

June 12, 2023

The Alexandria Borough Council met at the Alexandria Firehall in Alexandria, PA 16611. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Judy Scott. Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

Attendees:

Mike Peters, VP Joel Pheasant, Tori Wilt, President Judy Scott, Treasurer Leslie McDermott, others noted throughout minutes

Motion to accept the minutes from May 8th, Mike Peters. Seconded VP Joel Pheasant. All in favor. Motion carried.

President Scott posted an opportunity to review the meeting that took place on May 18th.

Financial Report and Authorization of the Bills - President Scott mentioned we had the opportunity of being blessed to have someone help us put up the banners for Hometown Heroes. They did so with their own equipment and time. I will let you know that Berrenas has asked me to bring to your attention \$600 a day or \$350 a half day. Mike Peters asked what the hours are. President Scott said they didn't say. She wanted to make council aware of the request. It took 13 hours this year to complete. In the past we also had them do Christmas Lights. The person that has volunteered at this time, I would like us to consider compensating him for his time and use of his equipment. Penelec has blessed us in a way to grant us permission to install them in the manner we have so we hope they are more sturdy than in the past. Is there a motion or recommendation to compensate them? VP Pheasant asked who did it this year? Pres Scott said Berrenas came for 2 hours, but their equipment broke. If we were to have rented the equipment per day it gets expensive. Mike Peters asked are you thinking \$300 or \$400 dollars? I don't want to be insulting, just asking. Pres. Scott mentioned that if we had rented the equipment \$1,200 is the cost. Tori Wilt asked how much it would cost, I agree they saved us and it's fair. Leslie McDermott asked about \$1,000 for this individual. \$1,000 to put up and \$1,000 to come down. VP Pheasant asked if we were going to pay Berrenas or were they volunteering? Pres. Scott said that they want paid, but she couldn't have committed any type of payment. Tori asked for all of council to be here to vote on money. Tori Wilt asked could we pay him \$500 for this time and do more for next time, only because he's not requesting it and then \$1,000 when all is here? Pres. Scott said well if council isn't here, they aren't here – there are 12 meetings a year, 2nd Monday of the month. VP Pheasant said that I would expect them to give us a quote for the next time. If we use the first new volunteer then let's let them give us a bid. Mike Peters said so are you thinking a \$1,000? Pres. Scott said yes, I am. Tori Wilt said that she's not opposed to that and for someone who's not expecting anything that's very generous. Mike Peters makes a motion to pay the volunteer \$1,000 for their time and use of equipment. Tori Wilt seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. A check will be made to Robert Goss.

Motion to approve financials and authorization of bills, VP Pheasant. Seconded Mike Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jeff Stover has nothing to report for this month. - Pres. Scott

Public Comment

Kim Diggins

This weekend at Bluegill's the music was ridiculously loud. You have a newborn neighbor, people right beside it. We have an Ordinance from 1953, has it been updated. - Kim Diggins

Tori Wilt read the noise ordinance. (LEIGHTON get noise ordinance reference) Pres. Scott said yes, that's the noise ordinance written now. We have on the agenda tonight ordinance.

I think it's great what they are doing, but I just don't think my kids should be getting woken up by what they are doing. - Kim Diggins

It was beautiful what they are doing. But this is from 1953

Jerry Park

My wife and I are on Main Street. I've been watching the minutes and agendas. I thank you for working on the Ordinances and clean things up. I saw people even this week cleaning up an area that really needed it, THANK YOU! - Jerry Parks

Mike Scott

What you all did in regards to paying Robbie Goss is a good thing. He is a veteran himself and he took the time to do it. That time is times two because I did it with him, so when you're talking Berrenas I think you just to factor that in with the prices incurred. I don't want anything, but I want you to know it's good to pay him and consider time.

Tucker Lalli, all of council and attendees thanked Tucker and applauded him.

Mostly I wanted to say thank you today, he gave President Scott a card and shared his project book with all of council.

President Scott shared with all that Tucker Lalli is our newest Eagle Scout and shared about his project at the 4 corners park area. He is restoring the historic beauty and making people take note on what our town is all about. I'd like for council that is present to join Tucker and his father for a photo. Photo was taken.

