

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

October 19, 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

Council members absent: R. Baker

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 September 9, 2009, Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

President Short then turned the meeting over to Mayor Hopely. Mayor Hopely presented Citizenship Awards to businesses in Aldan and surrounding areas who contributed to our Founders/Safety Day. Mayor Hopely then presented awards to Cocco's Pizza, Giant Food Store, Wawa Food Market, Bernie's Pretzels, and Phillips Enterprise. Mayor Hopely also presented awards to Aldan Police Department and Aldan Historical Commission. All were recognized for their actions that represent the highest degree of spirit, integrity and enthusiasm of our citizenry. Thank you again for all you do on behalf of the citizens of Aldan.

Mayor Hopely also read a Proclamation that October is hereby set aside as the Aldan Booster Month.

-1-

No. 5263

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

No written correspondence tonight.

VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE

There was no verbal correspondence tonight.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

MAYOR

Mayor Hopely gave his report earlier this evening.

TREASURER

Terry Quinn read the Treasurer's Report:

General Fund State Highway Fund

Balance of cash on hand \$ 933,076.81 \$ 20,979.88

Receipts for period 114,019.38 4.27

Expenditures Prior Month 216,277.02 7,241.92

Balance \$ 830,819.17 \$ 13,742.23

Terry Quinn asked Council's approval this evening for checks from the General Fund totaling \$173,566.48 and from the State Highway Fund \$7,241.92 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 S. Coppola and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. Seflin reported the 2008 Tax Delinquency Program is moving on. Mr. Seflin was advised by the Court last week that three of the hearings scheduled for October 29, 2009 at 1:00 PM have been moved to Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 1:00 PM. All of these hearings mentioned are at the District Justice Court at 1550 Garrett Road, Upper Darby. Those three needed service by Constable with two of them out of the County, we had to get another Constable to serve them and this was Jason Haley. Constable Haley has already served one and the other one should be by the end of this week. The other fellow is out in Chester County and hopes to serve that by sometime next week. Five other hearings scheduled for October 29, 2009 are still scheduled for 1:00 PM at the same location. Mr. Seflin will report to Council next month on the results of those hearings. Other information on our 2008 Delinquency Program last month we concluded one payment plan and we discharged the lien on the property.

There is another property on a payment plan currently and has one final payment and will report on that next month and hope it will also be a delinquency discharge. We do have one delinquency on Birchwood Road where the principal has been paid but because they breached the plan there are additional penalties, interest and late fees due. There balance now is \$314.30. Mr. Seflin did correspond with these folks and indicated to them what was due and with Council's direction we are not going to remove the Municipal lien on that property nor will they be permitted to enter into any further payment plans next year or in the future because of their actions.

Mr. Seflin also reported on another outstanding municipal lien for an exigent circumstance and public nescience that occurred on August 22, 2009 where a tree limb fell onto North Elm Avenue and created a safety hazard. We did hire a contractor to remove the tree from the street. The property owners have been some what reluctant to pay for the down tree. Mrs. Kaut did notify them in writing about the bill due and Mr. Seflin also notified them and advised them if the matter is not resolved within 30 days we will file a lien against them.

Mr. Seflin reported we are still working with the Law, Ordinance and Building Committee on the Right to Know Open Records Regulations and Procedures. Because of the complexity of the underling statues this has been a long process and we are about 99% done. We hope this will be ready for consideration for next month.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported relative to our Lobbs Run Interceptor Project; we are proceeding with plans, specifications, and bid documents on the Phase 1 portion of that project. We expect to submit those documents to the County for their approval by mid November and then we will look to advertise in December with bid opening in January and start of construction March or April 2010. Mr. Close will keep Council posted on the project.

Mr. Close reported on the 2009 Road Program which has been completed and we did receive approval for our final completion report from Penn Dot on October 2, 2009. This allows the County to release our Annual County Aid Grant for approximately \$5,500.00. This is the same amount every year that goes towards our Road Program.

