

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

October 11, 2017

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 Building on the above date with President Short presiding.

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

ROLL CALL

Council members present: S. Urban; S. Oropollo; J. Connolly; S Durso;
H Short; S. Maiden

Council members absent: M. Corrigan

Officers present: C. Maniaci, Mayor; P. Close, Engineer; J. McBlain, Solicitor; J. White,
Borough Manager; P. Rankin, Treasurer

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Urban seconded by Councilman Durso the minutes from the September 2017 Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

RECEIPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Maniaci read a Proclamation to make October Aldan Boosters Civic Association Month.

Due to the Assistant Borough Secretary leaving her position, a committee was formed to hire a new secretary. Councilwoman Urban made a motion to approve a Resolution appointing Lauren Cavanagh as Assistant Borough Secretary, seconded by Councilman Connolly and unanimously approved.

Councilman Durso made a motion to approve a Resolution appoint John White as Right to Know Officer, seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

Due to Mayor Maniaci leaving his position of councilman to become Mayor a committee was formed to interview a new candidate for Mr. Maniaci's vacant seat. Solicitor John McBlain read the reports from the interviews of both candidates Mr. Borders and Mr. Maiden.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aldan Borough Council Members and Mayor

FROM: Harry Short, Council President
John White, Borough Manager
John McBlain, Esq., Borough Solicitor

DATE: October 11, 2017

On September 21, 2017, a special meeting of the Aldan Borough Council was conducted in order to fill the Mayoral vacancy which existed. Council unanimously voted to appoint Councilman Carmen Maniaci to serve the balance of Mayor Blackburn's term. In order to do so, Mr. Maniaci tendered his resignation as a member of the Borough Council, which resignation was accepted by the Borough Council. Thus, a vacancy on the Borough Council was created for Mr. Maniaci's seat with a term ending January, 2019

Notice of the Council vacancy was advertised as a public notice in the Delaware County Daily Times, requesting that qualified and interested individuals submit a letter of interest to the Borough Manager. The same notice was posted on the Borough's website and was announced at the September 21, 2017 special meeting.

The Borough Manager received two letters of interest from Aldan residents. A letter of interest for Harold Borders of West Providence Road was submitted by Democratic Party chairman Daniel Procopio. Mr. Steven Maiden of Walnut Avenue also submitted a letter of interest.

Both are qualified electors and appear to have sufficient residency.

Because there were multiple applicants, President Short established a committee to interview the applicants and report to Council on the committee's findings. This serves as that report.

Both applicants were interviewed. The committee asked each applicant to make a general statement about why the individual desired to serve on the Borough Council and state their qualifications. Each candidate was then asked for identical questions about their proposed role as member of the Borough Council.

Each applicant was asked to respond to the following questions. The applicants responses are summarized below.

Question 1. As a Councilman, public safety would be one of the most important issues that you may face. What changes or improvements would you make to the police department or what public programs would you propose to enhance public safety?

Mr. Borders' response:

Mr. Borders states that he would like a more visible police presence in the Borough. He states he does see police working often enough but perhaps would like to see the police in different areas. He states he would like to see the police have a National Night Out Celebration in Aldan. He suggested the police have bicycle patrols.

Mr. Maiden's response:

As a member of the Borough's Civil Service Commission, Mr. Maiden has examined the command structure and leadership in the Aldan Police Department. He would recommend keeping the current command structure and leadership positions. He is aware of the potential for changes in leadership positions over the next several years, with the chief and a sergeant eligible for retirement. He believes that the issue for succession planning is the most important issue that the department would face. Mr. Maiden is confident that Aldan will be successful in future leadership, noting the impressive qualifications Sergeant Ziviello maintains. He further states that he is aware of the recommendations by Mayor Maniaci that future leadership of the department receive FBI Academy training and that our officers undergo available mental health crisis training, and he supports those initiatives.

Question 2. As a member of Council, crafting a budget is another important issue that you will face. A large cost drive for all municipal budgets is the cost of the police pension funds. What investment philosophy would you favor the fund?

Mr. Borders' response:

Mr. Borders indicates that there are a lot of options for investments and he would want to study what options are available to municipalities.

