

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

May 12, 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 Reindl 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; M. Xavier;  
S. Coppola; J. Cosgrove; R. Baker

Council members absent: T. Owen

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

Officers absent: None

**MINUTES**

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

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Mayor Hopely read a Proclamation dedicating the Month of May to Aldan Townwatch. Townwatch is celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Founded in 1974, Aldan Town watch in its short history has become an institution in our community. Its members unselfishly give of their time, effort and money in helping maintain the tranquility of Aldan. They have logged over 200,000 miles patrolling the streets of Aldan, donated an emergency telephone for the Municipal Building, sponsored CPR courses, Viles for Life, Operation I.D., Emergency Aid Cars for all citizens, funded and supported the "Just Say No" Program in the Aldan Elementary School, donated 2 specially made Police Bicycles to the Borough and played a supporting role in many other activities within our Borough. More importantly, Aldan Townwatch not only views itself as a crime deterrent, but also as another avenue where citizenry of our fine community can get to know each other better. Mayor Hopely commented we applaud you and thank you for your dedication. Herb Hays accepted the Proclamation on behalf of Townwatch. Charlie Duffy wanted to inform residents Townwatch was distributing an information package to everyone in the Borough and is part of the semi-annual collection. Residents have always been generous and have contributed in the past and also included is information on joining Townwatch.

Mayor Hopely wanted to add he mentioned Townwatch had donated Police bicycles and wanted residents to be aware our Bicycles Officers will be out on patrol with special attention to the parks and Providence Village Shopping Center. Residents should call 911 immediately if you see a disorderly group.

Mayor Hopely also wanted to remind residents to fill out a vacation form prior to going on vacation and the police will do their best to check you home while you are away.

President Short introduced the President of the Aldan Booster Association Greg Brutschea who presented the Aldan Police Department with a check for \$300.00 to put towards the Bullet Proof Vest Fund. Chief Coppola responded on behalf of the Police Department Thank You. The Chief also explained we did get a Federal Grant for half of the cost of the vests, so it donations like this that help with the rest. Thank you again to all the Boosters for all you do in Aldan.

### **WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No written correspondence tonight.

### **VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Marie Previti of 22 Walnut Avenue and Ric Russell of 40 Glenwood Avenue were at the meeting tonight to complain about the water problem across the street from 22 Walnut Avenue and behind 40 Glenwood Avenue. Mrs. Previti explained the area has standing, stagnate; smelly water with continuous run off that never goes away and is requesting something be done. Mrs. Previti has lived here for 25 years and it has gotten progressively worse over the last few years. Mrs. Previti called the Borough all winter because of the water run off an ice build up was created at Walnut Avenue and Glenwood Avenue intersection. They did come out and salt continuously. It was a bad winter and we also had a lot of rain. The Borough did spray for misquotes last year so we know there is a problem in that area. Mrs. Previti asked why someone would tell her neighbor to power wash the street. We do clean the gutters but there is nothing we can do about the muck, the mud and the run off and we don't know what to do.

Mr. Russell said his complaint is the same, it is a constant problem since the first snow melt. It did dry up last week because it has not rained lately but with it raining now it is back again. Misquotes are going to be a problem this summer so something needs to be done.

President Short explained he was out there the other day and we have been aware there is a situation there for years. The engineer has been out and we did look it over. President Short did not see any standing water but if the misquotes do become a problem we will address that right away. This was an unusually wet winter with the snow and rain and we piled more snow in the curb cut area to take the snow off the street, which added more water when melting. Some of the solutions brought up to take that possible away were in the tens of thousands of dollars and at this time we did not feel the amount of money that would be spent to get rid of the problem would be justified. If there was standing water that would cause misquotes we would gladly treat that issue and in the winter if the ice issue comes back, that is a safety issue, we would re-address the ice issue again. We feel that because of the excessive amount of snow it made it an unusual year.

