

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

November 11, 2009

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; M. Xavier; S. Coppola

T. Owen; J. Cosgrove; R. Baker

Council members absent: None

Officers present: J. Hopely, Mayor; T. Quinn, Treasurer

G. Seflin, Solicitor; G. Kaut, Secretary

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by P. Brookes seconded by T. Owen the minutes from the October 14, 2009, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

There was no verbal correspondence tonight.

-1-

No. 5272

President Short then turned the meeting over to Councilwoman Brookes. We are happy to have members from the Historical Commission as well as a local artist, Bill Ressler with us tonight. Mr. Ressler is making a presentation to the Historical Commission. Councilwoman Brookes on behalf of the Historical Commission and Borough Council we would like to thank Mr. Ressler for his generous gift and his ongoing support for the Historical Commission throughout the years. Mr. Ressler has been a patron of the Commission since it's conception and working with the members and sketching out the blueprints of our Memorial Park as well as displaying his work at every Founders Day. The Historical Commission is not the only Borough Organization that has benefited from Mr. Ressler's generosity. Last fall he allowed the 4th of July Association to use his art to print note cards as a fundraiser for are annual celebration and we can always count on his participation on that day. We thank you very, very much. Councilwoman Brookes introduced members of the Historical Commission; Chairperson, Joyce Guinta, Barbara Jean Price, Dorie Brossette, and Paul Krueger. Mr. Ressler commented in appreciation for all the hard work from the Historical Commission he presented them with a painting call the Center of Town Area from the early nineteen thirties.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

MAYOR

Mayor Hopely in talking with the Chief commented that incidents of behavior in the park have diminished during the summer and fall and have been quiet. This has been attributed to the passing of the Park Ordinance change in time. Also Mayor Hopely has brought up before to remind citizens to call immediately when they see something suspicious or a disorderly group do not wait a week to tell us. The response on that has been very good and getting a lot of calls from the citizens. Also the bicycle patrols were out checking the areas so we did have a very quiet time. Mayor Hopely also praised the Police force for the fine job they do. President Short commented it goes back to the Chief who has to be commended for setting up the schedule so we have more officers on during busy times and the extra officers we added when things started to happen.

TREASURER

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer's Report:

General Fund State Highway Fund

Balance of cash on hand \$ 830,819.17 \$ 13,742.23

Receipts for period 60,011.65 2.95

Expenditures Prior Month 173,566.48 7,241.92

Balance \$ 717,264.34 \$ 6,503.26

Terry Quinn asked Council's approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$119,658.12 and from the State Highway Fund \$6,500.00 M. 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 R. Baker and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported the 2008 Tax Delinquency Program is moving on. Mr. Seflin was advised that on October 29, 2009 we received a judgment against the property owner of 116 S Sycamore Avenue for \$1401.57 those folks have

30 days to satisfy that judgment or after that time we can commence execution proceedings. The District Justice did continue 6 other hearings until Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 1:00 PM in District Court at 1550 Garrett Rd. Upper Darby. One of the hearings has paid in the interim where there was a sale of a property at 16 S Linden Avenue and Mrs. Seflin did receive a check for \$1,401.57. Of the 5 that are left Mr. Seflin was contacted today that one of the property owners will have Money Orders tomorrow in the amount of \$1,427.57. We will then be down to 4 hearings, which is about normal.

Mr. Seflin reported on Trash Collection that he was hand delivered yesterday a Continuation Certificate of the Performance Bond for Suburban Waste Services that is good from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2011.

Mr. Seflin did have conversations this week with Councilmen Cosgrove regarding the recently approved Winter Service Agreement and did provide the Councilmen with a contract that will be presented to Phillips Enterprise, Inc., who was the low bidder for a two year contract from December, 2009 through the winter season ending in April, 2011, to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Seflin reported that we have prepared and presented to Council a Resolution to be considered this evening which up dates the Borough's Right to Know Regulations, now known as the PA Open Records Law. The way our procedures are set up is not going to differ significantly, the law has changed significantly and the designated fees that we can charge for photo copies have change but basically it is the same type of set up. If someone provides us with written notification the Borough has 5 days to respond but the Borough can invoke a 30 day extension, 30 days from the original date, in which to answer and gives us time to make sure the records requested are in fact Public Records. The law is relative clear and we don't recite that in our Regulation we use the definition of what is a public record and what is set forth in this very lengthy statute. It does give our Opens Records Official, which you are required to have, and Mr. Seflin ample reference material to see what is and is not public record. If enacted by Borough Council this will bring us completely up to date and will allow us to act in a responsible and legal manor to respond to Right to Know Requests.

