

November 14, 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 7:00 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, Rachelle Hopsicker, Tori Wilt, Mike Peters, Jane Pilch. Solicitor Greg Jackson, Treasurer Leslie Jackson. Also present: Ken Patterson, Brandon Foster, Dain Davis, Ashley Scott, Gabrielle Scott, Haylee Mills, Sierra Franks, ??, ?? (Girl Scouts)

- Meeting Minute Amendments: **Ken's last name is BOST**
- Mike Peters motioned to accept the minutes, Joel seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS

- President Scott asked if Leslie could help with Benevity, council has had considerable donations this year – if we can file using those that would get us to a place to file. Rachelle, said they are out for the year, but we could file in January. President Scott asked if the donations had to be within the calendar year? Rachelle said that it does not, it could be in multiple years if necessary. Rachelle is going to look into the Benevity grant to apply in January. It's a 3-1 grant. Rachelle shared how the museum was able to get \$32,000. Rachelle said she will do the background work so that they can get things filed in January, the sooner you apply the more money.
- President Scott had a phone call from the Fire Department, Leslie will look into the fire department question
- Rachelle made a motion to accept the financial report and authorization of bills, Mike Peters seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Girl Scouts – here seeking councils approval

Gabriella Scott (& mom), Amanda Psumala (mom), Haylee Isenburg (& mom)

Hold a color walk and run event to help support their goal of taking a trip to the birth place of Girl Scouts, Savannah, Georgia. They will be responsible for planning and funds of the trip. The Color Run will help with their trip, but also support their love of community service and promote health and wellness. The girls have been involved in many community events over the years. The idea of the Color Run was among many ideas, but this one sparked the most interest – they seek to bring happiness to the community just like the luminaries, the Hometown Hero banners, and Hartslog Day! They are asking for town blocks, temporary road closures, and would seek help from the firehall. Permissions to release non-toxic bio degradable color in

designated locations, looking for support from the Medical Center for parking and/or dance at the end. Requested date is April 29, 2023 and rain date of May 9, 2023.

Rachelle asked if it was a 5k? Mentioned the road past Isensburg farm being 1.5 miles out and back – could be a 5k

President Scott asked about taking a route through Canal St. and ending at the Medical Center

Tori Wilt also mentioned Shelton Ave.

Ashley mentioned they are thinking of encompassing everyone and having different start points. Rachelle advised they make a presentation at Porter TWP as well.

Mike Peters said about adding the ball field too to add additional distance. Rachelle gave her card to Ashley to help give input because of road closure and planning for Hartslog Day.

President Scott said that they have the support of council and will look to hear about more details as they come along.

Sierra Franks asked where the borough officially ends. President Scott said she'd get that information to you.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- Advice throughout minutes

REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- **Representatives from Ken Patterson**
 - He got the speed limit signs and needs them to decide what size signs they want for building permit and no soliciting
 - President Scott asked if we had ones we already had and Ken said that we do, but they are different sizes
 - Speed limit signs are in compliance President Scott said
- **Code Enforcement Officer and Permit Officer**
 - President Scott asked if council would like Brandon Foster to participate in the trainings online
 - Rachelle Hopsicker made a motion for Brandon to take the proper training. Vice President Joel seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Scout House**
 - President Scott said that it was brought to our attention that our meeting place isn't handicap accessible – we have two options to relocate – the Scout House or the Fire Hall. Jane said she prefers the Scout House. December meeting council can discuss. Rachelle said that the museum group is working on a ramp and museum would like to keep the borough council here if possible.