Tucker's father shared how much the Eagle Scout Project entails - the work, paperwork, finances, etc.

Pres. Scott said we have many Eagle Scout Projects in our area that it is people in their age bracket doing these things to honor our town and some of these things need maintained and preserved. We want to preserve what these young men have done.

Bob said I'm a beaming Scout Master right now because we have 3 other Eagle Scout projects successful right now. We have more in the works. So if you ever think there is a project for the boys, we will present that at the troop level. Scout Troup is having a Flag Day observance here at the firehall, we were to have at Elks, but we aren't now. The local lodge is heartbroken. It's a short notice event, but we're going to have our local Scout troops coming Wednesday night at 6:00 pm - if you have old flags you'd like to retire please bring them and we will accept them. The public are welcome, family, friends, community! FACEBOOK - Borough will post on Facebook.

The community chipped in and helped out, thank you for that.

President Scott said we accept the responsibility to maintain what's been done. Bob said they will help out as well. I cruise up there and check on it.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ken Patterson

President Scott and Ken cleaned up a lot on the 200 block

Ken's been cleaning ditches, painting curbs, mowing lawns (greenways), etc. President Scott said that some properties will be expecting bills

Jerry Park asked if there is a place in the community to take yard waste? Is there a local farm or somewhere we can take our yard waste? President Scott can reach out to Porter Twp and ask if a resident can also take some yard waste to a location. Our current location is going to be shut down soon for us. That's a good question and she will reach out.

VP Pheasant asked Ken if any of the potholes were filled or what was the decision? Ken said Judy and I were talking and she wants to wait and see if the water company is going to get them done? There are some that the water authority isn't going to do? Tori asked if they are going back through or? Ken said that's a Dain question. VP Pheasant said that if there's some that aren't because of the water authority should we fix them? Dain said that the water authority is looking to finish within 2 months and then we are going to meet and go over the project from start to finish with check list and it will include inlets, areas that need topsoil, etc. They hold the bond on the contractor until the project is completed to the satisfaction. There's nothing on Main Street to amount to much. They have fire hydrants and five areas they'll work with for connections, but nothing up to the middle of town. Dain said the little inlet by Carol Foster's where the complaint was - Hollenbaugh's switched from large garbage truck to small, so Carol told us about them ripping limbs and ripping the yard up - the inlet itself it going to be raised with a new grate. Robin F. has the same grate we want. Then the contractor agreed to widen and pave that shoulder, etc. The water authority didn't damage that inlet. Dain said I can't authorize Robbie to do anything so if there's a cost involved, we'll come and present it to you guys. President Scott said that what we did in the past when Jim and Sam were on - we did a storm water grade grate. We could do a preauthorization on a grate - because we are on a time

crunch - we could... Dain said paving could go into November. Ken said didn't we have that drain made in Johnstown and Pres. Scott ran to get it? Yes, she did.

VP Pheasant said, my question was aren't there potholes that the water authority aren't taking care of? What are we doing about those? Ken said where they are. Pres. Scott said that Jason has a product and he and Ken are going to coordinate. Tori Wilt said about the alleyway that's always getting worked on - Ken said Melvin's Lane - she asked what can we do about that? Ken said that alley will need grated.

Pres. Scott asked if VP Joel is comfortable with Ken taking care of those potholes? Yes VP Pheasant wanted to follow up from last meeting.

JEFF HENSOR PARK USE REQUEST

Pres. Scott asked that everyone received copies of the request and schedule - does anyone have any questions? Porter Twp. gave approval so now for his park use request... you shared something at Porter Twp please share here

The bleachers obviously need seating replaced and frame needs fixed up. I've been trying to find some rising seniors or ones to take on this project and get some community service done. I have a couple kids interested. I need to present a drawing and what the scope of work is and specs involved and nomination of lumber, size of carriage bulbs - that has to be submitted for approval for both of us. Pres. Scott said that it's a unique relationship, but we have to work together. Jeff said when the plan comes together I'll get the plan to both municipalities.

Pres. Scott asked is there a motion on the request?

