

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

June 8, 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 Reindl 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; S. Coppola; R. Baker

Council members absent: None

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

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by S. Coppola minutes from the May 11, 2011, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

There is no verbal correspondence tonight.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Hopely reported with vacation season upon us we want residents to be aware of vacation property checks. Residents can stop in Borough Hall and fill out a form. Police will check your home 3 times a day. Residents are also asked to call the police when they see suspicious activity or disorderly groups. There have been several car break-ins during the early AM hours. If you see or hear something please call 911 and do not attempt to scare off or confront the person(s) committing the crime.

Both mandatory and voluntary In Service Training continues for our police officers. Officer Ziviello attended a DNA seminar that was attended by both city and borough officers this past week. A follow up to this will be held in the fall. Officer Coppola will attend a hand to hand combat training session presented by the FBI.

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	\$ 638,728.37	\$ 77,309.67
Receipts for period	\$ 153,227.38	
Interest		\$ 13.97
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 161,369.48	\$
Balance	\$ 630,586.27	\$ 62,722.66

Terry is asking council’s approval to release funds from the State Highway Fund totaling \$ 7,550.36. Terry is also asking Council’s approval to release check this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$111,692.13. 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.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported on the 2010 Tax Delinquency Program, we hope to be commencing this soon. Mr. Seflin had not received the final delinquency figures from our Tax Collector. We do anticipate receiving that within the next 1 or 2 weeks.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported on our 2010 Lobbs Run CBDG Project, our Phase II Project the punch list has been completed. We are waiting on the Maintenance Bond and the final payment request and we should be rapping up that closeout paper work within the month.

Mr. Close also commented on the H2O Grant request. We received a letter from the Commonwealth Financing Authority saying they denied our 2nd request because they have no money left but if money ever becomes available they will look at it again.

Mr. Close reported on FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), in November, 2009 we had an update to our Ordinance; this is done and periodically about every 5 to 10 years they do little updates to their ordinance and map. All of the Municipalities in Delaware County were notified that FEMA is embarking on a brand new program to revamp themselves.

Some of the National Flooding problems down on the Mississippi has caused them to re-look at their program. They asked representatives from Municipalities to attend a meeting that was held on June 1, 2011 and they are starting a discovery period where they are trying to gather new information. We are not sure where they are going with this, they said it is a 3 to 5 year type of program they are trying to do and because we are part of the National Flood Insurance Program we have to follow along. Mr. Close is just informing us that something is coming and will be a long process and we do not know what the end result will be but will keep us posted as more information comes in.

Mr. Close reported we are working on the 2011 Road Program and other Sewer Planning issues but will defer to other committees reports.

President Short asked if we were asked by the State to re-submit the H2O Grant. Mr. Close explained they said there was going to be another round of considerations and basically said we could keep our same application in there. Mr. Close did not think anyone was awarded this second time they are just flat out of money.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported July 4th is on a Monday this year and this means our trash collection will be on Tuesday, July 5th .

Councilwomen Owen announced the Recycling Performance Grant Award for 2009 came in. We were awarded \$4,723.00 which reflects 479.9 tons of Residential and Commercial recyclables that were collected from the Borough. In March when we prepared the annual recycling report for the County in collating the total anticipated they were going to be low from information gathered which translates into a low award we end up getting. Councilwomen Owen took the time to investigate how we can more environmentally responsible and move forward with recycling and get our totals up and increase our award value. Councilwomen Owen started looking at getting curbside program in the Borough so we could benefit from the opportunities available and be much more responsible citizens. Last August met with the Recycling Coordinator of Delaware County to talk about different types of programs, where we could get the containers for the lowest cost; and what the future of recycling would be. This was a very worthwhile meeting. In September we compiled a Recycling Committee made up a few Borough Residents, Councilwomen Brookes and Councilwomen Owen to take a look at what type of program in Aldan that would be best suited for the residents and for our budget. In October, Mr. McBlain steered Councilwomen Owen in the direction of State Representative Micozzie's Office to help sponsor a grant that we might be eligible for. We submitted a proposal through Representative Micozzie's office to the State to ask for funding for the start up costs and education program for recycling in the Borough. In November, Councilwomen Owen did tour the Recycling facility, which is the largest in this area, and talked to a representative there about recycling. One positive view made at that point was in the fall there is usually a down time in the commodity and they did not see that down time occur. We were notified in January we were awarded a \$24,990.00 grant by the State Department of Community and Economic Development for the start up cost for containers and education. In March we received literature from the State telling us what we had to do.