Mr. Maiden's response:

Mr. Maiden states that he favors an investment philosophy that would place police pension funds in index funds and other investments that track benchmark funds. He points out that these investments are low cost and historically have met or exceeded the rates of return for many highly managed funds which come with much higher cost. He notes that as a municipal pension fund, a fiduciary duty exists to be cautious with the funds while seeking to obtain the projected rates of returns.

Question 3. Real Estate property taxes are an issue for all taxing authorities. Would you favor implementing an earned income tax in order to offset the tax burden on seniors?

Mr. Borders' response:

Mr. Borders states that he is against an income tax in order to offset the tax burden on seniors. He notes that some Aldan residents already pay an income tax in the City of Philadelphia.

Mr. Maiden's response:

Mr. Maiden opposes the implementation of an income tax on our residents. As he is employed in the City of Philadelphia, he has seen the negative effects on high wage taxes on the residents in Philadelphia and would not be in favor of imposing that burden on the residents of Aldan.

Question 4. Recreation is an important community need. What is your experience with the recreational needs of the community and how would you improve our recreational facilities and programs?

Mr. Borders' response:

Mr. Borders agrees that there is always a need for recreation. He believes that Aldan's playgrounds are in reasonable shape. He suggested that the basketball courts adjacent to the Reint Recreation Center be available for the basketball program in the Borough.

Mr. Maiden's response:

Mr. Maiden is very familiar with Aldan's recreational facilities and programs, as he has been actively involved in the youth sports clubs since 2005. He has served as a coach for the baseball, soccer and basketball programs. He has volunteered as a snack bar worker. He has served as the baseball league commissioner and has now taken on the responsibility of the basketball league commissioner. Mr. Maiden was one of the driving forces in the consolidation of the Aldan Boys Club and Aldan Girls Club into current Aldan Youth Club, where he serves as the vice president. He wishes to continue the upgrade of the Borough's recreational facilities. He notes that he and others have been successful in leading upgrades in the past using volunteer help. He believes the volunteerism is an important character to have for our recreational programs and he wishes to find incentives for more volunteers for these programs.

These applicants are well known to the committee and to the Borough Council and Mayor. Both have exhibited a sincere desire to better their community and both have been frequent attendees at Borough Council meetings.

Councilwoman Urban made a motion to approve a Resolution appointing Steve Maiden to the Office of Borough Council in the Borough of Aldan to fill the unexpired term of Carmen Maniaci, seconded by Councilman Connolly and unanimously approved.

Councilman Steve Maiden was sworn in by Mayor Maniaci and immediately took his seat as councilman.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Maniaci warned residents to lock all vehicles due to recent break-ins.

Mr. Maniaci also reminded residents that Halloween is in two weeks and to be careful with all of the children that will be out trick-or-treating and informed the residents that there will be extra police presence on Halloween night.

BOROUGH MANAGER

Mr. White welcomed Lauren Cavanagh as the new Assistant Borough Secretary and Steve Maiden to Borough Council.

Aldan resident Dan Procopio questioned what municipality Ms. Cavanagh worked for previously as well as who was on the committee formed for hiring. The response was that Ms. Cavanagh came from East Lansdowne Police Department and Councilwoman Urban, Councilman Durso and Councilman Connolly were apart of said committee.

Mrs. Buchanan (Aldan resident) inquired about striping of park lines on Woodlawn Avenue. Mr. White let her know he spoke with Septa and that is their issue to put the lines down and maintain them and not the Boroughs.

Mrs. Buchanan asked about the yellow flags that she has seen appear throughout the Borough and what they were for; Mr. White responded that they are the underground utility markings.

Aldan resident Mr. McNally questioned about the Verizon Fios trucks that he has seen in the borough, Mr. White responded that they are hooking up Fios in Aldan he also stated that the project is not yet complete.

Kate, an Aldan resident inquired about construction and improvements projects schedule available to the residents through the website in regards the current projects throughout the borough. Mr. White let her know that currently there is not and he does not usually receive any timeframes from the different utilities.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

TREASURER

Mrs. Rankin read the Treasurer’s Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>	<u>Sewer Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 564,904.94	\$ 23,628.80	\$ 250,935.72
Receipts for period	\$ 664,640.45	\$ 131,974.97	\$ 1,508.95
Expenditures Last Month	\$ 128,465.14	\$ 56,411.84	\$
Loan from Reserve	\$	\$	\$
Transfer to Police Capital Res\$	\$	\$	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 536,175.31	\$ 75,563.13	\$ 198,284.07

Mrs. Rankin asked for council’s approval for the following amounts of checks. From General Fund \$116593.37 for the State Highway Fund 56411.84 and Sewer Fund \$54160.60. Councilwoman Urban made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as reported and authorize the disbursements of funds, seconded by Councilman Durso and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Nothing to report.

