

August 9, 2021

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 7:01 p.m. by President Judy Scott. President Scott led council in the Pledge of Allegiance and James Foster led council in prayer.

Council members present were Judy Scott, Mike Peters, Sam Miller, Joel Pheasant, and James Foster. Treasurer, Leslie McDermott and Solicitor, Greg Jackson were also present. Mayor Ron Gorsuch, Judy Gill, Clay McMath, George Houck, Haldan Kirsch, and Ken Patterson were present.

- Amendments for the July 10th Meeting Minutes:
 - Judy noted that all the guests were included except Michael Scott and the Daily News reporter, Haldan Kirsch – they need added.
 - Motion to approve the minutes, Jim Foster, all approved. Motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS

- Judy brought attention to a bill for Lake Porta John that was placed at the park that is handicap accessible. It's a bill for one month for \$265. Judy asked if the council would like to approve the porta john bill be included. Joel motioned we pay the bill for last month, Jim Foster seconded. All in favor, motion to pay carried.
- Jim asked if there's anything council should be aware of and Leslie said that the borough did get COVID money of \$17,322.75, but they are asking council not spend until they send out guidelines.
- Mike Peters motioned to accept financial report and authorization of bills, Sam Miller seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Jackson acknowledged many people are here for Public Comment and asked they speak as individuals and keep

Judy Gill:

- She came in regards to the Hometown Hero banners. She mentioned she has been to several other towns and their banners are much better. If we are going to do it we need to do it properly. It's a disgrace the way some of them are displayed. Ron Gorsuch asked Judy Gill what is correctly displayed... she said straight and not crinkled. They need displayed more honorably
- Jim Foster said he appreciates her comment. He mentioned that they are hung on community light poles, they are not like a nice metal Pine Grove Mills pole. The weather, heat also effects. We have had the fire company try to adjust them and make them more taunt, the council is absolutely trying to do our best.

- Judy Gill said that if it is the poles, why wouldn't they all be crooked or twisted? Why are only some of them distorted?
- President Scott mentioned how much we respect and want to appropriately honor the military.
- Mike Peters wonders if a different bracket may help with how they are displayed.
- President Scott said that council will take proactive measures to do better in the future.

Clay

- Spoke with Judy and she brought up the upcoming bridge.
- He wanted to discuss a few scenarios to determine who's responsibility it is to take care of the bridge.
- The bridge is on a bordering property. One end of the bridge would be in exclusively in Alexandria Borough property and one end of the bridge will be on a piece of property jointly owned by Porter Twp and Alexandria Borough.
- Ron Gorsuch asked about what property portion was donated from Dr. Delp, Greg confirmed that the property he was going to donate he didn't actually own because the borough and township own it.
- How far out are you on that project? Judy responded a few months. Clay said as more info comes available they will discuss further. Is this the only project that has a Porter and Borough
- Size of parcel is 7.60 net acres
- Is there any improvement on that or vacant? There's a ball field, building. Clay asked where is the liability coverage? Porter Township holds the insurance. Clay said to have the township verify that Alexandria Borough is also covered.
- Clay is going over the renewal, gave council paperwork to accompany his presentation.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- Received a strange email from a Realtor to read something during the meeting. The property she was referring to is not related to the borough. She was confused and that's a non issue.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- **Representatives from Ken Patterson**
 - Curbs are being finished by Scouts
 - I haven't been mowing because it's brown
 - I was hoping to get some product to patch the holes
 - Jim Foster asked about the dogs there have been complaints up, Ron Gorsuch said about putting another sign up, George Houck said fine them, Ken said he went and picked up about 15 piles of dog crap. It's unacceptable.
 - President Scott said we will refer to our ordinance and proceed from there. Jim said it take three months. Ron Gorsuch said call the state dog law officer and

make the complaints about the dogs, give the physical address and ensure you get a phone call back from him. Other boroughs are having the same problem.

