

May 8, 2023

The Alexandria Borough Council met at the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Hall at Alexandria, PA 16611. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 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. Treasurer Leslie McDermott. Also present: Dain Davis, Sam and Beth Sorenson, Ron Kuntz, Ken Paterson

- Mike Peters said under Sewer Authority was actually not about the Sewer Authority, but it was about the Fire Department, please move
- Under Procedures and Protection – Mike Peters would like “drop” the insurance, but needs that changed to “lower”
- President Scott said that Leslie “Jackson” needs changed to Leslie “McDermott”
- President Scott said during the one large conversation Greg wasn’t here for the Sewer Authority portion, but then later on Greg responds and Greg is the one saying it, not Mike Peters. The objective was to get everyone together on the same page. Jane Pilch asked on the same page regarding? President Scott said having the Water Authority, Sewer Authority, Porter Twp, and Alexandria Borough present so we can discuss the proper bylaws because there are questions of appointment.
- **Motion to approve minutes from April 10th with the above modifications. Mike Peters. Vice President Joel seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- **Motion to approve minutes from April 27th Vice President. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS

- **Motion to accept the financial report and authorization of bills, Mike Peters. Vice President Pheasant seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Mr. Stover arrived 7:15 pm – council introduced themselves along with Leslie and Leighton

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Ron Kuntz**
 - Asked that he just put in for a request of freedom of information act and he was curious if they can post that information or have it somewhere they can go get a copy of it, etc. Is there any reason why that can’t be posted online or at the library. Even at the meeting here when you talk about the bills as a citizen I can’t see the bills. When on Sewer Authority – people kept asking for financials and minutes, it worked well, people like the transparency. Is there anyway that things like that can be presented to the public with the Freedom of Information Act. President Scott said, we open up for discussion so things are approved... Ron

asked if once they are approved can they be posted within 5 days. Mike Peters said that the papers council signs could be provided to the public when they come. Leslie McDermott said that she can print an extra copy and bring along to the meeting. Ron said there's no reason why the financial statements can't be provided. Leslie asked if he wanted the DCED reports or the financials from every meeting. Ron said that he just appreciates the transparency, gives us overseeing of our elected officials. Leslie asked if he wanted to start with the DCED report, the audit? Ron said, sure, why wouldn't the public be interested in that. He's curious of what council is approving. Leslie said she is happy to bring extra copies. Ron said it helps them to be informed.

- He also asked if the minutes can be posted sooner
- Leslie asked if Joel would be able to post the financials as well and Vice President Pheasant said yes. Ron said as a citizen standpoint he'd love to see that
- **VP Pheasant said if at any point Ron would like more information he is free to reach out**
- **Sam and Beth Sorenson**
 - They own apartments 306 Main Street
 - He has a lot of right away issues going one. Over 10 years we've had problems and we've let it go, but it's really coming to a head. I see you have Brewhouse Lane Extension and I want to know what that is about. President Scott shared the details of that, working out property lines and we want to survey because we're working with the Museum, hoping to do a project. We want to survey and be proactive. We are aware that there are issues and violations of the right away. So the borough would like to properly survey the property lines. Sam talked about the extent of the roadways involved. Dain Davis shared about the survey and his part with the engineering firm. He has deed information that will help Sam
 - Sam said in two of the deeds there is a 10 foot right away behind that house.
 - He realizes now that it's called an alley and not a roadway
 - President Scott shared that the Sorensens reached out to her in regards to the problems and issues with the neighbors. Right aways being blocked is a problem and it is our responsibility as council to ensure that the rightaways are honored. She pointed out that they've tried to work things out with their neighbors, but have been met with chicken coups, etc. – Beth said that “he” told them that they couldn't use it and put all these trees in and blocked the right away
 - Sam is asking who is responsible for these alleys – township? Borough? Land owners? Who is it? President Scott said that is the process council is in right now, trying to decipher how to handle this situation and
 - Vice President Pheasant asked to share the minutes with the Sorensens. Joel's understanding from the last meeting was that we cannot force him to do anything as a borough council, but as property owners can take legal action against the violating property owners. Our solicitor was to send notice to the

property that they obstructions are to be removed within one week. If they weren't addressed we can take legal action

