

**Meeting Minutes**  
**ALEXANDRIA BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**August 9, 2022 – 7:00 pm**  
**Location: Alexandria Fire Hall**

## Minutes

President Scott called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and lead council in the Pledge of the Allegiance and prayer. Roll Call – VP Joel Pheasant, Tori Wilt, Pres. Judy Scott – Kim Diggins, Ken Patterson, Treasurer Leslie McDermott, John Pesce, Ron (Porter Twp), and Josh Foor also in attendance.

Shawn Zimmerman arrived close to 8:00 pm

## Public Comment

## Old Business

- **Stop Sign and Speed Limit Signage (Traffic Calming)**
  - John Pesce District 9 and Penn DOT
  - Patrick Wright and Matthew (??) on Zoom
  - Patrick shared observations in the borough
    - Crosswalks – along Main St. along 7<sup>th</sup> they are in an uncontrolled situation – traffic doesn't have to stop, but would need to yield – stop signs dictate traffic behavior
      - Conducted an analysis – summarized in memo
        - Would recommend signs at crosswalks at minimum
    - In street Pedestrian signs could be considered (annoying, but effective) just an option
    - Judy and John ensured no rumble strips because the noise would negatively affect the town, but humps constituents were okay with and bump outs
    - Patrick gave time for questions on the report
    - President Scott asked if it was PennDOTS responsibility on costs or how do we coordinate on costs for Main Street. Patrick said there are funding opportunities for safety improvements, but generally crosswalk signs, etc. the borough is responsible for, but generally up to the district to decide.
    - John P. said that as they were filling out the DCED modal through he was informed that there will be projects occurring on Main Streets so he intends to include. John recommended going solar as well so they don't have any trouble maintaining. Gave example of speed humps in Hollidaysburg – they have 2 speed humps right next to each other, delineated well, blinking lights, solar, and it is very effective to get people to slow down. PennDOT has improved in regards to speed humps
    - Pres. Scott asked how long the project would take to complete, John said approximately 2 years with the paving project coming unless you coordinate with Tony and get something sooner – even in street pedestrian signs temporarily. There are other funding options John P. said that deals with signals and all, Arley Grant (June 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>) – it used to update all the signals around the Commonwealth, but now they opened the scope of the grant – it can be used more for signal projects (it bumps it up on the scale, it is 100% state money, no match)
    - John asked if Judy has been to a District 9 Outreach and said she could mention these things there, put it on their radar. The Alexandria Borough needs traffic calming.

- VP Joel Pheasant said that our community may have to deal with tractors coming through and potentially have some of what they are hauling splash out the back. Ron said they will take the shortest route. Physically the speed humps would force them to follow the laws John said
- VP Joel said that even with these temporary signs in some traffic will go up through Shelton Ave. to avoid the traffic speed signs. Pres. Scott said then if we're doing adjustments to Main Street then we should address other areas in the borough as well.
- Ron (?) asked John that in Grange Hall Rd. they tried to put speed humps there two years ago, but we couldn't because it took away from their funding. John said now speed humps are authorized by Penn DOT so things have changed and it won't take away the funding. Ron said the State Police were at his place last Wednesday and there will be an accelerate speed checks up here. Hoping it helps 305 and the borough. While the State Police was there almost 3 cars went by at 65 mph – the State Police said they will be here more often now.
- Patrick jumped back on the traffic calming devices
  - Benefits of the devices
    - PennDOT Publication 383 Traffic Calming Handbook and it addresses many of the issues council was addressing here. Encouraged council to look at this information – diversions are concerns, but it gets addressed
  - Pres. Scott asked about directing all ACCO truck traffic to go right and out around town not through town
  - John P. going to talk to Jim (?) in regards to incorporating traffic calming elements into the re-paving project. John P. will also mention to Jim about sidewalks and curbs, if they do put them in it will be up to the borough to do the maintenance. John P. is hoping we get awarded the grant and the stormwater project could coordinate well with the repaving – Pres. Scott and he agree
- Matthew said you all are talking to the right people. Happy the LDAP (?) system is being used. They are helping anyway they can and will have this on their radar as well. He said that Pres. Scott and he are in contact often and keeping this log open. Pres. Scott reiterated to council that all the people who are here right now help behind the scenes. District 9 has 6 counties, 11 districts – so thankful.
- John P. major assist in the Multimodal Grant – Pres. Scott gave credit. John said we could've asked Matthew – Tori Wilt asked when you will get an answer. John P. said PennDOT helps rank the grants. The more people it affects the greater chance you have. It goes to Harrisburg and then it goes back to Districts and they rank them. They go off of what your comprehensive plan is in your county and then goes back to Harrisburg for approval. The DCED MTF is very political. Closed on July 31<sup>st</sup>, should be ranked in Sept or Oct
- 7:35 pm Mike Peters entered the meeting
- **Approval of Minutes from July 2022 change: bumps to humps amendment Tori Wilt made motion to approve the minutes, VP Joel seconded, all in favor, motion carried**
- **Tori Wilt made a motion to approve the financials and pay the bills. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- **Property Maintenance Ordinance**
  - Josh Foor in attendance to get approval on his fence
  - Pres. Scott asked if council would like to complete the Property Maintenance Ordinance or wait for the rest of council? VP Joel said can we vote on it, post it and then we vote at the next meeting. Mike Peters and VP Joel are comfortable with the last version of the PMO. Tori Wilt struggling with it.
  - VP Joel – Tori what are your concerns with it? Tori's concerns:
    - Violation penalty seems punitive
    - Doesn't like the 3 feet buffer yard, aesthetically it could look junky

