

Alexandria Borough Council Minutes
September 12, 2022
Held at the Alexandria Firehall

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Prayer

Roll Call - Judy Simpson, Jane Pilch, Tori Wilt, Mike Peters, Rashelle Hopsicker, and Joel Pheasant. Others in attendance were Attorney Greg Jackson, Leslie McDermott, Ken Patterson, Ron Kuntz, and Clay McMath.

Mike made a motion to accept the previous meetings minutes. Tori seconded, motion passed.

Tori made a motion to approve the Financial Report and authorize paying the bills. Rachelle seconded, motion passed.

Judy presented everyone with a copy of the proposed 2022 budget. Rachelle made a motion to advertise the budget. Joel seconded, the motion passed.

Clay McMath was at our meeting to explain our insurance, including coverage and costs, if we were to approve the new policy. Mike asked if it was possible to save money by lowering the value of the Scout House coverage, which is currently listed at over \$160,000. Mike will get with Clay this week to arrange a visit to the Scout House.

Council discussed possibly using insurance to help replace some of the playground equipment.

Judy asked Clay how best to insure the Memorial Bridge. Clay said it would be better to just have it on one municipality's insurance, not both. Judy had invited Porter Township Supervisors to tonight's meeting, but they did not show up. Tori made a motion to keep our current insurance. Rachelle seconded, motion passed.

Public Comment

Ron asked how he could view the budget we're going to advertise. Council mentioned it would be posted in the library, but Joel gave him his copy of the budget as well.

He also asked about getting minutes posted in a more timely fashion. We explained that we can't approve minutes that aren't approved, so each month's minutes will be a month behind.

Solicitors Report – nothing

Representative Reports

Ken mentioned that even though Joel had just removed weeds at our playground not long ago, they are back and worse than ever. Judy also mentioned there are a lot of weeds growing at the entrances to the bridge and she would like them removed.

Tori wondered if we could use gift certificates or something like that to get community help with a work day. She said we could put in the names of everyone that helped that day and then draw a winner. Greg advised against the Borough that. If someone else wanted to offer 'prizes incentives', that would be fine. Ken also mentioned that he cleaned up behind the Scout House and removed an old tree.

He mentioned that Kirby Sweeper salesmen came through the Borough recently and asked if maybe we need bigger 'No soliciting without a permit' signs. Council discussed the issue for a while. Homeowners should recognize they can refuse entrance to anyone.

Scout House – Mike mentioned that Leslie gave him the Borough's yearly check for the Scout House Committee for \$1600.

Jane asked if the Bulletin Board outside can come down. Mike will check.

Bridge Security – Mike mentioned that he isn't sure the cameras he has have a long enough viewing distance, but he will get them up and find out.

Judy thought the local Girl Scouts were going to be at tonight's meeting to ask for support for a fundraiser, but they did not show up.

Hartslog Day – Rachelle has the PennDOT approval letter to use Main Street for Hartslog Day for 2022. Tori made a motion that we also close down Main Street on Saturday October 8th for the Hartslog Day celebration. Jane seconded, motion passed.

Judy said she will see if we can get some clean up help before then. Rachelle said the Hartslog Day Committee's clean up day is 10/5 from 8-2:30. Rain date is 10/4. Tori will post on the website for cars to be off Main Street by 4pm 10/7.

Luminaries – Tori asked about fundraising for the Luminary campaign. Greg said she can set up a separate Committee checking account, and the Committee can do the fundraising. It can be posted on the Borough webpage. The Luminary Committee consists of Tori, Judy, and Denny Scalia.

Winter Maintenance – Showalter Landscaping submitted a proposal to Council for snow removal. The rate is \$85.00/hour. Salt will be provided by Porter Township and billed to the Borough at the wholesale price. Porter Township has asked us for an approximate amount of salt we'll need. We will gather the average of the last two years totals. Jane made a motion to accept the bid. Rachelle seconded, the motion passed.

Comcast – Tori still has correspondence with the Salesperson who was asking us if the Borough wanted to participate in the 'User Fee' agreement. She is asking if we want to let the current contract proceed as-is with a 0% user fee, or if we just want to say we don't want it at all. The contract has 10 more years on it.

Tori feels we should not permit future councils to change the decision we made during the 10-year window. She made a motion that for the duration of the current contract, the franchise fee would not be imposed.

Judy said she doesn't think it's right to limit future councils options.

There was a lot of discussion about the motion.

Jane seconded the motion. The vote was 2 for, 3 against. The motion failed.

Permit Approval – Judy told Council there are 3 outstanding approvals waiting. All of them are for pre-fab structures (sheds). We know that they are within setbacks. Mike made a motion to approve the 3 permits. Rachelle seconded, motion passed.

Council went into Executive Session at 9:01.

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:09.

Code Enforcement & Permit Officer, Parks and Recreation, and Property Maintenance Ordinance were all tabled.

Rachelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jane seconded, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 9:13.