- Mike Peters asked if Greg ever did that
- Jane asked the Sorensens what is their ideal solution. Sam said that for the last ten years they've been laid back and we don't have issues, but now I'm finding out that 1 – 2 of the tenants have had their vehicles damaged and I could have a solution of off-street parking, but I can't get there because the property owner planted trees and blocked things intentionally.
- Beth said that he's also got chickens and allowed them to crap all over the Sorenson's property.
- President Scott said that the courthouse said they pay taxes in the borough
- Sam asked if there are utilities back in the right away alley. President Scott said they are in the easement. Sam said any water mains or sewer mains? President Scott no. Sam then asked about the whole water line system getting replaced, why? Mike Peters said because they were so old. President Scott said there's an infrastructure need, they were eroded.
- Sam said that the water bill nearly doubled and it's a high cost living here.
- Back to the right away issue Sam said, since the deeds he sees call it a right away alley – he is in full support of what council will do
- 16 foot road, 20 foot right away Dain Davis said
- Sam asked who maintains them. President Scott said that's part of the process to, we want you to have safe off street parking.
- Years and years ago the Smith property and our property used to be somewhat together, there was a grocery store and they used Brewer Lane and could access. The properties used to always maintain the right away, Mr. Smith doesn't have the right to plant the trees, the grass and all the covering up he does – Jane said he essentially took the whole road over – Sam said as a tax payer he wants that opened up and able to use. Mike Peters said that's our goal too.
- Beth asked if you can have bees in the borough. President Scott said the bees are becoming a big problem for the Sorenson's.
- President Scott said we are really trying to address this problem of them trying to do a land grab. Jane Pilch asked if Porter Twp is the river then the right away then the borough, right? President Scott said she's not sure of all the details without further investigating the maps and surveys.
- Further conversation about the river, township, and borough...
- Jane Pilch reiterated the wants from the Sorensens
- VP Pheasant asked if they are able to access their property now from the right away and Sam said not anymore because he has put so much up there, he's trapped. Mike Peters said at the time he put his fence up it was to be a foot in a half unless you talked to your neighbor, I'm sure the fence is illegal
- President Scott said they will take this under advisement and we appreciate you here to share

- Jane Pilch asked if there are any other neighbors
- VP Pheasant clarified with council which property the Sorenson's own and the roadway, Dain Davis said he remembers the deed of Sorenson's and there was a roadway there.

SOLICITOR REPORT

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REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- **Ken Patterson**
 - Question...
 - There are getting quite a few pot holes in town? Ken said... do you want them patched now or wait for the Water Authority? VP Pheasant said that's a great question, what's their plan? President Scott said we are to wait because they are to repair what they damage and they aren't done damaging things. She asked Ken if he checked the drains she thought they covered? Ken said yes, they covered them. President Scott said if it's okay with council she will reach out and talk to the Project Manager of the project to get this addressed.
 - Ken Patterson also shared about where they have left pipes just sticking out of the street, he is concerned people will bust their tires
 - President Scott said that we also spoke to the water authority about the pipe on Main Street, with council's permission she'll talk to them tomorrow. VP Pheasant said please do.
 - VP Pheasant asked how bad the potholes are as well. He feels if there are any in danger of damaging people's property vehicle or are a true safety hazard, they need addressed immediately. He has freedom to go ahead and repair those as much as possible.
 - Mike Peters asked if he was able to get any supplies from the township. Ken said that if President Scott gets ahold of Jason see if he has the bags he was going to use last year.
 - **President Scott will meet Ken at 9:00 at the park.**
- **Sewer Authority**
 - Mike Peters said that our solicitor reached out to the townships, essentially the township supervisors were moving people around in the middle of a term. The townships argument was that they didn't appoint them to terms so they could move it around. David said that it's not the Sewer Authorities fight, so just roll with what they did. He said that if someone like Dean who actually got removed could fight it, but Mike thinks it'd be prudent that for the borough council to appoint and also say the terms they appointed to. President Scott it'll still be helpful for us to have the bylaws. The Sewer Authority doesn't make that up Mike said. Solicitor Stover said that each authority should have bylaws of how they will be run and each area should have the same document. Mike Peters said that he will look for what document he has and bring it next meeting. Ron Kuntz said that he remembers a tangible paper of what was happening because there was a whole issue of combining the water and sewer at the same time. President Scott said regardless of whether the Sewer or Water Authority wants to do it,