- VP Joel said there were exceptions if the house was right on the property line
- Pres. Judy said the buffer yard is to allow for safe distance to maintain
- Tori doesn't like the sidewalk maintenance – 10 days to fix, 10% cost
- Pres. Judy said we are responsible to ensure the safety and improvement of our town – the sidewalks are a hazard right now
- How do we determine who is responsible for the sidewalks... VP Joel asked how do we know where the sidewalks are supposed to be
- Mike Peters said I don't want to spend a lot of time on this portion of the sidewalks
- Tori Wilt – how likely is this going to be enforced on every person? Pres. Scott asked if she would prefer 30 days? Tori said I'm okay with 20 or 25
- Pres. Judy said someone can make a motion to put this forward to a vote and then it can be advertised through Greg
- VP Joel said that 10 days is a tight turn-around so he agreed with Tori, so Pres. Scott said is everyone okay if we put 60 days on it? Tori said to be safe let's say 30
- **VP Joel made a motion to amend the draft ordinance to be 30 days period for the sidewalk repair instead of 10. Tori Wilt seconded that. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- Pres. Judy asked about Article 3 in Section 1 "...and the interior of every structure..." VP Joel said when we discussed that initially was that properties that fell into such neglect that it would spread to other houses, Ken Patterson said it'd almost be a hoarding situation. Mike Peters said to add "hoarding" Tori said how do you define that? VP Joel said it almost has to get to the point that it'd be a health hazard to the community, Mike Peters agreed.
- Ron said there is a problem up at the playground – someone doesn't have collection and has a child and their child's diapers are in our playground collection each week.
- Tori asked about snow removal clarification – Pres. Judy and VP Joel clarified it is 10 hours from when the snow stops and not from when it starts
- Revisited the buffer yard – VP Joel shared the history of the buffer yard discussion, not against a road, but on the property line...
- Tori Wilt made a motion to allow fences to go right on the property line, but honoring alleys, roadways, street setbacks. VP Joel seconded that. Pres. Scott opposed. Mike Peters voted nay. Mike sees examples of what Pres. Scott has shared; he sees the point of staying right on the line. Mike Peters made a motion to make it 2 feet, but no one seconded.
- Leslie McDermott had to leave at 8:24 pm
- Ken P. reminded council that you're going to make a decision and it won't keep everyone happy.
- Shawn Zimmerman asked what council would do if you have neighbors make agreements...
- **VP Joel motioned to amend that fences are able to be constructed within the 3 foot buffer yard only with written agreement from both property owners. Tori Wilt seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- **With the ordinance amendments made to the Property Maintenance Ordinance pending Greg Jackson's approval on proper protocol that council would proceed to the next step of passing the Property Maintenance Ordinance. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.**
- **Ken Patterson**
  - What did Judy find out about the tree, is it a property owners tree on Melvins Lane
  - He has two gallons of paint up there for the curb, what would council like done with it? Paint the corners? VP Joel and Pres Judy said yes, go ahead and paint the curb
  - Shawn Zimmerman asked if trees are still getting trimmed by the edge of the road, Pres Judy said the ones near his house will be trimmed near the winter