Mr. Ceci asked why the page for the Right to Know on the Web site was under construction. The reason for the blank page and was under construction was this had not been enacted by Borough Council when the Web site was created but we will start to get that in there as soon as possible if approved by Council tonight. Mr. Seflin explained the proposal he drafted is a summery of the Regulations, which hopefully will be on our web site so this will be even simpler explanation and there is the Regulations themselves and if somebody is really interested they could go look at the statute itself.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported relative to our Lobbs Run Interceptor Project; we have completed the plan and the contract documents for the rehabilitation of the Phase 1 portion of the interceptor.

We received approval from the County on November 4, 2009 for the contact document and the plans and will be available for any questions during the Public Works report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported there will be no trash collection on Thursday, November 26, 2009, Thanksgiving Day but trash will be collected on Friday, the following day. Councilwoman Owen asked if residents would consider dividing up the amount of bags put out which allows the hauler to get through the Borough in a timely fashion.

Councilwoman Owen tries to have some type of Public Health presentation each year. Two years ago the Medicare Plan had outsourced its Prescription Drug Coverage and renamed it Medicare Part B. Councilwoman Owen explained residents received postcards in the mail and this has to do with Medicare Part B plan. Many insurance companies that have been identified as Part B insurance carriers offered many policies with many different premiums and many different types of coverage. Some of the insured persons found that their meds were not covered or they were only going to be considered covered after filing other alternatives. Subscribers of these insurance policies were not happy with that plan. Fortunately Open Enrollment occurs annually from November 15 to December 31. It allows persons to make any changes in their plans that they would like to do so at that time. Anticipating that our residents have questions and concerns about the plan they currently have Councilwoman Owen has invited the coordinator from the Delaware County Branch of the State Health Insurance Counseling Program to the Borough on Thursday, November 19 to talk to our residents about this plan and what changes they can make and what opportunities are out there for them. The coordinator is going to discuss all of the changes in the Part B plan and the insurance policies that currently exist and exist for the next year. At the inception two year ago there were about 25 insurance plans since then it has scaled down quite a bit. As of last week drug stores had not received much information from those insurance companies. There has been a delay even for this coming year getting that information out to people that are going to be effected. We will also discuss the coverage gap that is a phase that occurs after paying an annual deductible and a co-pay limit that puts a person in a phase where their drugs are no longer covered until they reach a different threshold of medication coverage. Usually that phase requires the person to pay another \$2,500.00 of out of pocket cost. Many persons that are affected by that are those that are on many different medications or expensive medications, such as insulin or chemotherapy. This can happen every year. If a person reaches their threshold this year in September or October it starts over in January. The final thing going to be discussed is the insurance plan under Independence Blue Cross whose coverage is going to end December 31, 2009. Subscribers have been notified of the plan if they happen to be in it and they can enroll in a new plan however they do have to go through the actual enrollment phase and if they don't they will have no coverage. Councilwoman Owen thinks it is an important time to look at this kind of coverage that is out there for persons with Medicare not just because it is an enrollment phase but we have many adults who are baby boomers and approaching retirement age and they are going to be looking at insurance options that are available to them. Many have family members who are seniors or help senior citizens weed through the jargon in the literature and help them make decisions.

Do to economic times there may be persons that have to take a look at the type of insurance plans they have and the premiums may be too much and maybe make a change to a Federal Plan. The person coming out is Kim Andrews. Ms. Andrews office is at the Senior Community Center on the campus of Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital located above Friendship Circle. Friendship's Circle director is Christine Helmandollar and Kim comes with high regards from Christine. Many from Friendship Circle have used Kim's services and has the technology in her office, which is free of charge to anyone who wants to come and take a look at what plans are available for better coverage plan. We hope the residents come out and take benefit of this meeting. Everybody in the borough received one of the cards the information will be on the web site and also on our new sign in front of the Municipal Building. The meeting will be held Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 in the Rec Building.

