

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

January 12, 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 Center 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: J. Hopely, Mayor; G. Kaut, Secretary;
G. Sefflin, Solicitor; T. Quinn, Treasurer

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by T. Owen minutes from the December 8, 2011, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

There is no verbal correspondence tonight.

President Short explained this is our off year and we do not have a re-organization meeting but we still appoint the various officers. The positions of Chief of Police, Borough Secretary, Solicitor, Borough Engineer, Code Official, Building Inspector, other Inspectors, Health Officer, Treasurer and Zoning Solicitor are the same individuals who currently serve in those positions. Councilmen Xavier made a motion to appoint the currently serving individuals to the same appointed positions for a one year term seconded by Councilmen Cosgrove and unanimously approved.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely reported the Police Department has started state mandated training for 2011. Each officer is required to take 16 hrs of classroom training along with firearms, CPR and first aid training on an annual basis. Officers are also assigned to various training outside of the state mandated training. Good news is we have received grant money from Senator Erickson for a new police car which is on order and should be in sometime in February. We also have received grant money for computers from PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Most of the computers have been received. Mayor Hopely and Chief Coppola along with all members of the Police Department wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Dan Procopio asked what the dollar amounts of the grants were. Mayor Hopely responded \$25,000.00 from Senator Erickson for a new police car and \$10,000.00 for computers.

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	\$ 108,755.00	\$.00
Receipts for period	\$ 45,109.63	
Interest		\$.03
Expenditures Prior Month	\$	\$
Balance	\$ 153,864.63	\$ 0.03

Terry Quinn asked Council’s approval to release check this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$147,519.49. 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 Councilmen Baker and unanimously approved.

President Short commented that Councilwomen Brookes is the new Finance Chairperson and Councilmen Xavier is now taking Law and Ordinance and also heading the Police Department.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Sefflin reported he is working with Chief Coppola to review this proposal we received from the Sheriff’s Department for Mutual Aid and we hope to have a more definitive report next month.

Mr. Sefflin also reported he just received a signed copy of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police that we reported on last month. Mr. Sefflin is now in the process of preparing a Consolidated Agreement, which is kind of the Bible that we use, and this is a consolidation of all the Police Contracts, with all the provisions and that will need to be signed by Council and the FOP.

Mr. Sefflin reported on the 2009 Tax Delinquent Program. Mr. Sefflin did attend a very interesting meeting of creditors for one of the folks going bankrupt.

This was the owner of 120 West Providence Road, blamed the collapse of his whole life on the Borough of Aldan. We are waiting to hear what will happen.

Mr. Sefflin continued it has been over 1 month since we went to the hearings on all the delinquents and there are still about 8 or 9, including the owner of 120 W Providence Rd., who have not made any response to the Judge's judgments against them so next week we will start asking the Judge to commence executing proceedings with the Constable against some of these folks. There is 1 or 2 others and we will discuss that at Caucus next month because we may want to move away from that procedure and go directly against their properties. One resident is about to go bankrupt so we may want to go after his property.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported about the SEPTA/ Primos Station Reconstruction at 21 Oak Avenue next to Giant Food Store. We received the second Land Development submission on December 8, 2010 and we submitted our second review to the Planning Commission on January 4, 2011. A copy went to Council President and also the Solicitor. Mr. Close will be available during the Planning Commission Report for any questions.

Mr. Close reported on the Lobbs Run Phase I Project that has been completed and we are processing the close out paper work for the final payment request. We are in receipt of the one year maintenance bond, which starts on December 20, 2010 and we have 1 year till December 20, 2011 if anything come up and we have to have any repairs done. We are going to do one last walk through with the property owners to make sure they are happy with the work before we release that paper work.