Alexandria Borough is requesting the bylaws documents so that it simplifies everything if we're all on the same page.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Girl Scout Color Run**
 - **President Scott said that the ditch along Shelton Ave has garbage in it. If all of council would want to help out by taking time to go get the trash out that'd be helpful.**
- **Eagle Scout Project**
 - **President Scott said the project seems to be going very well and they are happy**
- **BrewHouse Lane Extension**
 - **Leaving it with the discussion that occurred with Sorenson**
- **Alexandria Park**
 - Waiting to discuss because we haven't heard back from Porter Twp
 - VP Pheasant said that at the last meeting there were discussions of damage at the park up here? Should we be replacing that, I don't want little kids getting hurt? President Scott said that will be about \$2,000... VP Pheasant said I think we should at least close it off to keep kids safe. It's the time of year kids will want to play on the playground and I feel we need to replace it now or block off access to that piece of equipment. Ken asked if we removed the whole slide would that be okay? President Scott said she felt that could be more problematic, potentially more of a liability. Mike Peters felt the kids that are doing the vandalizing wouldn't respect the signs saying they are out of order. President Scott said is council comfortable with Ken and I going up to assess the damage to see how we can make it safe temporarily? VP Pheasant said they are comfortable, but if it's not safe we need to block it off. VP Pheasant said should we be posting an age limit on the playground? What's the line between purposely trying to break things and kids playing in a manner that accidentally breaks things? Ken Patterson said about putting lights up at that park, the pole light doesn't like it up enough. VP Pheasant said that a solar powered motion light would be a good idea. Ken said that we have to do something or we're wasting tax payer dollars. President Scott said would anyone be willing to research a light? Jane Pilch just requested it's not too bright and ugly. Dain Davis said that if you talk about a public safety issue in a public meeting you need to fix it tomorrow. President Scott asked if Ken is available tomorrow? Ken said, yes and President Scott said okay, we'll do it. VP Pheasant said that he is available in the evening if there's anything he can do to help. President Scott, would you like to put a motion light up too? Jane Pilch said that she will research the lights, VP Pheasant said there are some nice ones. Jane said the garish ones are ugly and she'll research it.
- **PennVest Meeting**

- **Thursday, May 18th at 1:00 pm – Solicitor Stover has a court appearance and he cannot make that. President Scott asked if any council members are able to make it... Jane cannot, Mike will be there, VP Pheasant is tentative. Dain Davis said that as many borough council members can make it should make it. He thinks it will tentatively be an hour. It's at the library.**
- **Hometown Heros**
 - President Scott said that the banners will be coming in and there's a change of plans for the installation. Gene is relocating so we had to regroup and reinstall because it was taken down last fall. A team of 30 people would be ideal, May 22nd and 23rd to install the banners. Mike Peters asked if they are doing this during... when? President Scott said it will happen during the day. President Scott said that they will need facilitators too and mentioned Jane helping. VP Pheasant asked if there will be multiple apparatuses and that will be helpful. Mike Peters said put me down for Monday.
- **Stormwater Project**
 - Dain Davis said we are in the process of becoming familiar with Phase 1. We are adjusting the estimates the court had and we have to wait and anticipate the May 18th meeting to get the funding better understood. From that meeting we will try to find matching funds. PennDOT is taking care of the lower end for the borough, but all these details will emerge as we go through the process. The big thing right now is the May 18th meeting.
- **Ordinance Enforcement**
 - In regards to lawn care maintenance we have residents who have been addressed through the years. Last year Ken took care of their greenway space on 3 occasions. My request based upon the ordinance, there is a \$75 violation fine – I request that 411 Shelton Ave have Ken go take care of that green way space again, but then bill the resident for his time. President Scott asked the solicitor if they can do it in that manner. Solicitor Stover said you can certainly send a letter or bill and if they don't pay it then you would have to determine how to address it.
 - Jane Pilch asked if they've gotten a letter recently. President Scott said no, but last year they took care of it 3 times. Jane Pilch said do you think it'd be courteous to send another letter. President Scott said no because they've been asking her for years. Ken said she has some health problems she said. Jim Foster had offered to pay Ken in years passed, but someone came in one time last year and mowed her yard, that's it. She doesn't keep it maintained. Jane said so she was noticed one time last year? VP Pheasant the new ordinance wasn't in place, but there was a property ordinance in place. Jane asked if we had an enforcer person during that time? President Scott said, no. We have mowed it 3 times for her, is it fair for the other homeowners in the borough? Jane Pilch stated her case. VP Pheasant said the hard part is, is that she could hire someone to pay her yard. Ken said that last year when he mowed he knocked on the door and asked

her if she'd like to move her truck so it doesn't get messy, but she said no. President Scott asked if it was okay with council to send the letter and fine? VP Pheasant said that it's an ordinance in place, we don't need a motion for it. Mike Peters agree and President Scott did as well.