- Sam Miller also said we should see if others are doing the same thing, Joel said there are many others walking their dogs and not cleaning up after them
- Mike Peters asked if we can set up a trail camera to find out who is doing it.
- Ron offered up his trailed camera to use
- Greg asked if the mess being cleaned up on the parcel of real estate owned by the borough.
 - You don't have to rely upon your ordinance in that particular situation because the property is owned by the borough. You can prohibit dogs from that portion of property and if someone was on that property with a dog they would be considered a trespasser.
 - You can use a trail camera to find out who the offender is
- Mike reiterated that we put a trail camera up, Jim agrees
- Judy asked what do we do once we catch them, Jim said call the state police and/or Greg said you can file civil action against them because of the costs incurred on their employee cleaning up after their dog.
- Ron Gorsuch said he will call the state dog law officer too
- What about the fee established to pay Ken's nephews for their work? Ken gave their hours to Leslie, so the council needs to establish an hourly rate. Mike Peters motioned that council pays Ken's nephews the same hourly rate Ken is paid. Jim Foster seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
- Jim Foster motioned that Ken get the stones to patch the holes. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **George Houck**
 - Curious who is giving the permits out. He got a request from Bureau Veritas N America Inc. but then someone said he was gonna get from elsewhere
 - Council confirmed George is the person who gives out building permits for Alexandria Borough
 - Judy mentioned that permits are also a source of revenue and we need records

Old Business

- **Walk Bridge Project**
 - Judy informed council that paint costs have gone up significantly, the paint won't adhere properly to the bridge. They recommended we sand blast it again, but that's a non-option. I wanted to have a cost of the paints, but they aren't ready. Jim Foster said just get the bridge situation together and we will paint it and worry about that later. Judy wants to ask if council is willing to put forth the sweat equity for the bridge. Jim said, yes.
 - Ron asked who made the suggestion about the sandblasting. Sam Miller said he had Derstine sandblast and prime it, but the prime he put on conflicted with the originally paint plan. Sam hadn't considered the type of paint that was going on it so it threw a wrench in that plan.
 - Joel wanted to clarify what is a little more costly than expected. Judy said \$8,000 total for the paint and application.

- This is also a recommendation of the project manager, Jason.
- Hometown Hero Project
 - Judy said we are sending all applicants a “Tell Us Your Story” request by September 30th, a copy of the booklet will be kept at the library, legion, and the families that submitted heroes will receive one.
 - Many loved ones had memories they shared with us, but they didn’t get to hear during the walk as well. Judy said it’s good to experience young individuals asking about the hometown heroes
 - Brackets: President Scott has put in a request for more brackets, but there is no one who will provide. Jim Foster asked if we should look ahead and plan for double brackets instead of single. Jim agreed to take care of the brackets. Judy said she would share costs and information in regards to the brackets. Sam said when we tried to adjust the ones with wrinkles the bands snap.
 - Joel asked if there are any others in the area hanging them from telephone poles. Could we find out how they are doing them better?
 - Ours are larger and some of the other towns are smaller. We can prioritize the name next time not the “Hometown Heroes” on the banner. We need to be able to read the name.

New Business

- **Town Signage Requirements**
 - Stop Sign study for 7th Street and Hartslog Street, we have been denied the 4 way stop signs, but in that they made recommendations to update our current signage
 - They have asked us to submit via letter to replace the different signs, they submitted exactly what they need including pedestrian walkway signs
 - The Stop Signs also need updated, they aren’t reflective or spaced correctly
 - Will we ask Penn Dot to get all of our signage on Main Street in compliance as well as pedestrian walk ways?
 - Mike asked if we can start the speed limit signs on our own?
 - Judy said they will do that
 - Jim confirmed we have to pay for the signs, but we are just making a request?
 - Sam asked how many signs would get placed at the Pedestrian Walkways? Judy mentioned that the Pedestrian crossing signs could help slow people down. Joel concerned people may just find them as a challenge.
 - Joel asked which signs we need to fix. Judy said Penn Dot said all of them.
 - Jim motioned to proceed with the Signage Requirements. Joel seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
- **Arborist Request**
 - Sam did a walk thru with Judy after last month
 - His assessment is that he needs to trim a few trees and recommends we wait until November with the exception of a few on Main Street that need trimming up – he would do those at the day rate within two weeks. Sam said we could take the debris and burn it verse getting a chipper.
 - Jim asked if he was going to get the ones on Shelton Ave. – Judy said that he wants to wait until November to trim those trees.
 - Joel mentioned that we make sure we reach out to the people whose houses are right by the tree so they aren’t caught of guard. Judy said we will by mail and in

person. Joel also said we should be sure they know that it's a tree trimming not removal.

