

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

August 10, 2011

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. Brookes; T. Owen; M. Xavier;
J. Cosgrove; R. Baker

Council members absent: S. Coppola

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

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by R. Baker minutes from the July 13, 2011, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

Paul Becker 36 N. Clifton Avenue at the corner of North Clifton and West Wayne, had a question if there was ever an engineer study done for a swale at that intersection in order for the runoff water to be diverted, slowing down the water to run down Clifton-instead of backing up down the street. Mr. Becker was told two years ago that this study would be done. Mr. Becker said that President Short told him. President Short commented if he talked to you I would have told you the amount of money it would cost to have that water diverted would not be in the budget. President Short said, I never told you there would be a study done. President Short knows exactly what the problem is and I knew what the problem has been for a years. President Short commented there has not been money in the budget to relieve that issue. That issue has been there before you move in and before the people before you moved in. Mr. Becker said this is becoming a health hazard and would like to know what could be done.

President Short explains that the closest storm water line to take that water away is so far away that it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to get that water out of there. That would mean tearing up Wayne Avenue down Clifton Avenue up to Providence Road. Mr. Becker asked if an engineer study could be done to accomplish seeing if water travel down Clifton Avenue instead of making the turn onto Wayne. President Short asked Mr. Close if he was familiar with the intersection. Mr. Close responded he is somewhat familiar. President Short asked PJ how deep that swale would have to be. PJ commented he would really have to look at it and if you can build a swale, that's the simplest way to deal with something but sometimes it's more than that you have to do to get a swale to go somewhere an inlet or a head wall to catch the water you don't want to discharge the water onto the street. The problem is not near there so you have to run a long length of pipe through the streets to relieve that area and that's the challenge. President Short will have PJ go over and look at the issue of putting in a swale to direct the water further down. The Engineer before Mr. Close look at the situation and a swale would have been so deep it would have created a traffic hazard going into that street.

Tony Carson 19, Chester Avenue was concerned with the traffic going up and down Wayne Ave. and Chester Avenue and most of the streets going towards Giant shopping center trying to cut through to miss the light. There has been a police car parked there and there has been a lot less traffic. Mr. Carson asked if maybe signage would work. President Short commented he has been talking to Chief Coppola and that is why the car is there to make an attempt to slow traffic down but there are always going to be people trying to beat that light. Unfortunately we cannot add stop signs there but we can have a police presence and try to discourage the people from speeding. Mr. Carson also asked about parking trucks on the street. President Short explained the ordinance was put into effect so that no commercial vehicles or work trucks would be parked on the street. Unfortunately according to Pennsylvania law all trucks are considered commercial vehicles.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely reported an officer was stationed for an hour on Rively Avenue between Stratford Avenue and Albert Avenue. The officer monitored 33 vehicle and they were timed. Of the 33 vehicles only one was going a few miles over the posted speed limit. The speed of each vehicle was determined by utilizing the Robotic SC - 800 Sports Chronometer Unit 43A. This is done periodically when the police go out and it is a deterrent for people speeding but you cannot leave the car there 24 hours a day it is impossible to monitor every street. Mayor Hopely commented that school will be opening in a few weeks and our children will be walking to school and as always the Police Department will be actively working the various school zones issuing warnings and tickets for those traveling over the speed limit.

Mayor Hopely read a letter sent to Chief Coppola from the Aldan Swim Club thanking the Chief and the officers for their support during the Delco Division C Championship Swim Meet at the Alden Swim Club. Having an officer assigned to the event was above and beyond their expectations and was a wonderful example of the Police working with the community to prevent problems before they begin. Mayor Hopely thinks we have one of the best police forces in Delaware County. Officer Ken Coppola did an excellent job of making himself visible and blending with the crowd at the same time.

Officer Dave Jackson helped keep the parking situation under control. We've never had the need for police presence at any of our events and didn't expect any issues but in today's society there is no such thing as being too careful.