Dan Procopio asked about what the scaled down version of the Lobbs Run Project will be. Mr. Close responded as part of the design we are looking at different methods to rehabilitate the interceptor but because we were unsuccessful in getting the H2O PA Grant we have been coordinating with the County and they suggested that we Phase the project. Do a portion of the interceptor, as much as we can do with the \$275,000.00 that we do have this year. Based on our projections right now it is about a 3,000 foot interceptor, we think we will be able to do anywhere between 1,200 to 1,600 feet of the interceptor in the first phase. Once that is done the County said we can apply again, if the Borough so chooses, to make that a project in an upcoming application for the balance of the interceptor.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilwoman Owen reported the Board of Health met on Monday, August 5, 2009 and the Hot Topic at this time is the Seasonal Flu Season. The Tinicum Fire Company hosted a free vaccine clinic on October 1st and 2nd and it went wonderfully. They had 4 hour increments and it is a drive through set up and they gave out 1,200 vaccines in 8 hours. At the present time with H1N1, Swine Flu, the state has dispersed the first shipment of the vaccine however it has not reached any of the providers at this point even the retail pharmacies have not received the vaccine however they should be receiving the vaccine soon and that will be available for consumers to receive from their health care provider. There is going to be another free vaccine clinic on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at the Middletown Fire Company. This is sponsored by Delaware County and the local hospitals.

Councilwoman Owen reported the monthly meetings for Board of Health will be changing to the first Monday of every Month.

Councilwoman Owen also reported on the 2008 Recycling Performance Grant application was completed and submitted to the state. The state has confirmed they have received it and the outcome will be in several months and hopefully it will be in a nice size check. Some of the totals for 2008 were: the residential tons that were collected with glass, paper and aluminum cans was 88.8 tons and that is about 20 tons less than we collected in 2007; for commercial ton from our businesses was 567.7 tons which was an increase of 72 tons from 2007; the total tonnage was 571.3 tons which is overall 43 tons better than the previous year. If you are doing quick math those numbers do not add up because there is a deficit from residual that has to be taken off of the total. If there is anything other than the items that are allowed to be recycled contained in those collections we must extract that number from the calculated bulk numbers. Unless we can prove there was no percentage in residuals we have to claim 15%. In 2008 we did get a rebate from our paper vendor, Accurate Recycling so for 7 months last year we received checks instead of bills and profited \$858.00. For 2007 although we received \$5,400.00 and now we have 43 more tons for 2008 we hope the money will reflect the increase.

Mike Ceci asked if there is any mention of an actual pick up recycling program. Councilwoman Owen responded that last year around this time when I announced the application was submitted I invited interested persons to help form a committee to help take a look at the feasibility of having a curb side recycling program. Remember the size of our Borough it doesn't take much to take recycling to the curb but also doesn't take much more than a few extra steps or a short ride past one of our recycling containers to deposit into one of the bins that we already provide for our residents. We are not required to have mandatory recycling in this Borough. Our resident population is less than 5,000 and that is the ear mark for mandatory recycling. Other Boroughs are required to recycle but we opt not to at this point in time because we would have to consider if we would need to increase trash fee to do this or have a tax increase if we implemented recycling and that would be a burden on our residents. This Borough had a recycling

program back in the nineties. We entered into a contract with a hauler and in the beginning of the contract the market was very good then the market turned around, just like we have seen recently, and we ended up getting bills that were very, very high. Fortunately we had a hauler who was sympatric to the situation we were in and relieved us from that contract.

-4-

No. 5266

That is why we went back to the drop off box. We have had discussions with our hauler and discussions with the Recycling Coordinator at Solid Waste Authority over the past several months. Last year they were paying good numbers out at Blue Mountain but this year because of the market doing the turn around the haulers have had to pay and it has been a situation where we really had to do our homework and look at whether or not it is the right thing to do for our residents here in this borough. At this point in time we have drop off recycling for anybody that is interested and committed to doing recycling. We provide the dumpster that is behind the Elementary School, we have aluminum can recycle once a month and we have the glass drop off bins behind Giant Market. These are areas that our residents pass through at least on a weekly basis and it cost them absolutely nothing. Except once a year we benefiting from getting some money back from the recycling grant when we submit this application. For our seniors who don't have the ability to go out and drop things off we will provide that for them. We can pick their recycling up and drop it off at the designated spot. Mr. Ceci asked who does that for them. Councilwoman Owen responded they can make a call to the Borough building we have a person on site everyday and has the Borough truck and would drop off their recycling. Mr. Ceci asked if there was any intention of expanding to include plastic. Councilwoman Owen said she talked with Sue Cordes from the County and she said recycling plastic is not as easy as it sounds. There is a rule of thumb; if the neck of the container is smaller than the base of the container it is recyclable. At the present time the Borough doesn't offer a recycling container but Waste Management will collect all plastics from any resident who wants to drop it off and Waste Management is very close to Aldan. Mr. Ceci asked at this point in time there is no intention of exploring the possibility of any kind of recycling. President Short said "That is not what she said". Councilwoman Owen is constantly exploring these things. We are forever considering recycling, what it would cost and at the present time for Aldan to go through another curb side pick up. Right now we spend approximately \$200,000.00 a year for twice a week pick up, to have the hauler come around a third time and after all the residents would purchase the containers to put the recyclables in, it would cost the Borough another \$100,000.00 to have it picked up. Where any good that was done by the grant money that came in will be far lost in a curb side recycling. The way the residents have responded to actually dropping the recyclables off at the school, to the Boy Scouts collecting the aluminum and at Giant, this is Community spirit that is part of the town for a long time. To charge the residents for something they can do voluntarily it would not be a very good idea. Mr. McBlain commented the Borough did do a curb side paper recycling program in the late nineties. At the time it was very attractive because at the time we thought it to be self sustained. What you have to pay a contractor to come out to do once a week to come out and pick it up would be off set by what would be paid by the recycling. This worked for about 6 to 9 months and then the bottom dropped out of the market and we were left with a stiff bill but thankfully we were able to work with the contractor and get out of it as Councilwoman Owen reported. That was a down side but we certainly want to be responsible and do the right thing but the idea that it would prevent it to be self sustained over the years. The first time around when we attempted this it was Fool's Gold to think we could pay for it. If you go into this you have to go into it with the expectation it will be an expensive cost. The purchase of bins for every resident which is almost 1,800 bins which is something you have to consider. If you go into this there may be years you could have a tremendous cost. The price to pay to dispose of recyclables is greater than the cost of disposal of trash. Councilwoman Owen commented at the present time we are paying \$15.90 to dispose of our trash and the market for recyclables is \$28.00.

Charlie Duffy also commented back in nineteen eighties into the nineties we had twice a month newspaper pick up and we were making a slight profit and it cost us about \$9,600.00 a year, four hundred each pick up.

Then the market changed and after about 4 or 5 years we started to lose a lot of money so we had to eliminate the pick ups but we did encourage the residents to bring the papers to a centralized area, and we had the igloos in place for the glass and bottles. This was just not cost effective and too many towns got involved and the price of newspaper did a nose dive down.

HIGHWAY

Councilmen Cosgrove reported on the LED lights. As a result of a review by our contractor who reviews the Borough at least once a year for light outages, traffic, signal conditions, line painting and other PennDot conditions. This year he advised us that we had two traffic lights that need to be replaced. Not the bulbs but the lights. That took us to a review of what kind of bulbs we are going to put in there; LED vs. Incandescent. The Borough studied LED lights several years ago and at that time decided not to go with LED bulbs because the cost was prohibited. This was put on the back burner and now at this time it is not cost prohibited but cost effective. We looked at the number of lights in town, the cost and there are a lot of different variables that go into our calculating and cost of replacement. The savings are terrific along with the wattage; the wattage for a 12" red LED light goes from 150 watts to 11.8 watts and that is a tremendous amount of reduction of energy usage and accompanies in cost comes with that as well. If you just look at the dollar cost of electricity for incandescent bulbs vs. LED the savings is about 90% but the effective bill reduction is probably about 70% because we lose some benefits of using a lot of electricity. There are some hurdles with PECO, if you use **X** number of kilowatt hours the price goes from **A** to **B** and we would probably never get to **B** any longer because our wattage consumption would be low. We looked at all the lights in town, the cost associated with doing that and that brings us to a few different choices. We could do the whole town which would cost **X** but that is probably more than we have at our disposal; **Y** would be to do some intersection or some piece of the pie. The other would be to get a grant to do the whole thing. All of these things are up in the air of how we are going to do this but we are going to do it. We will start and maybe get finished quickly or maybe it will take a few years. It is cost effective and the payback for the whole town, red, green but we would not do yellow because yellow is only on 2% of the time and the payback is not there. But if we did every one of the 251 red and green bulbs in town the payback is 3.1 years. So in 3 ½ years not only are we doing something for the planet but we are making money. Just on the traffic lights somewhere around \$5,000.00 a year once the payback period is over. This is a win, win situation the price is now right, the technology is available so we are going to do it the how needs to be worked out but we are going to do it.

Mr. Cosgrove also reported on the Winter Service Contract. The contract with our previous contractor of the previous 5 years is up. We did advertise for two weeks, we received three bids, they were opened at Caucus but were not able to make a decision then because the format in which the bidders gave us the bid was not apples and apples. In one case a bidder said trucks and another said a ton truck and a ton and a half truck were two different prices, so we spent the last week ironing that out. We now have all the numbers and the result is we do have a low cost bidder. Councilmen Cosgrove made a motion to award Phillips Enterprise, Inc. of Aldan a two year contract for the 2009/ 2010 and 2010/2011 season, seconded by M. Xavier and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilmen Coppola reported as everyone is aware we have had tremendous increases in our sewer rents over the past few years. Due to the diligence of Council and our Engineer Firm, Kelly/Close, we have been able to identify some of the problems in town that have contributed to these increases. Right now we are projecting a decrease for next year in our sewer rent and a savings for what we have recovered so far for about \$62.00 per household. That figure may change as the year goes on and we receive new figures from DELCORA and that will still have to be worked out later in the year. There also may be an increase in DELCORA fees for next year but they could also decrease but we don't know that yet. Whatever happens with DELCORA, if there is an increase our decrease would offset that increase in that amount. We will announce those figures later in the year as they become clearer to us. This is good news for the residents and at least we are seeing some savings and recognizing some decreases in taxes and that is rare. President Short commented that comes from Councilmen Coppola's committee and Kelly/Close Engineers for their diligent work and findings. Councilmen Coppola said it has been a lot of work with meetings with DELCORA, Darby Creek Joint Authority, P J, President Short and other members of Council have met numerous times and has been a long process but at least we are seeing some fruits for some of the work that has been done. President Short said congratulations to Public Works and Kelly/Close Engineers for a great job.

PUBLIC SAFETY/ HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Councilwoman Brookes reported on the Fire Marshal's report for September. Collingdale Fire Companies #1 and #2 responded to three calls in the Borough during the month of September 2009. During the month of September, 2009 Collingdale Ambulance/Paramedics responded to 30 calls in the Borough of Aldan. The Fire Marshal reported Collingdale Fire Company #1, its Ambulance/Paramedics, Collingdale Fire Company #2 and its Rescue truck participated in the Aldan Safety Day.

Councilwoman Brookes reported on behalf of the Historical Commission we had a wonderful Safety/Founders Day that was held on September 19, 2009. We had 23 vendors for the Flea Market, there was 2 of our local artists, Marie Gilligan and Bill Ressler participated, the 4th of July sponsored the Lukins Band, which is always a big hit, we would also like to thank the many members of Council and Boosters all who helped cook all the food, the Police Department who put on great displays for Safety Day, especially Ken Coppola, Jr. who was the liaison, and last but not least the cake contest was a big success. We sold over \$50.00 for cake slices and the judges really enjoyed the contest. Councilwoman Brookes read a very nice thank you note addressed to Chief Coppola, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. We want to thank you and all your officers for a wonderful Founders Day. Sincerely, Jim and Joan Hopely. Councilwoman Brookes commented Mrs. Hopely also participated in the cake contest and won third

place for her delicious cake; Lindsey Owen was the first place winner with her beautiful cake that she put a lot of work into and Linda Sailor won second place. It was a great day and thank you very much.