Councilmen Cosgrove commented he was the one that said to wash the street and the reason I said that was you have a responsibility of that street, the same if there was any problem at that curb line. Rather than have that sit there, I was just advising you to clean it up. Mr. Russell responded if I power wash the street I am just pushing it down the street to my neighbors on Glenwood Avenue and that is not something I would do. Councilmen Cosgrove explained, that is your property and you have a responsibility for it. You have two choices get rid of it as best you can or leave it there. If I were you I would hose it down, that is all I was saying to you for your own benefit as a temporary fix. Councilmen Cosgrove and Councilwomen Owen met with Mrs. Previti. Councilwomen Owen was going to talk to the Board of Health about the misquote problem, the algae problem and when we were there the algae was gone but running water is a separate problem and that has been there forever. Mr. Russell commented that is causing the algae, misquotes, and the smell. Councilmen Cosgrove said there is something different going on because you told me you lived there for a few years and that was the first time you have seen the algae so something is different. Mr. Russell said yes it has gotten worse. It has been there every year but this is the worst year. President Short explained there are underground streams there causing the problems. The Councilmen commented it is constantly moving so why did the algae build up. Mr. Russell said it slows down to a point where the algae build up. Councilmen Cosgrove said that is what we are looking into and what has to be done about that. Mrs. Previti commented about a drain. President Short said there are no plans at this time; there is no money in the budget to do something like that. Mrs. Previti asked about the pot holes in the street. Councilmen Cosgrove explained the contractors did some of the area but they did not do about 10%. Councilmen Cosgrove explained when he and the engineer looked at the area and explained to make the area level would be above the curb line and the water would not run down to Glenwood Avenue and get to the sewer. We are not sure what the fix is.

Mrs. Previti asked who owns that paper street property. Mr. Seflin explained the abutting property owners own the property.

President Short commented getting back to the original issue if the stagnant water on that property does become an issue with odors and misquotes call immediately and we will address that problem right away.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Hopely gave his report earlier.

**TREASURER**

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 767,094.44	\$ 60,779.24
Receipts for period	\$ 515,394.49	\$
Interest		8.35
Expenditures Prior Month	\$ 437,785.98	\$ 14,910.56
Balance	\$ 844,702.95	\$ 45,877.03

Terry Quinn asked Council's approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$126,139.17 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 Councilmen Baker and unanimously approved.

## **SOLICITOR**

Mr. Seflin reported on the 2008 Tax Delinquent Program. The Chester County Sheriff has levied upon two non resident property owners who have been delinquent. These are the owners of 120 West Providence Road and 108 West Maryland Avenue. 108 West Maryland Avenue has been seized by secured creditors at a Sheriff's Sale, so that property is gone as far as the original owner is concerned. The Chester County Sheriff has levied upon his dwelling or the household contents. Mr. Seflin did receive a phone call today from an attorney in West Chester to try and resolve that matter and we are continuing negotiations. On May 19<sup>th</sup> the Chester County Sheriff has scheduled a sale for Mr. Toth who is the owner of 120 West Providence Road. Mr. Seflin received phone calls and letters today from the person who claims to own that property and live there, so we will be pursuing that and find out where Mr. Toth is residing. The owner of 119 South Woodlawn Avenue lives in Philadelphia and we are waiting for the Philadelphia Sheriff to levy upon that property. We have had contact with both the Sheriff's Offices as well as the Deputy Sheriff who is performing the levy himself. The property at 116 South Sycamore Avenue, Mr. Seflin is waiting to hear from the Constable about the re-institution of the levy and the sale on that property.

Mr. Seflin reported on the Sahan Express litigation, this happened on Election Day when a large tractor trailer destroyed one of our Traffic Signals and took off but with the aid of Officer Kenneth Coppola, Jr. this fellow was apprehended and after we tracked them down in Florissant, Missouri we did receive a check for \$1,631.29 which is the full amount of the damage we paid to have that traffic signal replaced as well as all our court costs.

Dan Procopio asked about 108 West Maryland Avenue being seized did we have liens on the property and were they paid. Mr. Seflin responded no because there was no profit on the property.

John McBlain asked when the Mortgage Company and we presume they will not move somebody in the property, but when they sell the property we would then get paid our lien at the time of our sale. Mr. Seflin is hoping to negotiate a settlement with the attorney for the owner.

## **ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported our focus this month was on our sewer projects. We are making preparations for the up coming Lobbs Run Phase I Project, there is a bit of a delay on the production and delivery of the pipe for the project. It is a little bit of a specialty order and it is backed up but will be produced the week of May 18<sup>th</sup> based on the latest schedule and they will be ready to start just after Memorial Day. The size of the pipe is very important to the design. We could have let them bring in a more available pipe that is smaller but we want this piece of pipe to last for 50 to 100 years and to sacrifice each inch could only hurt us later on. Since this is a long term project it is worth it to wait a couple of week or a month whatever it takes to get this pipe in there so we can maximize the capacity we are going to push through the existing interceptor.

Mr. Close reported on the Lobbs Run Phase II Project. We are awaiting a decision on the funding approval from our CDBG grant application request and we expect to hear something this month or early next month. We are looking at our conceptual design and analysis for the Phase II portion of Lobbs Run.