- Jim mentioned that we shouldn't approve every phase and that the arborist can do his job as needed. Council has approved it.
- **Multimodal Grant Funding Application Request**
 - Greg mentioned if we wanted a resolution prepared that it has to be voted on by the council so it can be numbered accordingly.
 - President Scott submitted the form and secretary Leighton took it to the courthouse.
 - Jim Foster said that we approved that application.
 - Greg said that's fine if you used their form.
- **Course Vector Web Management**
 - Joel is able to get in and manage. Joel also created Tori a separate account. He was able to post the agenda and it takes about five minutes and we can post the minutes too.
 - Council is now compliant
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- **Town Signage Report**
 - 40 stop signs, 9 speed limit signs in the town – all the signs need to be made reflective.
 - Judy doesn't have a cost spec for council, Mike said he used to help purchase and before they used to cost approximately \$250 per sign.
 - Judy asked if Mike would like to reach out to PENN Dot in regards to what they are telling borough we need to do
- **Boy Scouts Painting Project**
 - They are still working on that
 - Ron Gorsuch has authority to tickets cars for violating, he can ticket people.
 - Council wants to look into get Ron tickets so he can help enforce the ordinances
 - Ron wants council to make sure that he has all the types of ticket books
- **The Hartslog Day Meeting**
 - Ron Gorsuch and Judy Scott will be at the Hartslog Day meeting. Sam Miller will remind them prior to the meeting.
 - Ron would like to propose that we do not allow the gas cans and generators, it's a hazard. Ron mentioned having something from the electric poles for folks to plug into.
 - There's a possible \$500 fee for any temporary hookup
- **Property Maintenance Ordinance**
 - Ron will look at it
 - Judy asked if everyone would like to take the information she provided home and think on it for the next meeting, council looked over now.
 - Jim asked if it's for the fence. She said, yes, she was taking it in portions.
 - Greg mentioned that they would have a tough time imposing a new ordinance on an existing fence. You can't retroactively apply ordinances. However, if someone decided to make a repair they would have to bring it into compliance with the ordinance.
 - We want the fences to be sturdy and not flimsy.

- Because a permit is required, George will need to know this ordinance Jim mentioned.
 - Jim asked what kind of fences are we not going to approve for now and the future, Judy agreed
 - Judy mentioned what about 'living' fences, hedges – if they were well-maintained they could add to the community
 - Somehow we need to be able to put that we don't want an eye sore to the community
 - Joel mentioned if we tell someone they can't do something, we need a reason
 - Jim asked is there any way we would say, 'Exceptions may be taken to the borough for further review.'
 - Greg said at some point in time when you pass an ordinance you will get a challenge from someone who wants to keep something they have even if it's non-conforming, but when they go to repair it they need to bring it into compliance. It would depend on the condition of the fence likely whether or not a court would decide in favor of a homeowner or borough.
 - Council decided to take the notes and bring them back next month.
- **Penn Dot Complaint Notification**
 - Judy received a call from Tony Tanzi that Mary Jean Walker filed a complaint because we painted the curb yellow. She's concerned that she will be liable and she'll have to pay more for insurance because the painting. She filed a formal complaint regarding us painting.

*Council was reminded that there is a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, August 11th at 10:00 am with Jim Lettiere and Army Corps of Engineers.

*Judy was also approached by Dain Davis – does council mind him sitting in on the meeting as an advisor with us? Sam said yes.

**Motion for Adjournment made by Mike Peters and seconded by Jim Foster. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned: 8:56 pm**