Mr. Close reported on the second phase Lobbs Run Phase II Project, which is the lower half of the project. We did get the Notice to Proceed from the Office of Housing and Community Development on January 7, 2011, so with that we are now able to advertise the project. The first ad was in the newspaper on Sunday, January 9, 2011 and the second ad went in today, Wednesday, January 12, 2011. The bids are due on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 4:00 PM and will be opened at the Caucus Meeting on February 2nd. If all the bids are in order and the OACD approves the bid tabulation, the bonds, and the paper work, we would be in a position to recommend an award at the Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 9th. If everything moves along start of construction could be as early as March, 2011 and hopefully finish it up in the early to mid part of the summer.

Mr. Close reported last month on the H2O PA Grant and we had a second shot. The Commonwealth Finance Agency was supposed to meet on December 14th to reconsider but they canceled their meeting and we have no reschedule of the meetings. Mr. Close is not sure what is going on with the program and not real optimistic but will keep Council posted.

Mr. Close reported on our Storm Water MS4 Program we received comments from DEP about our 2009 report. We got a generally good report and they always have a couple little things they ask us to improve, particularly in the area of public outreach and education. We have addressed that letter and John Ibach, from Kelly/Close, met with Charlie Duffy, our Aldan Borough MS4 coordinator, and John provided Charlie with some of the information we need to disseminate. Some has to do with our web site, they actually review our web site, the storm water section, and the links to the DEP web site, and making sure we are up to speed because they are constantly updating their information and literature.

We given Charlie the information and literature and Charlie will meet with our Web Master, Joe Cosgrove, to spruce it up a little bit to DEP's liking. Also a little bit of the outreach is to the Elementary School, getting the young kids involved with the message. Kids are amazing, tell them about recycling and things like that and they just latch onto it and they become our watch dogs and keeping us honest. Mr. Close has a few graphics to show what DEP likes to produce and has us reference on our web site. Mr. Close had a few posters they like to have for the Elementary Schools. One poster said, "When your pet goes on the lawn, remember it doesn't just go on the lawn". The message is with thousands and thousands of properties the little pollution things that can happen on your property they don't stop there, they go into the street, they go into the storm sewer, the ditches, the creeks, and the rivers and that cumulative effect can be harmful to the stream. This message is clean up after your dog. The second poster has to do with a car leaking oil. The poster shows a car with an oil streak on a lake with a message saying, the drips of oil that land on your street or on your driveway when it rains carries all the pollutants down into the system and they end up in the creek. This suggests keeping your car tuned up and try to prevent any oil leaks from your car. The third poster has to do with washing your car, saying all the things you use to wash your car end up in the drains. Their suggestion is to take it to the car wash where the wash water is recycled and when discharged it goes into the sewer system where it is properly treated before it goes into the creeks. The last poster has to do with fertilizing your lawn. They are letting people know that fertilizers contain nitrates which can increase algae blooms which deplete oxygen which hurts wildlife in the streams. They recommend people be mindful of that and being sparing and follow the instructions on the fertilizer. These are little tidbits we are required to do as a Borough. We are a permit tee for this MS4 program and we are supposed to reach out to the public and the community and remind them of little things they can do to improve the quality of our local streams. Mr. Close is supposed to occasionally publicly present this information and it is available on our web site and there are links on our web site they can look at these posters. Charlie is going to give them to the school and hopefully they will post them for the kids and they learn a little bit along the way. Charlie met with the School Secretary on Monday, left a number of posters for the school to display and bookmarks, 10 ways to reduce pollution in the storm sewer. Even if you get a few people to think before they dump something in the sewer it will help.

Mr. Close also received an e-mail today; the Eastern Delaware County COG has a MS4 coordinator, a temporary coordinator, there was some grant money that was obtained to pay for this person. On January 19, 2011 there will be a training program for municipal representatives at the Upper Darby Township building. The program will start at 1:30 and finish at 3 pm. Liz Feinberg, the coordinator, would like to meet with Council before the February 2nd Caucus meeting to introduce herself. It has been our responsibility as a Borough to do this program over the last 5 years. The idea by bring this one person in it can pool some of this effort and we can take advantage of it and maybe reduce some our cost a little bit. We feel we have been doing this as efficiently as possible but we are willing, if this person with this grant money, can help defray some of the costs then we should listen.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported there will be no trash collection on Monday, January 17, 2011 due to the Martin Luther King observance but trash will be collected on Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

HIGHWAY

Councilmen Cosgrove reported we received from the State preliminary recommendation for a grant for \$22,976.00 to replace the existing traffic bulbs with LED lights. Given our electricity rates are going up in 2011 this reduction of wattage will probably off set and maybe even reduce our bill. Councilmen Cosgrove said preliminary because there are a few more process steps, we will receive a contract and we have to complete some paperwork. This process may take until the spring to change our lights to LED.

