**July 12, 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 7:00 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. Dain Davis, Jason Showalter, Scott and Leslie Glass, Mary Gene Walker, and Ken Patterson were present.

* Minutes from June 14th motion to accept the minutes, Mike Peters and seconded by Sam Miller. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS**

* Sam Miller motioned to accept financial report and authorization of bills, Joel Pheasant seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**Scott Glass:**

* Resident 501 Main Street, stated he submitted a formal complaint weeks ago about trespass and damages to his property. Jim Foster asked about the trespass.
* Scott all who live on Main Street our property begins at the line of grass, the sidewalk and the street is considered public. While the sidewalk is maintained by resident it’s property of Borough. Most blocks on Main Street have a green bar and that’s direct ownership of my property line and many of my hostass by my mailbox were sprayed with a herbicide. I’m seeking reparation of the damages were done. Whoever did this was in direct violation and broke laws by all account. I don’t think it’s okay to have a representative on council cherry picking which properties they treat… I didn’t get a knock, phone call or anything else. I got three different estimates and two of them were like in the higher end o $2,000 or $3,000. I went with the lower end. You don’t go around treating the property. Things on my property are not against the law. Greg thanked him for his comment.

**Mary Gene:**

* 415 Main Street – she shares the concern and somebody sprayed around the trees on my property. In January the Alexandria Water Authority replaced something on her property and they replanted grass, but the nice person who sprayed near that tree damaged about 9” of grass. If the Borough is going to care for trees then the tree needs trimmed, I don’t want squirrels in my house. I have weird allergies and asthma and I was not notified that there was going to be spraying. Thank you.

**Greg, anyone else? Thank you.**

**SOLICITOR REPORT**

* One change I would like to bring to councils attention is that there has been an amendment made to the Sunshine Act that you must post the Agenda onto the website 24 hours prior to the meeting. It would then prohibit any amendments to the agenda and you wouldn’t be able to discuss any topics that aren’t on the agenda. There is another provision in respect to making changes to the agenda and would require rationale and a majority vote from the council. Short summary, beginning September the agenda needs posted 24 hours in advance to the meeting and whatever you have you should follow.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

* **Representatives from Ken Patterson**
  + Got the curb paint
  + He has more to paint on Shelton Ave. then next week he will start hitting the curbs
  + Judy asked if Boy Scouts used to help with curb painting is that something they’d like to help with present day? Sam Miller is going to see if the Boy Scouts would like to help.
  + Ken Patterson said he’d be happy to have them help, but it would require adult supervisor and help as well Mike Peters mentioned. Also, if they can’t help, he could get his two nephews to help.
  + Mike Peters asked if Ken was the one who cut the grass at Main Street

**Old Business**

* **Walk Bridge Project**
  + Judy made note that after tonight we will no longer call this the “Walk Bridge Project”
  + Erica Wencker (arrived approximately 7:20 pm), Jason Showalter, and Dain Davis were all present to discuss the bridge project
  + Judy had all of council looking at the architectural drafts of the bridge
  + Erica Wencker, we had previously agreed that it would be a joint project and we as a family are happy with the development that the bridge from the Municipal auction site and fits with our beliefs to repurpose, dad would be happy with that because it fits our ideals.
  + They will be having a Celebration of Life on July 23rd for Dr. Shoaf and it will be at the Medical Center and they would like to display an approved design for the bridge. Erica said she received the leaves and vines and they’d like to move forward putting the bridge announcement into the newspaper and people can come to see the bridge, celebrate dad’s life and also be able to contribute funds for the work that needs to be done. Her brother would like to know what the additional budget is so her brother can contribute funds from his company as well. They’d like the newspaper to cover the story about the bridge and know fully what’s going on. Friday, July 23, 2021 at 6 – 8:30 pm. There will be information on how others can contribute to the development of the bridge.
  + Jim Foster asked we will put the bridge up and then the artwork? Judy said the initial artwork will be up, but as time goes on additional leaves can go on. The leaves will be memorial tributes and then the funds from the leaves will go into the upkeep of the bridge.
  + Judy asked if council agrees to apply for permitting and the necessary funding of approximately $2,000
  + Jim asked when do we hope to have this done, Judy said we have a projected timeline for this fall.
  + Sam asked if the permit money comes from the money set aside or in addition to? Judy answered it’s in addition to.
  + Jason mentioned that as far as the install goes there could be approximately $2,000 to move
  + Jim Foster motioned to approve the funds, Joel Pheasant seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
  + Judy asked all of council to review the design and provide feedback, concerns, questions – also shared a photo of the purchased bridge sandblasted.
  + Sam shared the Mr. Derstine who did the sandblasted had commented to Sam that structurally very impressive.
  + Jason asked if the final design included the stamp concrete, Judy said that’s not yet.
  + Dain asked what the footpath is, currently there’s a discussion between concrete verses composite… stamped concrete can be done, Erica liked that idea. Judy mentioned that all falls within the budget guidelines.
  + Erica said financially speaking they already have funds, so they are hoping to get an idea of what the next phase will cost so they can get the funds together and contribute. Judy said she will send Erica an itemized document of what everything will cost.
  + Jim asked what it cost to haul the bridge up, Judy is still waiting.
  + Joel Pheasant motioned to approve the design. Jim Foster seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.
  + Flooring, is there a motion to do the stamped concrete. Sam Miller motioned to do the stamped concrete. Joel Pheasant seconded.
  + Jason asked, normally when you stamp is smooth, but would you like sand thrown on for anti-slip? The sand will chip off over time and will require more frequent resealing…
  + Mike Peters said safety is a very important factor, Jim Foster agreed that safety first. They will
  + Jason mention broom stamping and then sanding it, the stamp may not be as pretty, maybe some character lines… it will match the stones to a point. Jasons said you could put gray or brown and put a charcoal release…
  + Jim asked if Erica had a choice or preference to the walkway, she said it’s hard to imagine. Sam asked about getting a photograph… Jason said he will get a photograph. Jason will email some examples or bring to the next meeting.
  + Jason mentioned the pillars need ordered or else we are going to have to wait until next year.
* **Continue Property Maintenance Ordinance** 
  + Includes: Lawn care, Waste and Debris, Porches, Fences and Sidewalks, Trees
  + Judy requested if we could table this discussion because Mayor Ron Gorsuch said he will be at the August meeting and would like to be a part of the discussion. All of council agreed that would be great.