- Ron asked what kind of cost we have? Judy said we have an arborist. Ron said about doing something with the Pin Oaks
- Leighton needs to send an email from Porter Twp out to all of council
- **Parks**
  - Ron is mowing the park and saving us mowing, it costs him about \$1,000 to mow for July and nobody wants to mow it at any speed
  - **Ron**
    - Tennis court can't be use for pickle ball too and a young fellow that painted it did a good job, I have permitted \$916 for paint so far – it will paint the dugouts and concession stand with Juniata Valley color, someone cut the dugout roofing too short it needs torn off and redone. He has an estimate of cost for next year and it's tight schedule to get it ready in time – 1" layer redo the field is \$2,500 2" layer will be \$4,600 and it is required.
    - He is going to spray to rid of broad leaf weed
    - Can spend \$500 across the ball field to prevent weeds next spring, if we can control the weeds, it'll help
    - The destruction at the picnic pavilion blew something right through the roof – he is working on repairing that.
    - They don't have a total figure as to what they put into the playground around \$10,000 – Ron was hoping to get a lifetime layer in, not chips. We should have done lifetime chips.
    - The streambank needs to have something done with it, Ron has unfortunately went down into the bank two times. Pres. Judy said the trees planted up there will help
    - Ron said he needs help up there and nobody seems to want to come up and help – we're trying to get an \$80,000 grant for next year, but we'd have to match it at 50%
    - The pickle court and the tennis court can't be used – the nets are turned, but there's a section we could put three pickle courts in and a contractor is going to give a free estimate
    - Tori asked about the erosion and him needing volunteers – Ron said it needs done by DCNR
    - Tori Wilt said Ted Simpson had volunteered
    - Pres. Judy said the girls scouts put the trees in and Huntingdon conservation is helping up there. Ron said they made a mistake because they didn't put them in the right place
    - Ron could use help if there are ones who will go up and weed eat or push mow, but he can't do that
    - Pres. Judy and Ron talked about ideas and how they can work together in the park
    - Alexandria Borough gives \$4,000 and Ron wants more help – mowing grass trimming
    - Tori asked how often do you need help? Ron said if the grass is growing quickly every 5 days or 10 if it's dry. Tori said do you want someone to help once or twice a month.
    - Pres. Judy said she'd appreciate a schedule for mowing. Tori said they can contact the township building and get in touch with Ron – he said they have tons of stuff to provide someone to weed eat. Broken black top along Barree Road that needs cleaned up. Ron re-decked the bridge,
    - Tori is going to put a Facebook blast out to ask for help and provide the Twp phone to contact in order to help – Porter Twp is wanting volunteers
    - Pres. Judy asked what is the budget Porter Twp sets for the park currently – he said in the past \$10,000 (\$4,000 of that is from Alexandria Borough)
    - Porter Twp. applied for a permit to get the park up and operational
    - Tori Wilt said that she will put forth the time and effort to find help and also they are willing to help. Help mowing, yard work, picking up trash along the road, etc. In order for us to put that out on Facebook
    - Ron asked what would we do with the ball diamond if we had to wait and coordinate with all of you – the quote was back in May and it wasn't finalized. Ron said the word was that we give everything to Alexandria Borough

- Access road into the park...
  - Ron said he asked Brandon Foster about helping and Ron didn't get any help. Ron said he issued a key to Jeff Hensor and claimed that was for Alexandria Borough, but Pres. Judy said the borough doesn't have a key
  - Pres. Judy said Alexandria Borough should have been including from the start – Ron said they need the grant money to get this ballfield done.
  - Mike Peters said they can't give it away, it's a federally funded project, but Ron said they can give it away because of the cost of the park
  - Ed wouldn't come to the meeting
  - Mike Peters got two signs, two cameras, and needs to get the SD cards. The cameras got flashes that you won't see and he will get the SD cards.
  - Tori asked about posting on FB, but council does not want that
  - Mike Peters said where they are going to put them and when they are putting them up. Mike Peters said the borough doesn't owe him anything because he lost the receipt
- **Comcast**
  - Pres Judy asked for a motion so they can move on
  - Tori Wilt posted it on Facebook – 3 yes's
  - **VP Joel Pheasant made a motion to decline the Comcast offer to add a franchise fee to the residence for the current year. Tori Wilt seconded. In favor, VP Joel, Mike Peters, Tori Wilt, Nay – Pres Judy, Motion carries**
  - Committees can raise money for the borough – the community can raise money and donate it to the borough
- **Snow Plow/Snow Maintenance**
  - The maintenance person is able to get the ash/mix from Porter Twp. that will save the maintenance person.
  - VP Joel asked if we have official paperwork from Jason and he turned it into Leslie.
  - Tori Wilt made a motion to officially hire Jason as the Winter Maintenance. Mike Peters seconded that. All in favor. Motion carries.
  - Pres. Judy will notify of property lines and right away for the snow plow – VP Joel wants to ensure we have all of his paperwork and numbers
- **Ordinance Enforcement**
  - Mike Peters called George and then after talking George responded via email two days later and he is resigning and dropped his books off to Mike yesterday. George is no longer going to be the Ordinance Enforcement Officer and Permitting.
  - Council needs Greg's input on how to move forward with permits in progress and checks... find out what council can do in the interim – people will have to likely go directly to Bureau Veritas
  - Josh was under the impression he wasn't able to even apply for a fence permit – but now he realized that he is still awaiting
  - **Tori Wilt made a motion to officially accept George's resignation as Code Enforcement Officer and Permit Officer. VP Joel seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.**
  - Pres. Judy said we need to advertise those positions separately. One or both – don't post the pay in the advertisement. **Mike Peters made a motion to advertise for a Code Enforcement Officer and a Permit Officer. All in favor. Motion carries.**
- **Josh asked where are we at with the whole fence situation**
  - VP Joel said once the amendments are made that we talked about tonight then once council advertises the ordinance and votes on it at the next meeting
- Moved to executive session 9:40 pm, VP Joel Pheasant, seconded by Tori Wilt – all in favor, motion carries.
- Executive session ended at 9:51 pm – VP Joel Pheasant will follow up with Greg Jackson regarding questions from council