Dan Procopio asked does the grant money cover all the traffic signals. Councilmen Cosgrove explained the only thing we are not replacing is the yellow lights. There is a percentage of the time each light is lit and yellow might be 4% because of the short time vs. the red and green lights. The cost payback was not significant. We are replacing the red, green, the arrows, the walking man, and all the traffic lights in town but no yellow bulbs. Dan asked if that would be a bid process. Councilmen Cosgrove said that is up in the air right now, he is hearing both sides but we will get it straightened out. Dan asked under what grant program this was allocated. The grant was from Representative Micozzie.

Dan Procopio wanted to complement on the snow today they did a good job. Councilmen Cosgrove commented he has gotten a lot of bad calls in the past but did receive a lot of good comments today. Phillips did put a lot more salt down to help loosen the snow, so they could get under it and it was also the nature of the snow, it was an easy snow to shovel and plow and yes they did a good job.

Dan asked if we have a total price for the snow removal so far. Councilmen Cosgrove responded no, we have only received one bill as of today and that was for \$5,700.00 and if I guessed the cost maybe around \$15,000.00.

Bill McNally commented Phillips did a good job with the snow today.

President Short commented that Councilmen Cosgrove is playing down his role as Highway Chairperson. The Councilmen has met with Phillips after each snow and road with them refining the way they plow the town. Thanks to the diligence of Councilmen Cosgrove the process is getting better all the time.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilmen Coppola is at work tonight but if there are any questions or comments it could be answered by either President Short or the Engineer.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Councilwomen Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's report for the month of December, 2010. During the month of December Collingdale Fire Companies #1 & #2 responded to 9 calls and the Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 39 calls in the Borough.

A note for the Fire Marshal: during 2010 we had our 1st fire related fatality since 1971.

Also take a look at the comparisons for year to year for damage amounts and EMS Calls.

EMS Calls	Total Damages
2010 – 419	\$30,500.00
2009 – 396	\$193,000.00
2008 – 394	\$31,500.00
2007 – 351	\$140,000.00
2006 – 382	\$22,000.00

Councilwomen Brookes commented it looks like every year we get a few more calls but they say with just the population and the age of residents.

Councilwomen Brookes also commented on Fire related damages it looks like the around \$30,500.00 area but last year in 2009 was are all time high with \$193,000.00.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDINGS

Councilmen Baker reported we are still waiting on getting bids on the Municipal Building for replacing the roof, gutters and soffit because of the winter weather. There is nothing structurally wrong with the roof so there should be no chance of leaks.

Dan Procopio asked if we picked a roofing contractor to do the work and what is the cost. Councilmen Baker responded no, we are still waiting on bids and some of the contractors have stopped bidding until spring.

FINANCE

Councilmen Xavier reported there was nothing new for finance tonight.

Dan Procopio asked if we have executed the loan agreement (line of credit) signed with Beneficial Bank. Councilmen Xavier responded no we have not touched it and we are trying not to touch it if we do not need to use it we are not going to.

LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING

Councilmen Xavier reported for the month of December we had 39 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$208,119.90; and there were 25 Mid-Term/Transfer Inspections and there was 1 Plumbing Permit issued with a construction value of \$3,500.00.

President Short commented as it stands right now he will be part of each of the committees and not having one committee of his own.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business this month.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at 7:30 PM.; and Council will meet on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. in an executive session and regular session at 8:00 P.M. at the William Reinl Recreation Center.

PRIVELIGE OF THE FLOOR

None

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 8:30 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT
Borough Secretary