I have no issues and move to make a motion to approve the request for the baseball tournament made by VP Pheasant, Tori Wilt seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

COLOR RUN was a success - girl scouts were very happy. They may be coming back next year and may want to make it an annual event. Pres. Scott said

ALEXANDRIA BOROUGH PARK

Pres. Scott said that Porter Twp has a porta johnny - we give them \$4,000 a year. It's \$350 a month and they asked if we would consider covering a portion of that expense. VP Pheasant said we pay \$125 for ones at the soccer field? Can we look into that? Pres. Scott said yes, let's check that out.

WORKMANS COMP and AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

They'd like our consideration in this matter - Pres. Scott handed out papers from Porter Twp.

Porter Twp last week discussed they want help with mowing. President Scott made a request last month I asked if people could take 20 yards to clean up in the town. Pres. Scott asked if anyone was able to do that. Mike Peters said that he did go to look at it.

I talked to the Huntingdon Conservation District to see if we needed a permit to take care of things. President Scott said.

Tori Wilt asked where President Scott means and Pres. Scott said about maintaining the ditch. Tori also offered to go and weed wack it. Pres. Scott said if we all contribute a little bit of cleaning up it won't feel like mount Everest, it's about cleaning out trash.

Ken Patterson said what about the property the Horn boy lives - he owns clear up to where the wood stops. Is he going to help? He already has 'No Trespassing' signs up.

Dain said that a few of them met at the Medical Center and the Eric Horn gave permission to clean the ditch - eventually they'll replace it with a gate Sam said. They will clean up the road. Eric wants control of the road and access, Eric would say okay if the borough wants to use the property for the event, etc. Ken said that Judy was in there helping clean up and then large stumps were put in with 'No Trespassing' signs got put up. President Scott had permission to clean up. Dain is helping to act as a coordinator for Eric. (He met with Porter Twp supervisors and it didn't go well.)

Pres. Scott just wants to get the trash gone. Mike Peters so they are asking us to take care of that entire ditch? Pres. Scott said no they aren't asking us, but it's a reflection on our community, and the grants we apply for will come and look to see if we are taking care of what we have.

Mike Peters asked if they are asking us to help mow the park? Ron's been doing it the past couple years, does he have an issue with it now?

Tori Wilt said do they want us to take our mowers up there? Pres. Scott said no, they will provide mowers and equipment. What happens with equipment up there they are taking it too close to the creek.

Tori Wilt said that she is happy to go down and weed wack, she just can't do it every week. Pres. Scott we should formally meet with Porter Twp and discuss the workings of this park. We own the property jointly - there are changes going on that now they aren't contracting it out to somebody else. Bill Peters mowed it for many years, then Ron has been doing it.

The new person mowing has the same issue.

Mike Peters said that if they are paying someone to do it, they need to do it right.

Tori Wilt is willing to weed wack.

We'll table this for July.

MAY 18th MEETING WITH PENNVEST, anything to go over? All good.

STORMWATER PROJECT

Dain Davis said \$500,000 GRANT TO UPDATE THE STORM SYSTEM. We're working with the Army Corps to determine how far that will actually go - looking to improve the pipes from Main Street to the river and fixing all we can while we can on Main Street and the pipes. That's about as far as that \$500,000 goes. While they do that they will update the cost estimate so that by July 30th they have support letters and needed things to request more funding. There's enough money to make a dent.

President Scott said that this funding and what they are working out now, they are feeling positive about additional resources. We have to have our resolution before that dead line because that's the grant deadline. WE'll need a resolution to reach out to our Solicitor, but he won't have the amount yet. We would like a preauthorization of having that ready for July and then once we become aware of that amount. Is council comfortable with that? President Scott said

VP Pheasant is comfortable with that.

President Scott said that we need authorization and pre-approve the Solicitor to prepare a draft of a resolution for the DCED funding requested by the engineering staff once the figures are given. VP Pheasant said that if a change is needed they can still be made.

VP Pheasant makes the motion to have our Solicitor prepare said document as needed. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Dain Davis said if you don't get the full amount our firm needs to come in and recommend how you get the most out of your money.