HIGHWAY

Councilmen Cosgrove reported recently we had reason to review the school zone that are established by placing a yellow flashing light on Woodlawn Avenue, Providence Road and Clifton Avenue. By the positions they are in allows traffic moving in opposite direction on all three of those streets to travel at different speeds. We met with PennDot and we reviewed a lot of options including spending thousands and thousands of dollars to move those flashing yellow lights to the other side of the intersection. One of the options was to install signs that create and lengthen the School Zone by putting up a School Zone 15 MPH the day and the time at the 4 locations on East and West Providence Road; South Woodlawn, South Clifton Avenue and two other areas which are not covered now, East and West Wayne Avenue along with the school time when the School Zone is in effect. Even though there are traffic lights there and crossing guards we think the additional signage will provide another level of safety for the kids crossing at school.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilmen Coppola reported we had a problem on Sycamore Avenue with a sink hole and it turned out to be an Aldan Borough Sewer problem. This was bid out by our Engineer, who solicited telephone bids, providing the specs for the contractors, and Phillips Enterprise was the winner of the bid and will start the work on Monday. The sewer was in bad shape and should be completed for the most part that week.

Councilmen Coppola explained that Aldan Borough Council was able to secure a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$275,000.00 with the help of some County Officials, elected and non-elected officials, and we are using the money to slip line the Lobbs Run sewer line which is a major sewer artery in town (the area starts around the No Name Store and proceeds down Maryland Avenue along the Swim Club). The Engineer has prepared all the documents necessary. Councilmen Coppola made a motion to authorize the Engineer to proceed with the advertisement for Phase 1 of the Lobbs Run Interceptor Rehab Project, seconded by R. Baker and unanimously approved. This was the 2009 CDBG grant money we are spending.

Councilmen Coppola reported the Engineer has received the application for the 2010 CDBG grant and we hope to pick up some more money to proceed with Phase II portion of the Lobbs Run Project. Councilmen Coppola made a motion to authorize the Engineer to proceed with the application for the CDBG grant for 2010 for continuing the Lobbs Run Interceptor Project Phase II portion, seconded by

P. Brookes and unanimously approved.

President Short explained the first part of the project will do half or a little bit more of the entire project. Councilmen Coppola reported the project will start at the No Name Store down Maryland Avenue where the sewer line crosses under Maryland Avenue at the entrance to the Aldan Swim Club and this is roughly half of the sewer line. If we can secure some more money we would be able to complete that project. The immediate help to the Borough would be it would stop the infiltration of ground water which now we are being charged by metering and the ground water now effects us because we are paying for that to be processed. This work would have an immediate effect on reducing our rates. Councilmen Coppola commented we will have an immediate savings as soon as the slip lining is complete and anything we can do to stop that infiltration into our sewer system is going to save us money. We have already realized a terrific saving through some of the work that has already been completed in town and residents will see that in the reduction in the sewer rent in the coming year.

Dan Procopio asked what the winning bid price for the work on Sycamore Avenue. Councilmen Coppola announced the low bid was \$9,485.00 from Phillips Enterprise. Dan asked could the sewer breakage have been the cause of the few houses that had a back up earlier in the year. Councilmen Coppola answered no we don't believe so, this was a slow progression of a deteriorating line and sinking of the sewer line, there was no obstruction but simply water coming down from the street level and entering our sewer from the top.

Dan Procopio also asked is there a dollar amount we are requesting for the 2010 CDBG grant. Mr. Close answered we are requesting the same amount of \$275,000.00 or in that range. It will be up to their discretion how much and since this year we are doing a little more than half that should cover the balance and possible some of the tributary sewers that are also linking into the interceptor.

Dan asked if we have received the latest sewer rental from the Darby Creek Joint Authority for the coming year. Councilmen Coppola responded those figures are not in yet. Charlie Duffy commented the preliminary budget for Darby Creek Joint Authority will be presented next Wednesday at the monthly meeting in Springfield. Councilmen Coppola said we should see considerable savings when those figures come out.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Councilwoman Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's report for October, Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to 10 calls in the Borough during the month of October, 2009. During the month of October, 2009 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 32 calls in the Borough of Aldan. The Fire Marshal reported Fire Prevention Week was October 5 thru October 11, 2009, Collingdale Fire Company #1 & 2 visited Aldan Elementary School and a Presentation was made to the students on fire safety and an inspection was made of school property.

-6-

No. 5277

Fire Marshal Garrity also commented as we approach the winter months, he is asking all residents to have their heaters serviced and cleaned, this season always brings an increase in alarms due to faulty/dirty heaters and fire places, he is also asking all residents to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Councilwoman Brookes also commented the Historical Commission will be meeting next week to decorate the Trolley Stop and getting ready for the Tree Lighting on December 5, 2009.

ADMINISTRATIVE and BUILDINGS

Councilmen Baker made a motion to accept Resolution 2009-3, Policies and Procedures for the receipt and response to requests pursuant to the Pennsylvania Open Records Law, seconded by S. Coppola and unanimously approved.