- **Alexandria Cemetery**
 - Dain Davis said they are starting their 3rd year of what to do with the cemetery. They decided last night to go from authority concept to an association with volunteers from the community and the church. It can be quite an effort. It's mostly volunteers now and it's going fairly well. Church members are getting older and only about a third show up – hardly anyone buried up there is from the church. Dain asked Greg to be thinking what they need it to be an association
 - Greg said that the short answer is they need a contractual agreement between the church (the owner of the funds) with whatever group will become the managing organization. Dain said the association will be a completely separate from our church
- **300 Block**
 - The alleyway between Smith and Cresswell – a lot of reviews of maps and all, talking to Steve Lane, as far as he can tell it is a private alley way – never belonged to the borough. Dain said that as far as he can tell it's never been a borough street. There was a survey done and they sent Dain 4 maps and he said that it's an alleyway. Mike Peters said that the borough hasn't maintained it at all.
 - Mike Peters asked if it's really not a borough way would that be considered their private property? Dain Davis said that it's an alley that provides access to properties. The 300 block that alley ended in the river back in the day
 - President Scott said in one of the original drawings the alley is done a bit thicker and that's the case that it's been falling through the cracks this entire time – Dain said folks had access to that lane and there was a road there, but I never knew it to connect. Vice President Joel said that they never connected from his recollection. President Scott wants to make it a loop around and access again
 - Purpose of the survey is to survey Brewhouse Lane from there to hear and Dain mentioned doing the deed searches. President Scott said the purpose is to get the access on the 300 block to add it to liquid fuels, to maintain it properly, don't want a hindrance of future plans of this block, we want to avoid any disruptions.
 - Dain said before the survey was done – it was road blocks
 - Mike Peters asked what kinds of expenses are we looking at? Dain said he could give a basic survey price for the 300 block to wherever it went
 - Vice President Joel asked why do we want this driveway? We have no need for it, why are we trying to turn it into a road that we have to maintain? What are we going to do to develop it that makes us able to drive around it?
 - Greg Jackson said that the borough has the absolute right to make use of the alleyway behind your lot as well as the alleyway that intersects with Main Street and is between those two properties – as the owner of this lot the borough has the absolute right to traverse the alleyway and/or the road. If this is not a borough road, the maintenance of this alleyway the maintenance of those roads falls on the property owners. If it's not a borough street you cannot add it into your liquid fuels. You could maintain it and then the additional property owners could reimburse the borough for the cost to maintain it.
 - Rachele said so it comes down to determine if it's a lane or alley to go into liquid fuels
 - Greg said that based on what Dain is saying you could not add it to liquid fuels because it hasn't been able to be proven to be owned by borough

- Two ways of maintenance: 1. The property owners all contribute to pay for maintenance 2. If you can't get all to agree then those that do agree can pay to do maintenance and you could bring lawsuits against those that aren't contributing
- Mike Peters is saying that work to be done is likely to have a sweep through.
- Jane Pilch said so we could maintain it and then charge the private party, what if they don't pay? Greg said you'd bring a lawsuit against the ones that don't pay.
- Mike Peters said that we've talked about including it in our snow plowing
- Greg said every single deed on that block references bordering that alleyway so if you're going to survey it you'll survey point on Main Street and however far back on those deeds to the alley. I don't think the roadway itself is actually where the alley is – the road is crooked, the alley is not
- Dain said is the survey just to establish where the roadway is – we don't have to determine if it's public or private. Surveying is different than a deed search – it can go from \$2K to \$8k
- Mike Peters said if we can claim eminent domain now they could do years from now
- President Scott is concerned that we're okay with squatters – if we're okay with that.
- Greg Jackson said that you're not going to need stamped surveyed work because you're not going to find that it was ever a public roadway. If the road was a public road it would appear in your indexes at this point in time, it is unlikely that you're going to find that it was ever a dedicated street in Alexandria. What you have is a private right way for the property owners for the property's on that lot – if you need survey work it is to mark out where the alley begins and ends as an alley and from the properties. If there's garage on that alley then you could bring action against the property owner who has the garage on the alleyway.
- Tori Wilt said we as an entity has to be careful not to open a hornets nest
- Mike Peters said there's always a hornets nest aspect, but he is someone who always thinks he can do what he wants to
- Greg said that the type of drawing Dain is going to do for you won't cost that much money – these are not grand expenses. If you need to incur some cost to deter the sense of entitlement you're experiencing – it's not too much of a cost
- Tori Wilt said this could actually be in our benefit and Greg said yes, a vehicle you could use to bring action against.
- President Scott said that Dain will come back in December with the cost?
- **Budget** – Mike Peters made a motion to accept the budget that was advertised. Rachelle seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
- **Sewer & Water Authority** – President Scott gave Mike Peters the authorities minutes and budget, President Scott asked them to send digitally in the future so the borough secretary can email out to council
 - **Matthew Orr is very forthcoming with information and want to keep us on board.** President Scott spoke with Ken Bost candidly, but Ken said that they haven't had any complaints of any kind from the Sewer Authority or anyone. Mike Peters expressed disbelief of Ken's claim, the Sewer Authority and many have made complaints and have communication issues.
 - **Mike Peters said that at last weeks sewer meeting Ken said he'd meet with a solicitor and two members of the sewer authority.** The Sewer Authority said that someone other than just Ken needed to be there so they knew that the