JOHN BUSKIRK CONTRACTOR FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN - Judy called about getting the piping drawings for the project. I think it's a great idea you're going for the storm water. Who's your engineer? Dain said EEDS group. This would tie in nicely with the project. If you're running something up Main Street it'd be nice if you tie it together. We have flows at the waste water that if it rains we can go from 70,000 gallons a day to 300,000 gallons a day and you can't handle that. It exceeds the design flow of that. It sounds you're pretty far along, but if you can get this tied in before the project goes full swing that'd be great. You could throw that in there as a need. Subpumps, downspouts - anything you can get into that storm drain to get it to the river, you need to do it. I've been in the business for about 40 years and storm water is a major problem and DEP is trying to help get this fixed. You want the storm water out of the waste water and get it straight to the river - you should tie this into the grant request, it will benefit you, because this is a need. I want to make you aware that down the road you can always tap a pipe in to help homeowners and help with fees, but hopefully you can tie it all together. When you tell homeowners you can't put this in their sewer they are upset and you understand that, but that's why we want to work with them. It's illegal to pump storm water in the sewer system, you're really not aloud to have rains in your basement going into the sewer system.

These are some of the things I'm bringing up to the Sewer Authority - Mike is on there and we are working together. Your community needs to work together for the best interest of the community - you all need to keep working together. You want to benefit the whole community and this storm water is a major problem, the storm water is exceeding the pumps, chemicals, etc. Education is good.

Mike Peters mentioned sending out a newsletter about some of the points John was giving. To inform the community and help.

John said he appreciates council hearing him, when President Scott reached out for information he thought to take the opportunity to share some information.

Mike Peters said definitely mention the Chesapeake Watershed.

John said just give a call if he can help. I enjoy protecting the environment and helping communities out.

Tori Wilt asked a question about the noise ordinance - we've got to either amend the ordinance. President Scott said that we have several ordinance we have to enforce. She said we have to change the ordinance if we're not going to enforce. President Scott said do you want to tell Bluegill's they're prohibited from doing the music? Tori Wilt said no, she enjoys the music, but whoever wrote the ordinance it needs edit. The 7:00 am to 10:00 pm only pertains to construction. So Mike Peters said that whatever we do needs to establish a time to the overall thing, not a sub sectional. Tori Wilt said that she personally doesn't care, she just wants to be able to inform people when they reach out - if we're going to tell people that their grass can't be a certain height then we have to be consistent. President Scott is upset that the ordinances haven't been enforced.

Mr. Slosser, Owner of Blue Gills, said that he would like to know what the decision is going to be made.

President Scott asked would you like an amendment to the ordinance. Tori Wilt stated if you're going to talk punitive we're not going down this road again. Pres. Scott asked what is your suggestion to correct it? Tori Wilt said I'd like us to talk about it, it's a problem, the residents in our area are upset and what should we do. President Scott asked what are your suggestions?

Tori Wilt said that 1. They turn the music down or 2. We add an amendment of a time frame.

Mike Peters said maybe we do add a time frame amendment to the ordinance. We may also be able to revamp it too - there might be better wording we can put in there. VP Pheasant said Tori Wilt emailed him to ask what she should say, if we're reading it and enforcing it then we fine Bluegill's \$10. We need to adjust the ordinance.

Kim Diggins said it's just so loud - I think it's great thing what they are doing - I like the live music, does it have to be so loud, that's my only thing?

Mr. Slosser, Owner of Blue Gills, said that we close at 11 pm - I've tried really hard to make it tasteful and a classy place. We're not really a bar, we're a restaurant. I talked to a lot of people about what I couldn't do because the river. There are all kinds of kids playing and having a great time. The music is tasteful, I wouldn't create a bad place. I'm working very hard. Summer is 12 weeks long, we're planning on every other weekend having music. We stopped the music at 10:00 pm. Tori Wilt asked if we can amend it or need to?

VP Pheasant said if we don't amend it we are basically ignoring it. I feel we need to amend it - this was written in 1950 - so much has changed.

Tori Wilt asked if it's valid then. Mike Peters said yes, it's not invalid due to age. We could send suggestions to our Solicitor and see if he has suggestions. Pres. Scott said I will say this, we have to be pointed because every time we contact him there are billings. Greg didn't bill us that way. Mike Peters said isn't that what a retainer is for? Pres. Scott said we don't have a retainer. He will come whenever we need him. Tori Wilt said so he's not coming regularly? Pres. Scott said no. Mike Peters said so we need to present a draft to him and see his recommendation?