Mayor Hopely wanted to remind everyone September 17th is Founders/Safety day. We are always looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup duties. This is a long day for those that cook and provide food and drinks as well as those that work to make the day happen. They're all pretty well exhausted by the end of the affair. It would be great to have help especially at the end of the day in breaking down tables, putting grills away and picking up trash. If you can help in any way it would be appreciated.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

TREASURER

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer's Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 590,540.81	\$ 55,197.92
Receipts for period	\$ 396,344.01	
Interest		\$ 10.56
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 276,428.32	\$ 7,550.36
Balance	\$ 710,456.50	\$ 47,658.12

Terry is asking council's approval to release funds from the State Highway Fund totaling \$ 7,232.81. Terry is also asking Council's approval to release check this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$117,374.49. 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 last month we filed 19 tax liens for 2010. One other lien we did not file because of an ongoing bankruptcy. Mr. Seflin is still doing research to find out when he can file that lien. It is also the issue where we can pursue the tenant who has been living there tax-free for about five years. We also filed three nuisance liens. These are issues where there is grass and bushes that are overgrown. We have filed liens and have had complaints from residents. Mr. Tartaglia has been involved in all three of these properties and we have filed liens against the property owners as nuisances and violations of the building code. There are currently 22 liens filed. One of the liens we will be withdrawing because one of the tax delinquents has paid the amount of the settlement.

One other property owner we discovered was deceased but we have discovered the representatives of the property and have made contact with them. We are going to try to bring them up to speed where the estate is for that lien. One of the other 19 we had reached a tentative accord with but that agreement has not been consummated yet. The owner would like to enter into a payment plan but has not executed the plan as of yet as but it was prepared and forwarded to her.

John McBlain asked if the 20 delinquencies were from 2010 and Mr. Seflin replied yes. Mr. McBlain asked if there were any delinquencies from 2009. Mr. Seflin responded we have 14 Orders of Execution outstanding with the District Court. Mr. Seflin has written to the District Justice, these are Orders of Execution not the judgment, Mr. Seflin has asked the District Justice to give these orders to our Constable Jason Haley. There are also two bankruptcies from 2009, one was mentioned previously and one we are getting checks for \$25, \$35 a month from the bankruptcy trustee. There still a lot of work to do for 2009. Mr. McBlain commented that of the 1,750 some properties for each year there are less than 20 delinquencies and we have judgments against all except those in bankruptcy. One of the bankruptcies has been discharged, the personal debt was discharged by the bankruptcy court but the debt on the property remains.

Dan Procopio asked is it totally up to the District Justice who gets the assignment to execute and Mr. Seflin responded that if his understanding.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported we have been working on a number of ongoing projects DELCORA, Act 537 plan updates, and NPDS MS4 Storm Water program the 2011 Road Program and the close out paperwork and final payment for the Lobbs Run Phase 2 Project. Nothing really specific to report tonight but will be available during other committee reports for any input or questions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported trash will not be collected on Monday, Labor Day, September 5 but will be collected Tuesday, September 6.

Dan Procopio asked Councilwoman Owen if there was a meeting date scheduled for the Recycling Committee. Councilwoman Owen reported there was a date but there were some conflicts, so that is on this month's schedule to get a date.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Cosgrove reported on the 2011 Road program, the revision made to the scope of work to be done with the streets involved has been accepted by Harrisburg and we have received a check for \$100,000.00.

Due to delays with the Aqua work that is going on and the Kehoe Company who was the low bidder, will also be working in Lansdowne, we agreed that we would work with them to do Lansdowne and Aldan and at the same time. Because of those two things the work has a slight push back of time, so now we are looking at the second week in September rather than the third week in August. With the streets that are involved in the Road Resurfacing Program it should not be in a problem with school opening.

Dan Procopio asked what the status was for the LED light replacement for the traffic signals. Councilman Cosgrove explained we have written the specifications for the contractors to bid on and that write up is being reviewed by our solicitor. Once that's been reviewed and any changes made we will advertise and make the specs available. Dan asked if we plan to open the bids of the next Caucus meeting. Councilman Cosgrove explained if there is enough time the goal is to open bids at the September Caucus meeting.