Councilwomen Owen met with our trash hauler in April to talk about different programs available. With him being in the borough already for 6 years and for the next 5 years we wanted his view on how recycling works with boroughs he already has in place and how that could help Aldan. Last month Councilwomen Brookes, President Short and Councilwomen Owen got together to design a program for Aldan Borough. We were notified through the contract that a check is on the way in about 8 to 12 weeks. As soon as the check arrives we will put the plan into effect and proceed with caution however we are cautiously optimistic that we will design a program that is right for Aldan and the residents.

Dan Procopio asked the grant money covers the cost of containers and education but does not cover the cost of collection, is that correct. Councilwomen Owen responded that is correct. Dan asked if that would have to be put out for a bid contract for collection of recyclables. Councilwomen Owen explained if it was more than \$10,000.00 it would have to be put out for bid. We will talk to our hauler and see what he sees the figure to be. We can reduce some of those costs by reducing the amount of solid waste we are sending to Delaware County Solid Waste Authority and in the long run may not cost the taxpayers as much as it possible could. Dan asked if they were increasing the tipping fees. Councilwomen Owen responded it is too early they have not made a commitment to anything yet.

HIGHWAY

Councilmen Cosgrove reported there were 3 bids received for our 2011 Road Resurfacing Program. The low bid was from Kehoe Construction, Inc. of Bridgeport PA. for \$115,595.00. The bid has been reviewed by our Borough Engineer's Office and found to be acceptable. Kehoe has not been used in the Borough before but they come highly recommended. The Engineers Office has spoken with various other Municipalities who have used them and come highly recommended. The winning bid is slightly over what we have available to us but we will get together with the Borough Engineer and review line by line to see where we can reduce an intersection or a road piece to get down to the money available to us. Councilmen Cosgrove made a motion to award the 2011 Road Resurfacing Program to Kehoe Construction of Bridgeport, PA for \$115,595.00, seconded by Councilmen Xavier and unanimously approved.

Dan Procopio asked if the award is covered by a grant of \$100,000.00. Councilmen Cosgrove responded yes it is covered by a \$100,000.00 grant and also Liquid Fuel money from Delaware County from last year and this year. Our money available to us is around \$110,000.00 and the bid is for \$115,595.00 but we will come down to the money available to us. We do not have the money in hand but are working with the contractor making the necessary arrangement prior to with the understanding the money is coming from the state and could be another 6 to 8 weeks. Dan asked if the contract is slightly altered does that create a problem with others who bid on the contract. Mr. Close explained the way the Road Program contracts are customarily written is with flexibility written into the contract with the anticipation of budgetary constraints. There is very clear language in the documents that indicate if adjustments are necessary.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilmen Coppola reported he and Mr. Close attended a meeting last Wednesday, conducted by DELCORA. The purpose of the meeting was to get the Boroughs together that are part of DELCORA to explain the negotiation of DELCORA with the City of Philadelphia and updating Act 537 Plan for the Eastern Service Area. The purpose was to explain where the negotiations stand with the City of Philadelphia. There was a long term contract with the city; we send a considerable amount of our sewage from DELCORA to Philadelphia for treatment. That contract is expiring in July of this year and Philadelphia is ready to slam DELCORA with increase costs. DELCORA is looking at some different options we might have to reduce our flow or send our flow into other areas. DELCORA is going to ask next month for a Resolution from all the Boroughs involved to negotiate and come up with a plan. They will investigate all the options and propose a plan. P J added the Act 537 Plan process is the requirement of each Municipality to plan for their sewage needs within their community. Back in 2002 there was a similar sponsorship by DELCORA and the Delaware County Planning Department to update the Act 537 Plan for Aldan and all the Eastern Municipalities in their service area. At the time their main recommendation was address I & I and that was the trigger that got the permanent metering put in place. Because of the re-negotiation with Philadelphia and the serious cost implications it is prompting them to act pro-actively to look at other options and the vehicle that they look at options is in the Act 537 planning. DELCORA is sponsoring this work on behalf of the Municipalities. We basically have to authorize them to work on our behalf and that is what the Resolution would do. They will do this at no cost to us other than us reviewing the documents and one day adopting it as our own. We don't know what the outcome will be at this point but this will start the process and will take a couple years. It took us by surprise, it was just last month we heard about it, we went to a meeting and now it is happening. It is in full motion and a letter may have come today asking us formally to jump on board with a Resolution.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDINGS

Councilmen Baker had nothing to report tonight.

FINANCE

Councilwomen Brookes reported in addition to the \$4,723.00 we received for recycling we also received a donation for the Historical Commission from the Women's Club of Aldan for \$348.90 which closed out their account with a letter from Phyllis Betz who was their President. They wanted to give it to the Historical Commission with the hope they would do something nice for the community. The Historical Commission was thinking of getting a bench with a plaque for Memorial Park. Councilwomen Brookes reported as far as our receipts on our Financial Report this month, the percentage of the Budgeted receipts to date is about 56 % which is 30 % less than we should be at this time of the year. It seems the money for taxes is coming in a little slower.

Councilwomen Brookes wanted to remind everyone the annual Independence Day celebration will take place on Monday, July 4th. The Aldan 4th of July Association is working hard with preparations. Books will be distributed in the next few weeks and volunteers will visit your neighborhood for the annual door to door collection. We ask residents to welcome these collectors. The parade starts at 11:00 and the celebration continues at the field with food, games, novelties, and Ice Cream and some really good hot dogs.

LAW, ORDINANCE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilmen Xavier reported for the month of May 1, 2011 we had 50 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$264,271.48 and there were 39 Mid-Term/Transfer Inspections; there was 1 Plumbing Permits issued with a construction value of \$2,975.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at 7:30 PM.; and Council will meet on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at the Reinl Recreation Building at 8:00 PM.

PRIVELIGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. McBlain wanted to thank Council on behalf of the Aldan Boosters. Council allocated some money along with the Aldan Boosters to purchase new grills for use on the 4th of July. Aldan Boosters paid for half and Council paid for half for to be used on 4th of July and Founders Day.

Mr. McBlain also commented and set the record straight. There was an article or letter to the Editor today going back to the Darby Creek Joint Authority business about the delinquent towns and this was generated from the DCJA. Just so it didn't leave any mis-perception they tried to indicate in there, subsequently, to get a little back time line going, Mr. Duffy reported about the delinquencies from these other towns and this Council took action by introducing a Resolution dealing with that but sequent to that two of the towns started paying on the delinquencies, Lansdowne was almost half a million dollars paid their bill in full after Council brought this to light and Colwyn began paying on their 2010 bill they had not paid at all. Darby at that point had began paying but still are delinquent over 1 million dollars. So to right that there is no delinquency existing, that is not quite correct, there was a delinquency, and Council's actions probably had something to do with these towns paying up the money real quickly. Thank you again Council for the action you took.

It might be uncomfortable for some of the elected leaders in the other towns that they allowed this to go delinquent but Aldan residents should not have to make up for the irresponsible actions of elected officials in other towns. Mr. McBlain wanted to thank Council for the action you took and it did help. President Short thanked Mr. McBlain. President Short did not see the article but would ask the people from Darby Creek if there was nobody in the rears why are two Municipalities are on payment plans. Mr. McBlain commented your idea of a delinquency and my idea of a delinquency and the idea of what a delinquency is to a lawyer for that body is quite different. President Short thanked Mr. McBlain for bring that up.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilmen Coppola 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