albert there is an especially bad patch where there are multiple cutouts in addition to the trench. It was agreed that we would pave half of the street instead of having all these bumps and cutouts. We did this last year on Magnolia Avenue between Springfield Road and Linden Avenue half of the street was done rather than have the trench and all the cutouts. This was a bad location so we took the money that Aqua would have spent to do their portion of the trench and bump outs give it to us and that would be part of our monies to then go back and have them to half the street. That is what we have agreed to do. The length would be from the east side of Stratford Avenue the intersection through Magnolia Avenue through the west side of Albert Avenue including two intersections. Councilmen Cosgrove asked Council approval to ask the Borough Engineer to run ads to get a bid for the Albert Avenue portion of work to be done. We have agreed to do Magnolia Avenue and we are going to pursue pricing on the Albert Avenue portion and that will be part of the 2011 formal road program. That is what we are going to do with the money and we may have some additional dollars left over we could do some additional work but that is the program right now. Councilmen Cosgrove made a motion to instruct the Borough Engineer to advertise for bids in the 100 block of Albert Avenue seconded by Councilmen Coppola and unanimously approved.

Councilmen Cosgrove also reported we have engaged the Highway Department of Clifton Heights to do line painting the crosswalks and the police lines in town.

Dan Procopio wanted to understand what you just asked to advertise was the section of Albert Avenue between West Magnolia Avenue and Rively Avenue to be done next year. President Short explained we are trying to get it done this year depending on the cost factor. Dan also asked if the \$18,000 being given to us is that being set aside or are we using that money to redo the roadway that we would have had to do in addition to their work on West Magnolia Avenue between Stratford and Albert. Councilmen Cosgrove responded the total of the two monies is the \$18,000 from Aqua of which it would cost us X amount of dollars to do the half of street and some residual dollars left over available for Albert if we so use it there. President Short explained it is the money from Albert Avenue that is going into Magnolia Avenue to extend the paving. Dan asked about the 4 intersections are they still on the list to be done. Councilmen Cosgrove explained no because when we started out with the scope we were going to do the whole intersection and the cost kept going up. When the bids come in we will see if money is available for intersections but maybe wait till next year. Dan asked about Aqua being in town are we inspecting to see if they are doing a better job on the west side of town. President Short commented Mr. Tartaglia has been out there just about every day.

Carol Murray commented there was a yellow line down the middle of Woodlawn Avenue, a do not pass line; it has worn away could we contact SEPTA to restore the line. President Short responded we could contact SEPTA.

## **FINANCE**

Councilmen Xavier had nothing new to report tonight.

## **LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING**

President Short reported for the month of July we had 46 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$145,498.18; there were 33 Mid-Term/Transfer Inspections.

President Short commented some of the allowances we have made for the sidewalk inspections due to the amount of work some residents have and the also the economy we have lowered the permit rate to a flat \$10 down from \$25 for sidewalk blocks; \$25 for curb or \$25 for apron. This \$10 is an administrative fee for getting together the permits, getting the Insurance from Contractors and taxes. President Short wanted all residents to know this so the resident's contractors would also know the permit fees were lowered to \$10. We did send letters out to the first group of letters that went out letting them know the fee had been lowered and the fee passed on to them.

Dan Propocio commented about the ordinance to maintain your sidewalks are there an objective standard in the Ordinance that would state what constitutes an uneven block. There are a lot of words in the ordinances but not definitions in the code. Is there some sort of construction code or management code that says this is a sidewalk that needs to be replaced because is it off level by so much, the size of the crack, and where residents might review those standards. Mr. Tartaglia commented when we mail the letters out we explain to the residents what defines a damaged or failed sidewalk. Mr. Tartaglia told Dan any time you want to come in and review the standards just let Tony know.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilmen Coppola wanted to add to Councilmen Cosgrove's comment about Aqua. Councilmen Cosgrove mentioned some of the water lines were 100 years old and this work is very important because often times when these water mains leak the water has to go somewhere and it leaks into our sewer lines and now our sewer lines are metered and we are paying for all that water to do down to DELCORA to be treated. So we have clean water entering our sewer lines. All the work being done by Aqua is inconvenient but is very important and very beneficial to the town. Also the money we spoke of on Lobbs Run the Borough has applied for 2 separate grants last year we received a grant for \$275,000.00 from the County. The money was used for the Phase I of the Lobbs Run Interceptor Project. This line is also 100 years old and is a 20" diameter clay pipe and is leaking. Often creek water runs into it and we are paying for the water to be treated by DELCORA. This year we applied again for another \$275,000.00 grant and received that money and this will also be used to complete Phase II and that will complete Lobbs Run. We have been very pro-active in getting this work done and is very beneficial to the Borough to remove the infiltration of clean water into our septic lines and remove those costs from the Borough. We have already seen a substantial savings by the water being eliminated from our system.

Gerald Colaccio commented about Aqua and Shisler Avenue having a problem because of a fire hydrant. Aqua says it is not leaking but Mr. Colaccio put a tape measurer in a hole four feet deep. Councilmen Cosgrove commented we are meeting tomorrow to look at areas that are sinking with potential of it being the lateral, the main, or it being our responsibility or Aqua's. Councilmen Cosgrove said we will look at this area tomorrow.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Councilwoman Brookes reported for the Mayor tonight. Residents who go on vacation should stop at the municipal building and fill out a form to have police officers check the exterior of your home while you are away. One note from Mark, Lisa and Caleb Wilson; thanks it gave us one less thing to worry about knowing Aldan's finest was watching our house. Another note was from Mr. & Mrs. Ressler; many thanks to you and the Aldan Police for checking our property when we were away on vacation. We appreciate your great efforts throughout the year to make Aldan a safe community. The Mayor's report also stated we are in the middle of the summer vacation and with this time of year brings groups hanging out on corners, etc. Residents are asked to call 911 to have police handle these disorderly groups that might be causing problems in your neighborhood.

Councilwoman Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's report for the month of July. Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 7 calls in the Borough during the month of July, 2010. During the month of July, 2010, Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 31 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

The Fire Marshal noted on his report the call to 319 Patricia Lane a civilian suffered minor burns from the fire and was treated and released from a local hospital. An update regarding the fire on Beech Avenue on last month's report, the fire victim that was burned is now listed in stable condition and is out of a coma.

Councilwoman Brookes reported for the Historical Commission and they have been meeting and working on our annual Founders Day Celebration to be held on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. We are working with the Police Department who will be holding the annual Safety Day. We have already been receiving reservations for spaces for the Flea Market.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no unfinished business this month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at 7:30 P.M.; and Council will meet on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. in an executive session and regular session at 8:00 P.M. at the William Reinl Recreation Center.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Dan Procopio asked about Councilmen's Baker report on replacing the roof on the Rec Building. President Short responded the Councilmen will be getting in touch with the Insurance Company.



**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Councilmen Coppola seconded by Councilmen Xavier and unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

**ATTEST**

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MARIE V. KAUT  
Borough Secretary