

July 12, 2022

The Alexandria Borough Council met at the former location of First National Bank at 402 Main Street, Alexandria, PA 16611. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Judy Scott. President Scott led council in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Council members present were President Judy Scott, Vice President Joel Pheasant, Mike Peters, Jane Pilch, Branden Fox, and Victoria Wilt. Solicitor Greg Jackson and George Houck were also present. Guests were Ron Kunz and Josh Foor.

- **Approve meeting minutes from June 23, 2022**
 - *Joel made a motion to accept the minutes as amended with the minutes should be amended to indicate that Jane Pilch was present and that the second guest was Wayne Frye. Judy also asked that the note that she indicated "it would take us in to the next century" was incorrect and ask that it be amended to say "it would take us forward". Tori Wilt seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS

- Motion to approve the report and accept the bills as discussed. Mike Peters motioned, Branden Fox seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Kunz addressed Council with several comments

- He appreciates Council's work. After the last meeting, Judy told Ron she would have an answer for one of his questions at that meeting. Judy did what she said she would.
- Ron asked if the Property Maintenance Ordinance would be voted on tonight. Judy said it's possible. Council proceeded to discuss some parts of the Ordinance with no action.
- He noted that Main Street needs swept. He asked if he could kill weeds and charge the Borough. Council noted he probably shouldn't spray property that is not his.
- Ron brought up the issue of vehicles speeding through the Borough. He observed two cars recently that went from 25 to 40mph between his house and the library. Judy mentioned the fact that she gave someone the 'slow down' sign one day and the driver simply sped up past her. Council discussed several methods of traffic calming. We did have a recent traffic study done, but PENNDOT rejected our suggestions, which was a 4-way stop at the intersection of Main St and Hartslog St. We talked about possibly adding flashing signs at each end of town, or other signs.
- Ron asked if he could get a copy of the Ordinance that we say he is violating. Council advised absolutely. He then asked two other questions – 1) Is there a time frame for him to clear the violation, and He also asked he doesn't know what is wrong with having a trailer with wood in it on his property, but Greg advised us not to answer. Council did advise Ron he can check Facebook for all Borough Regulations. He asked if

we are turning into a Homeowner's Association. Jane agreed with his comments and said she also values individuality.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- None

REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- None

Old Business

- **Municipal Fire Representative - Mike**
 - Delivery of a truck chassis that the Fire Company ordered last year is going to be pushed out to next year.
 - Fire representative confirmed to them that we had sent the letter indicating that they did not need to send a medical service vehicle to all calls. Judy had the letter available for public view at council meeting also.
- **300 Block and Brewhouse Lane Boundaries**
 - Greg hasn't heard anything so there is nothing to report.
- **Melvin's Lane Discussion**
 - Branden cut branches along Melvin's Lane; everything should be good now.
- **Multimodel Grants**
 - Greg needs a copy of our minutes where we voted on pursuing the grant. Council realized we might not have done that yet. Judy will get the grant ready for Council's review, then we can pass a resolution saying we approve of the submission of the grant. Council will meet July 26 at 7pm at the Alexandria Firehall to approve the resolution.
- **Playground and Bridge**
 - Damage continues to occur at these 2 places. The shed roof has damage, there is an estimated \$1500 worth of damage done to the slide. We also need to replace two swings.
 - Council believes it's time to look into trail cameras to try and stop the vandalism. Joel made a motion to spend not more than \$250 on the purchase of cameras. Branden seconded. The motion passed.
 - Tori was asked by a resident about the height of the wood chips and all the weeds at the park. Joel mentioned that the Christ Reform Church has asked if they could help with either park, so we should enlist their help. Council also talked about having a community work day.

New Business

- **John Kelley Hartslog St Power Hookup**
 - It's complete

- **Alexandria Water Authority and the ABPTJ Sewer Authority**

- The Sewer Authority has some debts they are having trouble collecting. Their solicitor says there is a state law that says Water Authorities have to help Sewer Authorities collect money by turning off water at the debtor's house. In previous conversations between the Water and Sewer solicitors, the Water Authority has simply refused to help the Sewer Authority. Judy asked Greg if he would talk to the Water Authority solicitor to see what might be their issue with not wanting to help.

At this point, Josh asked Council the status of the Property Maintenance Ordinance. Joel read the proposed update to those assembled. Judy mentioned that Josh has been very patient with Council as we have been trying to get this passed for some time. Josh thanked Judy for recognizing that.

- **Revenue Budgetary Increase & Xfinity Revenue Source**

- Judy distributed copies of the preliminary budget to Council. She also explained a 1-mil increase would cost approximately \$0.40/week, and that a resident might pay an average of \$40/year with this increase. A 3-mil increase would cost a resident an average of \$62.50/year. Judy also prepared personal figures for several residents on request.
- Regarding the budget, Judy noted Council is currently operating in the black. All our bills are paid, and we have no debt.
- Council then discussed the availability of using Xfinity to charge a percentage from 1 to 5 on a customer's cable bill and then Xfinity would pass that on to the Borough. Judy noted it could bring in an extra \$6000-\$8000 per year for our budget. Mike noted it would be unfair to only have Xfinity cable users pay a fee that would benefit the entire borough. There was some discussion about this idea, but no action.
- Mike made a motion to increase the Borough millage by 3-mils. Tori seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- **Ordinance Violation Notification**

- Greg and George met to review the Ordinance Violations that will go to the Magistrates office. They are who decides what violations are pursued.
- George isn't sure why Council says 'we have discretion' when he thinks it should be the same for all. Joel talked about notifications for new violations versus work in progress. Ron agreed with Joel.
- George is upset because Judy says 'just fine them'. Judy responded by saying she has never been contradictory. George doesn't want to be micromanaged.
- Ron spoke to George saying he needed to know what his violation was. Greg explained the violation process to Ron. Ron mentioned we should give a

warning before issuing the violation. Joel said that is what George's first contact is supposed to be.

- Josh asked for a copy of the Proposed Ordinance.
- ***Entered Executive Session at 9:04 pm***
- ***Entered Public Session at 9:33 pm***
- ***Joel made a motion to monitor both our park and the walk bridge, and to spend no more than \$200 specifically for security cameras. Branden seconded the motion. All noted yes except for Jane, who voted no. The Motion carried.***

Motion to adjourn Branden. Tori seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned: 9:37 pm