John McBlain asked in terms of the road resurfacing program with the grant is this the largest Road Resurfacing Program we have done. Councilman Cosgrove explained the data that he has goes back about 11 years and yes it is almost twice as much. Councilman Cosgrove commented most Road Programs have been about \$50,000 or \$60,000, so this is almost twice the amount. President Short commented it's probably the largest Resurfacing Program since at least 1990 and could be the largest ever.

Dan Procopio asked about last year other than Albert Avenue between W. Magnolia Ave. and Rively Avenue and some other patches with Aqua, East Magnolia between Springfield Road and Linden Avenue there was no street paving program in 2010. That would account for the size of the program this year. That is correct responded President Short. Councilman Cosgrove also added you are right and that was because of the enormous snow cost that ate up the budget and also the amount of work that Aqua was doing in town. Dan also asked if Aqua was supposed to be done there project by the middle of September. Councilman Cosgrove commented that is the latest information he has. Mr. Cosgrove has been in touch with Aqua to arrange his schedule of streets to be done so there should not be a conflict. Some of these streets were on the initial evaluation before we knew what streets Aqua was working on. The streets were obviously not done because Aqua was working on them. As result of the Ordinance change this will require Aqua to pave half the street in certain situations. That street might have been on our list to do the full street so the benefit to us next year when we do it, we will only have to do have to do half of the street.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Coppola is on vacation. Councilman Coppola has the public works committee if there are any questions or comments, between the Engineer and Council we will try to answer your questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDINGS

Councilmen Baker had nothing to report tonight.

Dan Procopio noticed the lights are down off the back and of the trolley stop. Councilman Baker commented this is on the list to be fixed.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Brooks reported our school taxes will start to come in by the end of the month. As of this date we are at 79% of all real estate taxes collected and 82% of our sewer rents have also been collected.

Councilwoman Brooks reported that Founders Day is on September 17th and is also the day the Police have their Safety Day. The Aldan Boy Scouts are also having a car show that day. There is a Flea Market, entertainment by the Lukens Band, sponsored by the Fourth of July Committee; we also have Mojo 13, which features one of our Councilmember's as lead singer. Instead of our cake contest this year we will be having a cupcake contest. There will be a flyer coming out explaining the day's activities. This is always a wonderful day with wonderful volunteers that help cook and if we could have some help at the end of the day that would be terrific and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Dan Procopio asked what the fund balances were for the General Fund Reserve and the Sewer Fund Reserve. Councilwoman Brooks reported the Sewer Reserve balance is \$298,672.13 at the General Reserve is \$541,031.82.

LAW, ORDINANCE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilmen Xavier reported on the Fire Marshal's Report for July. Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 3 calls in the Borough of Aldan. All Fire Company calls resulted in no damage. Also during the month of July, 2011 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 28 calls to the Borough of Aldan.

Councilmen Xavier reported for the month of July, 2011 we had 43 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$196,590.12 and there were 43 Mid-Term/Transfer Inspections in the month of July.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at 7:30 PM.; and Council will meet on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 8:00 PM.

PRIVELIGE OF THE FLOOR

John McBlain, commented he spoke to Mr. Cosgrove last month about paint at the corner of Providence Road and Clifton Avenue. Paint had splattered on the street, sidewalk and the traffic light pole and looked terrible. A lot of towns would just leave it there and that would be the last you ever heard of it. But Council went to work and had someone clean it all off and it looks terrific. Thank you for making those improvements; it could've been just left to deteriorate and ultimately look blighted. Mr. McBlain also wanted to thank everybody for the work that they did including town watch for the help with the Delco League Swimming Championship hosted by the Aldan Swim Club. Council arranged with Community Service and they were on the property several weeks before the event and they really did a great job cleaning up trees and branches and bushes, down along the woods, clearing out parking areas. With the assistance of the Police and Town Watch on that day everything went very smoothly. People from half a dozen other towns all involved in the championships all came to Aldan, there was probably 500 people there that day parking there and they all did a fantastic job. Aldan shone brightly on that day. Thank you for all your efforts. President Short wanted to thank Walt Olmer out at the County for supplying the labor for those two projects. The first one that involved the paint, they have a graffiti group that they send out and they did a fantastic job and thank you for noticing.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary