

**ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

December 14, 2016

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 Reiml Recreation Building on the above date with President Short presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Council President Harry Short.

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**ROLL CALL**

Council members present: S. Durso; C. Maniaci; S. Urban; P. Rankin  
S. Oropollo; M. Corrigan; H. Short

Council members absent:

Officers present: J. Perks, Asst. Borough Secretary; P. Close, Engineer;  
J. White, Borough Manager; J. McBlain, Solicitor;  
J. Hopely, Mayor

Officers absent:

**MINUTES**

On a motion made by Councilman Maniaci seconded by Councilman Durso the minutes from the November 2016 Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

**WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**VERBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Hopely wished everyone Happy New Year. Mayor also reminded residents to continue to be mindful in locking homes and vehicles going forward.

**BOROUGH MANAGER**

John White announced the 2016-2017 Co-Star agreement is in place, this agreement is for bulk road salt prices through the state. Currently there are 45 tons of salt in storage with an additional 100 tons on order with the state agreement.

Mr. White thanked the Boosters for the purchase and installation of two 6 ft. benches in the park for all residents to enjoy while watching their children in the playground. Also thank you to the Boosters and Historical Committee for the tree lighting ceremony, refreshments, and in case anyone missed the event the tree was lit by 50 year Booster member our Mayor Jim Hopely. Final thank you to our Code Enforcement Officer Jim Quinn for rebuilding the base of the gazebo in the park that was damaged recently in a small fire.

Dan Procopio (Walnut Avenue) asked if anyone new the origin of the fire, Mr. White answered it was thought to be started by a cigarette.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**TREASURER**

Mrs. Quinn read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>	<u>Sewer Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 488,278.74	\$ 84,314.68	\$ 96,624.91
Receipts for period	\$ 36,325.25	\$ 1.64	\$ 5,243.44
Expenditures Last Month	\$ (177,154.44)	\$ (6,548.03)	\$ (3,764.06)
Expenditures This Month	\$ (279,247.22)	\$ (6,548.03)	\$ (1,502.50)
Adjustments	\$ 15.00	\$	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 68,217.98	\$ 71,220.26	\$ 96,601.79

Mrs. Quinn asked for council’s approval to release checks from the following funds; from the general fund checks totaling \$284,488.69, from the state highway fund totaling \$6,548.03, and from the sewer fund totaling \$1,502.50.

Councilwoman Rankin made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented and to pay the bills, seconded by Councilwoman Urban and unanimously approved.

**SOLICITOR**

Mr. McBlain reported the Tax Levy Ordinance has been advertised and is ready for Councils consideration this evening following the adoption of the budget. Based on the final numbers from the final proposed budget the amount of the refuse and recycling collection disposal fee should be set at the rate of \$167.12 rather than the amount of the \$165.12 that was stated in the originally advertised ordinance.

**ENGINEER**

Mr. Close reported with the turning of the calendar from 2016 to 2017 will be initiating the annual recurring projects such as Road Program, Sewer Chapter 94 report, and MS4 Storm Water Management program and will keep council posted on those projects. Secondly, relative to the 2016 CDBG project during Councilman Maniaci report Mr. Close is requesting authorization to advertise the bid and discuss the intentions to put advertisements in paper for bids to be received January 31, 2017 and look to award the bid at the February meeting in order to get going when the weather breaks.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councilman Durso reported during the month of November 142.52 tons of trash and solid waste were collected and 35.65 tons of recycling.

Also, Mr. Durso noted the previously adopted Ordinance regarding the parks being non-smoking going forward, the signs have been ordered and were delayed but once received will be installed and hopefully will deter any future issues as was mentioned in the Managers report.

### **HIGHWAY**

Councilman Maniaci reported that the borough is prepared for the upcoming winter season.

The Boys Club is running a fund raiser January 13<sup>th</sup> for tickets to a Sixers game, if anyone is interest see the Councilman.

Councilman made a motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to advertise for the bids for the 2016 CDBG project, seconded by Councilman Oropollo, unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Councilman Oropollo followed up on an issue of leaves being in street on Wayne Avenue reported to council at the November meeting. The homeowners took issue with the landscapers who left the leaves in the street. Reminder to not blow or rake leaves into the street; they must be bagged for garbage removal. Regarding upcoming snow, if help is needed removing snow from sidewalks contact the Councilman or borough office.

### **FINANCE**

Councilwoman Rankin's presented the 2017 final budget and Aldan Borough Council is again able to present a no tax increase budget to its residents.

Aldan Borough Council presents an austere budget to its resident for 2017 that hold the line on taxes and sewer fees. The trash fee for residents will increase only \$2.00 per household to fund the expansion of the Borough's electronic waste recycling program. The 2017 Budget has increased spending and revenue of only \$30,000 which represents a mere 1% budget increase over the 2016 Budget. The real estate tax millage rate will again remain at 8.13 mills. Aldan's municipal real estate tax rate remains the lowest of any surrounding municipality. Borough council continues to focus on controlling expenses in the Borough government. S noted for the overall 2017 Budget, spending in this budget increases by only 1% over 2016 levels. Although the expense of the Police Department is the largest in the 2017 Budget, Borough Council believes that public safety is the highest priority that a municipal government owes to its citizens and reaffirms its commitment to sufficiently fund the Police Department to ensure the safety of our residents. Expenses in other departmental areas remain essentially level with 2016 expenditures. The 2017 Sanitary sewer revenue and expenses remain level, which means there is no increase to the sewer fee.

In conclusion, Borough Council is proud to present this 2017 revenue and spending plan to our residents. Aldan's tax rate continues to compare most favorably to other similar local governments. The Borough continues to deliver quality services to our residents with public safety remaining our highest priority. Budgeting is not simply a one or two month exercise, the Borough works year round towards the goal of delivering a no tax increase budget that includes a high standard of services to our citizens. We are proud that we have met that goal for 2017.

Dan Procopio asked the reason for the \$5000 increase to borough code. Councilwoman Rankin explained this increase was due to increased maintenance costs for vacant properties in the borough.

Councilwoman Rankin made a motion to accept the final 2017 budget, seconded by Councilman Maniaci, unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rankin to accept the tax levy ordinance as presented along with the amendment, seconded by Councilman Maniaci, unanimously approved.

Dan Procopio asked for the fund balances to be read, the following fund balances were given; general reserve \$501,961.61, sewer capital reserve \$636,170.02, police capital reserve \$2,080.48. Dan also asked if the final budget numbers would be available at the borough office, President Short confirmed they would be available the next morning.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilwoman Corrigan reported there were 10 fire calls and 19 ambulance/paramedic calls in Aldan in November.

The Fire Marshall, Bill Garrity asked residents to inspect holiday lights and wires for defects and lights and decorations should not be left on when not home. All live Christmas trees should be kept in water and away from heat source. Clean and service all heaters and fire places to insure proper and safe use. Have a safe and happy holiday.

### **LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councilwoman Urban presented the inspectors report for the month of October; 21 building permits were issued with a construction value of \$58,167, 4 plumbing permits issued with a value of \$12,095, and there were 31 mid-term and transfer inspections.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Caucus will be Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building. Council will meet Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7:30 PM for Executive Session and General Meeting starting at 8:00 PM at the William Reiml Recreation Building.

President Short announced the zoning meeting scheduled for Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm pertaining to a Charter School's request to open a facility in the industrial area in Aldan. Please come out if you have any questions or concerns.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Dan Procopio thanked all those who participated in the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Also thanked those who helped out in installing the benches at the park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On behalf of the Mayor and Borough Council President Short wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Rankin and seconded by Councilwoman Urban, unanimously approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

**ATTEST**

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Jennifer Perks  
Asst. Borough Secretary