-7-

No. 5269

FINANCE

Councilmen Xavier wanted to comment on a question Dan Procopio asked last month about an article in the newspaper on Police Pension Plans. Councilmen Xavier explained that is Act 44, which is an amendment to Act 205 that relates to the administration of the Municipal Police Pension Plan. You had asked about the funding ratio you read that was 64% and you asked the question were we 100% funded. Councilmen Xavier continued to explain you were right it is 64% funded but we are 100% funded of our obligation which equates to 64%. We are not going to get to 100%, Councilmen Xavier met with Tom Anderson, who is are Municipal Pension Specialist, and he manages the Pension Plans for most of the Municipalities in Delaware County. You take your assets divide it by your liabilities. Liabilities would be your losses that we all had in the stock market over the last year plus the disabilities of officers that are in the plan. Obviously your assets are the monies you have in the pension plan. You divide those two together and you end up with your percentage funded. What you read in the paper is basically something called smoothing you can take your 130% market value of assets and spread that out over 5 years so it's lowering your MMO each year. We decided we are going to stay the course in Aldan and pay the MMO as it stands and not put it off till the future because a lot of municipalities they are putting off the inevitable and 5 years from now they will be left holding the bag with a large lump sum with a huge MMO to pay. Those municipalities that do that could potentially go less than 50% which opens the door for the state to come in and manage their pension plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE and BUILDINGS

Councilmen Baker was not at the meeting tonight.

LAW, ORDINANCE & BUILDING

President Short reported during the month of September, 2009 there were 28 transfer and mid-term inspections performed by our Residential Inspector; there were a total of 30 Building Permits issued with a construction value of \$80,606.97; there were 1 plumbing permits with a construction value of \$18,000.00.

President Short reported we are still in negotiations with the Aldan Swim Club but have nothing at this time to report on because it is an ongoing negotiation.

Mr. Ceci asked what the intention of the new sign. President Short explained the sign is to announce reminders, community events, information from the Board of Health, general information to go out to the residents to help in their daily life. Mr. Ceci asked how much did it cost. Mr. Close answered, about \$20,000.00 and that was for the cost of the sign, the materials and the construction, the electrical conduit to the building, training to actually operate the sign things like entering the messages and thing like that. President Short commented that this was covered by a grant. Paul Kruger asked if you can regulate the time the messages stay on the board. President Short responded we are in the process of learning and figuring that out.

-8-

No. 5270

We have Ordinances in place that do not allow flashing signs so we have to come up with a happy medium that allows you to get the whole message as you are driving by but not violate any of the ordinances. This will be ongoing learning until we get it tweaked. Councilmen Cosgrove also commented there are some signs we think are in the way of the sight line that will be moved. Mr. Ceci thought the ordinance required the message on the sign to be on for a minute. President Short said does not handle LED signs. Councilmen Cosgrove commented the ordinance says flashing lights but what is flashing. People know what it is but it is not spelled out in any time frame. Changing every 30 seconds to our way of thinking is not flashing but changing. President Short explained 30 seconds on a sign turns out to be a long time and this is why we are working on this. We are starting out high and bringing it back down to a more manageable time limit on each message. Bill McNally asked where the signs are. President Short responded there is only one and it is in front of the Municipal Building on Providence Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business this month.

NEW BUSINESS

President Short announced that Caucus will be Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building; and Council will meet on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 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 M. Xavier seconded by S. Coppola and approved unanimously, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

ATTEST

MARIE V. KAUT

Borough Secretary