Water Authority would actually get the full breadth of what the Sewer Authority is saying. President Scott said she's hopeful to see changes.

- **Recreation Park**

- Grant has been submitted. Jane and President Scott met with Porter Twp. – they requested we provide 4 trees and the score board. President Scott said scoreboards run between \$5 - \$6k. Mike Peters said as he was walking home one day he caught Ron Grove at the Medical Center and he asked who our tree trimmer was and he said he didn't know. Ron said that the trees in the front yard need trimmed badly and asked if we can get the arborist to look at them. He said Ron said the other guys won't do anything about them.
- Brandon Foster said that the scoreboard is the teener leagues so make sure you contact them before just getting rid of it. Vice President Joel said we can ask them. Rachelle Hopsicker will invite Jeff Hensor to the January 9th meeting.
- Vice President Joel made a motion to commit to provide a scoreboard and have four trees planted at our discretion. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
- Feeling fairly confident that council will find a sponsor.

- **Leaf Collection**

- Do we want to advertise leaves are going to be collected or homeowners handle their own? President Scott asked. Last year Ken collected them and put down over the cemetery
- Ken had about 75 bags last year. Mike Peters said if he's available and wants to
- Mike Peters said let's do it, same as last year
- Ken said 2 days, 4 hours during the week – Monday and Thursday – Monday 28th and Thursday, December 1st – Leaf Pickup

- **Tree Maintenance**

- Jane Pilch said the Sam is very busy and will have more time around Thanksgiving and he will give her a call. They will continue the tree survey then.
- President Scott said she spoke with him about the tree trimming

- **Christmas Decorations**

- Hometown Hero banners will come down November 21st and the Christmas Decorations will go up. Rachelle asked if Pres. Scott has help for that and she said she will take whatever help we can get.
- President Scott said that they need help ahead of time, mentioned council letting her know when/if they are able to help
- Mike Peters said he has time Wednesday during the day
- 9:00 am Wednesday morning council will meet

- **Luminary and Sleigh Rides**

- Tori Wilt said with the luminaries, she doesn't have any money – no donations. This is the 3rd year, she's feeling discouraged because she can't carry this on her own and we want the community to help. She said even if folks can give a \$1 that's helpful. Her dad is taking her with the trailer to get the sand. She's asking council for input on how to get the community involved. She needs a total of \$426. Open for recommendations. Vice President Joel said that we will get the money. Rachelle Hopsicker said that moving forward we could get someone to take it on likely and then perhaps National Honor Society would want to help do the work and do the funding. Rachelle and Joel happy to team up and help. Vice President Joel said that you will get kids to help – ready to get Tori help.

- Mike Peters asked if she needs someone to go get the sand. Greg Jackson said that they can use his dump truck and Tori said that it needs done this week.
- Tori Wilt and President Scott met with Jimmy to do sleigh rides on Main Street – it would be on December 23rd (\$10 a person, 8 people at a time, 2 hours max) from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm - 12 minutes intervals
- Rachelle Hopsicker said put a tip jar in it for luminaries, a hot cocoa set at the library/bank building
- President Scott asked Greg if council can do that and he said yes, the guy has plenty of liability insurance
- Vice President Joel made a motion to do the sleigh rides, Rachelle Hopsicker seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
- President Scott asked if for the flyer – Tori making the flyer – Leighton needs to do the Event Brite and provide link
- President Scott said that there will be one thing on the agenda
 - **Property Maintenance Ordinance – tabled until December meeting**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:34 pm