- **Bridge Maintenance**
 - Barb Parks blessed us abundantly by planting hosta up at the bridge, she and others are maintaining it and it's beautiful. They are blesses us by taking care of it. Ken said are they going to weed it? President Scott said that she is helping weed, President Judy will weed, and Ken can weed. We all have to work together.
- **Army Corps of Engineers**
 - They will be coming the week of May 15th – they are posting a welcome video to the community so they see the people that are coming to their home

NEW BUSINESS

- **Kim Diggins Appointment**
 - We have a seat at the Water Authority - Kim Diggins said she would be willing to fill that seat if we would appoint her. She would be the second representative for the water authority.
 - **Mike Peters made a motion to approve Kim Diggin's appointment, Jane Pilch seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- **CleanUp Day**
 - President Scott said we can have it this Saturday so it's the same as Porter Twp, but we have the Color Run on the 13th . We could relocate it so it doesn't interfere, but does this Saturday give enough time for people to prepare? VP Pheasant said that traditionally we've done it the same day as Porter Twp. I'd love to do it in the spring, but it is short notice to do it this weekend. It allows people to get rid of things that they know of – it would probably serve some of the purpose that it has in the past. Jane Pilch said can you have people taking id's to ensure they're a legit resident, but it also sounds like short notice. Jane Pilch said to choose another day and hope for the best, she recommended after the 20th. President Scott is going to ask the trash people if they have availability to have the Clean UP day on the 20th. Beth asked what don't you take? No electronics, tires, paint (unless dried out), VP Pheasant said that they will get a list and post it to the Facebook page.
 - Mike Peters said there's also a guy from Mount Union that likes to collect scrap metal when he can.
 - **Motion to have Borough Clean up Day May 20th from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm made by VP Pheasant. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- **Tree Planting Layout**
 - Jane Pilch shared what she and Sam discussed along Shelton and Main, where trees would look good. Would council like to do Main this year? Bridge next? Or a hybrid?
 - Mike Peters asked the amount and President Scott said that we have 26 trees to plant. President Scott said that we need hard costs and the kinds of trees.
- **EADS Corporation**

- Letter of Justification, Solicitor Stover said that it looks good as written and President Scott will put her contact information on it
- At the April 27th meeting we discuss a letter of justification as to why we selected the EADs corporation as our engineer President Scott shared with Jane Pilch – everything else in the construction phase has to go out to bid
- A copy of the letter will go to Harrisburg, the Solicitor, Council, and EADs group. It'll just go out in email to council as a point of information
- VP Pheasant asked is there anything on that project that we're on a time crunch on? President Scott said that the May 18th meeting is crucial, but we will know better from there. Everyone is still getting familiar with the project. We have different cut off dates – May 30th there's a grant opportunity that Southern Alleghenies have made us aware of.
- Solicitor Stover and council discussed the Brewhouse Lane situation
- President Scott said people shouldn't be doing land grabs and squatting and being a bully. Mike Peters said that we will file the lawsuit. President Scott said what about maintaining the alley? Mike Peters said that we should maintain it, but I don't think it's worth our time or money to get it for liquid fuels unless you can find a grant that covers all of it.
- So if you want to take that over to maintain it as part of the borough street system, there's a difference between getting it as a right away. You may have to use eminent domain to do that, President Scott said can we use grant money for that? Solicitor Stover said you'll have to decide what your goal is with this. President Scott said that there are a lot of possibilities. Jane Pilch said that we haven't determined what that is. Jane said that one way to deal with this is to get it passable, is that a reasonable first step.
- VP Pheasant said when you look at the tax parcel map for their property his does go behind theirs
- President Scott shared a map with council and explained that our town falls in priority areas for Parks and Rec. This section because of our trail and parks is very helpful for us, this is part of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Plan... it's opening us up to more funding resources than we've ever had before. Jane Pilch asked how did they find us? President Scott said a lot of talking. Jane wants to know what Environmental Justice. President Scott shared a survey too and folder full of Southern Alleghenies and Pedestrian Plan. She said they can go to Active Transportation with the Huntingdon County office and do all the research.
- Dain Davis said for the councils information EADS is the boroughs engineer and the Active Transportation engineer – we put them on the Transportation Plan and that makes them eligible for grants. He also shared about the speed bumps in Petersburg, people especially the teenage drivers liked to hit them. President Scott said the bump outs at the curbs would be helpful then a center medium section, combined with stop signs and other things... less obtrusive and nicer on the town... solar powered digital speed limit signs too. VP Pheasant said that Hollidaysburg just did this too and it's the same size as a speed limit sign. Mike Peters shared about leaving the Mead parking lot and saw this truck coming down Barree Road and he never stopped and kept right on going. He slowed down to maybe about 30 mph, unless we have video evidence what else do you have? He asked if it'd work in court – Solicitor Stover said it may, but timing something is in violation.

- VP Pheasant said there's a lot of frustration in our town because no way to enforce. Solicitor Stover asked if we have zoning here. President Scott said yes. He would like a copy.
- **Jane Pilch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Pheasant seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Executive Session

Meeting Adjourned: 9:05 pm

Solicitor Stover asked if they have any manager or staff? President Scott said no