Councilmen Baker also reported we trimmed the trees behind the Reinl Building so they also trimmed all the trees along the property line.

Dan Procipio was up at the Reinl Building and noticed the phone line looked like it was hanging low. Councilmen Baker said he would go check that out.

FINANCE

Councilmen Xavier presented the 2010 Aldan Borough Preliminary Budget for adoption. This coming year the residents will see a savings of approximately \$47.00 per household. This year's preliminary budget will have a modest tax increase of 3% which equates to approximately \$15.00 per household but this is just an estimate. This in conjunction with the expected decrease of sewer rental fees will still result in an estimated savings of \$47.00. This is a good news thing and we are happy to put it out there. This budget will enable us to continue the great services that we have in Aldan and as we go through the month of November and get closer to the final budget we are still waiting for the Tax Assessment to come, DELCORA'S final budget and any other bill coming in that sometimes things happen that do not get budgeted for. At this time Councilmen Xavier presented the Preliminary Budget for adoption and will be available for inspection for the next 10 days. Councilmen Xavier made a motion to adopt the 2010 Preliminary Budget, seconded by T. Owen and unanimously approved.

Dan Procopio asked if the trash disposal fees are due to increase approximately from \$15.00 per ton to \$23.45 per ton.

Mr. Seflin commented the Final Budget will be considered at the Council Meeting in December.

-7-

No. 5278

LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING

President Short reported during the month of October, 2009 there were 32 transfer and mid-term inspections performed by our Residential Inspector; there were a total of 25 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$74,987.00; there were 2 plumbing permits with a construction value of \$10,000.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business this month.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short announced that Caucus will be Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building; and Council will meet on Wednesday, December 9 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in an executive session and regular session at 8:00 p.m. at the William Reintl Recreation Center.

PRIVELIGE OF THE FLOOR

Mike Ceci wanted to congratulate Mr. President and former opponent for running a very clean campaign. Mike wanted to offer congratulations to the Democratic Candidates and both sides played a very clean campaign. Mike said he hopes it was good for the town and basically showed we were able to challenge each other while we continue to respect each other. Mike said that one thing he has always respected is the amount of time that many of you have spent maintaining the town and the fact we don't currently have a Borough Manager is obviously a big part that adds additional work hours and that is commendable. If there is one quality that typifies Aldan is that we know how to work together to get stuff done. Mike said he looks forward to working together with this council for the betterment of this town and one immediate task I would like to help out with would be to actively to explore options for expanding our recycling program to include curbside recycling pick up. Even though Aldan is exempt from recycling because of the small population size and from conversations with numerous residents found that this is an issue that people care about. If we could find an affordable way to do this, Mike thinks we owe it to our residents to provide this service. Knowing the amount of time Council puts in already Mike wanted to formerly offer his assistance to Council to research the options and develop a possible strategy that might allow us to join other Municipalities that provide recycling pick up program for our residents. President Short commented that this is something that Councilwoman Owen is constantly looking at and lets us know what things cost. The moment it becomes feasible for the Borough to enter into curbside recycling Councilwoman Owen will inform Council. Any input you have Councilwoman Owen would be glad to hear it. Mike asked Councilwoman Owen if they could meet before the next Council Meeting but Councilwoman Owen responded lets start fresh in the new year.

Dan Procopio wanted to remind everyone the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 6:30 PM at Aldan Historical Park. We will sing carols with the Mummers' Chorus of Philadelphia, enjoy hot apple cider, visit with Santa and visit the Historical Museum Display.

Dan also reminded residents the Boy Scouts will be collecting can good on Saturday, November 21, 2009.

Councilwoman Owen also wanted to thank the Boy Scout who graciously agreed to move up their scheduled delivery of their post cards about the can goods collection to accommodate the post cards going out for the presentation by Kim Andrews so it did not incur any postage cost to the borough and handed our post cards along with the Scouts can good collection card.

Paul Kruger asked if there was anything new on the Aldan Swim Club deal. President Short commented not that we can talk about yet. Mr. Seflin responded it is still under negotiation and not ready for public comment.

Derek Woodward asked if the Reorganization Meeting was open to the public and when is this meeting. Mr. Seflin said it is a million percent open to the public and the date is Monday, January 4, 2010.

Charlie Duffy wanted to comment it is always encouraging to see young people attending a Council Meeting. We need more young people to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by S. Coppola seconded by R. Baker and approved unanimously, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT

Borough Secretary