Dain Davis said we didn't draft ordinances - went to solicitor, then advertise for 30 days public comment, then it passes at the end of 30 days

Mike Peters said so in the short term how do you enforce. I think playing until 10:00 pm is okay. Maybe turn it down a bit after 8 or 9 - I don't know, maybe get into decibels.

President Scott said that Mr. Slosser is planning 6 events through the 12 weeks of the summer, we're planning a lot of events and we want to get along with everyone. We want to be part of the community and not in spite of it.

Pres. Scott said so that's 6 events a year - Verizon has a wall around their one compressor to not exceed decibels.

Tori Wilt said I don't if he turns it down a bit, for it to be loud enough to serve the purpose, it's still going to be down. I think we just add something in there that they can play music until 10:00 pm - he's not doing it every night. We let people know here's what it is. Pres. Scott, we have to think about places like the Legion, etc. what about a neighbor. If the amendment is made we just have to take all the scenarios into consideration.

VP Pheasant is in favor that has our Solicitor draft an amendment that has the 7:00 am to 10:00 pm restriction on Friday and Saturday nights to the other items as well.

Tori Wilt said if you restrict it to nights then you're prohibiting people from having

Pres. Scott said they could have a permit exception in those cases?

VP Pheasant said he's in favor of applying the 7:00 am - 10:00 pm hours... President Scott asked is that all we want to do is change the time?

Tori Wilt asked if we need to take a vote on - VP Pheasant said this would be to have the Solicitor write the amendment and then we'd have to do all the other things. We have to go through the normal posting process and all. VP Pheasant said that if people are just going to post on Facebook and not show up, that's not helpful, council appreciates that Kim shows up.

Mr. Slosser said that he appreciates a 10:00 pm time and not specific days.

President Scott said do we keep the fine at \$10.

VP Pheasant said if we go to the cost of amending the ordinance we do need to consider the fine

Tori Wilt asked about other fines?

President Scott explained them.

Where'd the \$500 come from? Tori asked, President Scott said, as a deterrent.

Mike Peters said, maybe we shouldn't cram this in tonight, we should probably take this home and think of their own thing and make sure the other council members know what we're talking about. Then next meeting hash it out to go to the solicitor.

VP Pheasant said my reason for taking it to the solicitor is so that we have something on paper for people to come discuss and not spend years talking about an ordinance. Mike PEters said then let's go ahead and put it on the website now to let people now.

Pres. Scott said we are proposing to change the hours and fine amount, are we comfortable putting that up?

VP Pheasant said if we're letting people know on FB do we want to let people know the proposed change ideas - just let them know this is a topic of discussion. Pres. Scott said the best way to get people here is to talk to them face to face, VP Pheasant said if they don't show up, that's on them.

VP Pheasant said do we have an ordinance enforcement officer right now? Pres Scott said we do. VP Pheasant, did he enforce it? Pres Scott said no. Then it's not enforced. Vp Pheasant said

Pres Scott said now the only thing I'm going to do with the Solicitor is the storm water stuff, Mike Peters mentioned just letting the other council members know that this is a discussion so they don't come in shocked.

VP Pheasant said so we will meet next time, allow the public to comment, then send to solicitor. Vp Pheasant said the hard part with that is, is that people waited for three years about fences.

SECURITY SYSTEM

Pres. Scott said that we will need a security system

Tori Wilt looked up lights that Jane mentioned during the meeting - President Scott said about forwarding them to secretary so she can forward to all of council and review prior to the meeting.

Mike Peters was looking at the lights Jane sent too.

Tori Wilt said that she put motion sensors and lights on the outside of her house. They are not awfully bright. She will forward to Leighton

VP Pheasant said that this will be a good thing to have a nicely well-lit town because this will help alleviate some of the issues going on.

Pres. Scott said the trails connecting will also be a good thing if we are having lighting, also talked about streetscaping...lighting may get revived in that

Tori Wilt left before adjournment. Meeting ended.

Sheriff is coming next month Pres. Scott said

Meeting adjourned