Mr. Procopio asked about the roadwork being done on Springfield Road that seems to not be getting any better. The response from Mr. McBlain was that PennDot should be finished paving by Saturday, October 21, 2017.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported relative to the 2016 CDBG Project that was resurfacing in the Northeast quadrant of the borough, the punchlist has been completed and the one year maintenance bond received, the final payment request has been processed and submitted to the Office of Housing and Community Development for the 10% retainer in the amount of \$10,883.06. This closes out the 2016 CDBG project.

He also reported relative to the 2017 Road Program, this was in a contract amount of \$47,284 for resurfacing W. Wayne and Sylvan Avenue. The first payment was reviewed and submitted to the borough on September 18th. He stated that due to the less base repair needed the actual final contract amount was \$41,405.72. So approximate savings of \$5900 on this project.

Mr. Procopio asked if the \$5900 stays with the borough for future projects or does it need to be given back to the county. Mr. Close let him know that it is for the borough to keep for future projects.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilman Durso announced September trash totals; 140.72 tons of trash and 22.20 tons of recyclables.

Mr. Durso wanted to let residents know that the Borough did receive the grant money from the 2015 Act 101 Section 904, state grant for the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$7768. He stated he submitted the application for the 2016 Act 101 Section 904 in September and did receive notice it has been received and will still need to be reviewed.

Mr. Durso notified the residents of an E-Cycling and Drug Take Back Event on October 28th at the Municipal Building parking lot which is free but limited to Aldan and Clifton Heights residents so he asked to please bring proof of residence in the form of identification. The day will be begin at 9am and run until 1pm.

Councilman Durso advised residents of the urgent recycling issue in which he received a letter from B and L Disposal which is the company that picks up trash and recycling that they will no longer pick up recycling in clear plastic bags effective immediately. Mr. Durso has included this information on the LED sign outside of the Municipal Building and is working on getting it up on the website in order to get the word out to all of the residents and asked if those in attendance could use word of mouth to let others know. The recycling center is refusing to accept recycling in plastic bags because trash is being included. Recycling must be put out in designated recycling containers, brown paper bags or boxes.

Mr. Borders (Aldan resident) did inquire about where to dispose of all of the plastic bags that get accumulated inevitably. Mrs. Rankin answered letting him know that Giant recycles them, and can be put in one of two square bins at either entrance of the Giant.

HIGHWAY

Nothing to report due to new councilman.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo asked residence to please clean up leaves in front of their homes because when it rains the leaves wash up to the storm drains and clog them. He advised to please call him if the storm drains do get backed up and he will make sure they get cleaned.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Nothing to report due to the absence of Councilwoman Corrigan.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Connelly reported that there were 57 building permits issued with a construction value of \$207,458. In addition 11 transfer inspections and 15 midterm inspections were completed for the month of September. Five (5) plumbing permits were issued totaling \$25,625.

Mr. Connolly advised that the site at 4 Bonsall where the fire on the 4th of July occurred has been fully cleared.

Mr. Connolly also advised that the work at the Getty has been put on hold while waiting for gas tanks and made mention that they are receiving citations for not properly maintaining the property.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Urban reported that the recycling grant was received by check. Additionally the borough received the 2017 Commonwealth allocation of the General Municipal Pension System State aid in the amount \$45,882.53. The borough also received the Commonwealth State aid Allocation supporting the volunteer fire and relief association in accordance with Act 205 in the amount of \$21,227.84.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing outstanding.

NEW BUSINESS

Caucus will be held Wednesday, November 1st, 2017 at 7:30 P.M at the Municipal Building (1st Tuesday of the month is Election Day)

Council will meet Wednesday, November 8th at 7:30pm in executive session and regular session at 8:00pm in the William Reinl Recreation Center.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Duffy asked council to recognize American Legion Post 1000 in November.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilwoman Urban and seconded by Councilman Connolly, unanimously approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 9:04pm.

ATTEST

Lauren Cavanagh
Asst. Borough Secretary