Dan Procopio asked if Mr. Close was going to make a statement on the Paper Street issue. President Short commented he himself has dealt with two different engineers; P J Close from Kelly/Close Engineers and Chester Valley being the other. After addressing this matter two different times with two different engineers they both coming up with the same conclusions of what it would cost and to get that to be a dry area. Mr. Seflin added another engineer Herb McCumby looked at this area in 1991. After review of the area also came to the same conclusion treat the symptoms because the root cause is not a Borough problem because it is not Borough property, it belongs to the abutting property owners. As President Short explained if there is a bug problem the Borough can go in and abate that nuisance under various health law and ordinances.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

John McBlain reported last month they looked at a draft of an Ordinance that dealt with Street Openings and requirement for Companies, such as the Water Company, that do street openings and beefing up those requirements for what they do in order to repair the streets. President Short commented would this be to make the repair larger than we require now. Mr. McBlain explained yes it would require them to do a larger area with less seams and would be more beneficial to the Borough.

### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Councilwoman Brookes will report for the Historical Commission during her regular report.

### **HIGHWAY**

Councilmen Cosgrove reported on an up date to the snow reimbursement situation from the Federal Government. Since last month the President has signed off on the snow fall from February 5 – 11 as a disaster and accordingly there would be funds. Delaware County had a 72 hour window for which they would be reimbursed vs. 48 hours for other Counties. Since there were two snow falls February 5, 6, 7 and 9, 10, 11, you could not pick out the best of each, it had to be continuous. We chose the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 11<sup>th</sup> because we spent more for that clean up. In the last two weeks we have had two 2 hour meetings, 8 forms, and the next part of the process is an audit of the forms turned in then the pay back would approximately 75%. If they accept our numbers the payback to us would be about \$13,500.00 in about 3 to 4 months.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilmen Coppola had nothing new to report tonight.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/ HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Councilwoman Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's report for the month of April. Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 4 calls in the Borough during the month of April, 2010. During the month of April, 2010 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 27 calls in the Borough of Aldan.

Councilwoman Brookes also wanted to remind residents if you are going away please let the Police Department know and they will be glad to check on your house to make sure everything is OK. Chief Coppola did receive a note from a resident, Thank you so much for the recent report inspecting my property while I was traveling in April. I appreciate this service very much and the good work your department does.

Councilwoman Brookes reported for the Historical Commission. Last month they met with Bob Reardon and Shawn Brewer from the Rec Board and they are going to be helping us with the LED lighting of the Trolley Stop and our maintenance at Memorial Park.

**ADMINISTRATIVE and BUILDINGS**

Councilmen Baker had nothing new to report tonight.

**FINANCE**

Councilmen Xavier reported he and Mrs. Quinn have been watching and reviewing the budgets performance as we go through the year, outside of the winter we had, most of the categories are performing as they should and the expenses are in line.

Dan Procopio asked what the amount in the reserve fund. Councilmen Xavier responded just about \$800,000.00. Dan also asked if the Borough procured the loan for the purchase of the Swim Club. President Short explained he will be meeting with the Delaware Valley Regional Finance on Monday to discuss the loan. From the quotes we received they seem to be the most reasonable.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councilwoman Owen was not at the meeting tonight but did send in a report.

The Board of Health met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and letter will be going out to residents with pools to notify them of upcoming annual pool inspections for required safety features. Intercommunity Health will soon be having their quarterly meeting. A representative from Dept of Environmental Protection usually attends to announce plans for mosquito surveillance and control in upcoming summer weather. A presentation of the Public Health Survey of Delaware County by Johns Hopkins University is scheduled tonight at the Government Center in Media. A copy of the full report will be available in the Municipal Building after tonight.

Recycling, due to an overflow within the waste paper market, Paper Mills have recently lowered their pricing on most grades of wastepaper. We have been notified by our paper recycler that we will be getting a rebate for paper at a more respectable rate than the past several months, however as the market fluctuates the rebates will change accordingly.

Trash Collections, Councilwomen Owen met with the operations manager and president for our annual meeting to discuss several topics including service and scheduled times in the borough. Bulk Trash pick up will be Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> for the West side of the borough from Oak Avenue to West of Clifton Avenue. Due to the incinerator's operating schedule, the WILL be the usual trash collection on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. We are ensured there will be no interference with the Memorial Service at the monument on Providence Road.

### **LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING**

President Short reported for the month of April we had 32 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$94,325.10; there were 36 Mid-Term/Transfer Inspections; and 1 Plumbing Permit issued with a construction value of \$200.00.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no unfinished business this month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Short reported Caucus will be Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building at 7:30 P.M.; and Council will meet on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 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 Councilwomen Brookes seconded by Councilmen Coppola and unanimously, approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

### **ATTEST**

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MARIE V. KAUT  
Borough Secretary