**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.
* **Hometown Hero Project 2022**
  + Judy mentioned handing applications out in August so they get applicants in by January
  + Judy mentioned that due to the storms we’ve had we have to address reattachment of certain banners the families have been notified. We will reinstall them.
  + Joel asked if we could care for the ones coming loose at the same time. Sam said he spoke with the Fire Company and they would like to help with that, but some of the bands are damaged and they may not be able to get a good go at that. He would like council to approve the purchase of additional bands. Joel said yes it makes sense to do as many as possible at the same time. Mike said a box of 20 or 30? Sam hasn’t found any long enough to get them locally.
  + Sam Miller made a motion to purchase the additional brackets. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
  + Motioned to approve the stone by Judy and Bridge committee. Sam seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
* **Hometown Hero Project Data Brochures**
  + Any feedback on the brochures? It’s not completed yet.
* **Arborist Request**
  + Judy put a copy in from Sam Monikern the arborist for all of council to review.
  + Jim asked if he’s cutting this time, Judy said yes, but they need to know if council is comfortable with where he is cutting
  + Per day rate, council could take to him when he’s here to see how long it will take
  + Shelton Ave. trees and the Mary Gene tree take priority , we want to address Mary’s tree especially because she came to ask for help.
  + Sam and Judy wanted to confirm that’s okay they take care of the tree since it’s on her property. Greg said that Mary asked for it to be done this evening, but if something changes and she says she didn’t want it done then change it. The arborist can ask her if she wants it cut, if she says yes again, great cut it. If she says no, then come back to council.
  + Joel said in Mary Gene’s case she is requesting it so let’s give her a heads up before we go and actually trim it. What do we do for other private properties if they aren’t home during the trimming? Jim said most all have requested so we just ask when we’re there to trim the tree if it crosses on to their private property. Make a responsible effort to contact them.
* **Multimodal Grant Funding Application Request**
  + Due the end of the month
  + Grant application in regards to our storm water drainage system.
  + Judy asked for councils approval to apply for that again
  + Mike Peters made a motion that we reapply. Sam Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
* **Other Grant Opportunities**
  + Sam Miller presented an annual program from PENNDOT Transportation Set Aside Program and there’s 6 or 7 categories.
  + This was made available June 10th and he just got it, we need a pre-submission made by August 5th then October 15th is the final submission date
  + It offers sidewalk replacements
  + Minimum award is $50,000 – there’s a lot to the application
  + Jim said in regards to grant that we waste our time, a professional grant writer is worth their weight in gold. He worked with someone at Juniata and got $4.5 million dollars – they work years and years on getting grants. You can waste time and effort, Judy knows the amount of time and effort it takes. Jim said it may be worth getting someone getting experience with grant writing
  + Sam agreed, but he also doesn’t know the cost that goes into hiring a grant writer
  + Mike asked how many pages it is, Sam said 75 pages of guidelines
  + Joel and Jim both know the grant writer and he’s highly recommended, an option to look at for the future
  + Jim said we’ve done more in two years here than we’ve done in twenty, so we have to focus on what we’re doing. That’s a whole lot of stuff we’ve done. Judy and all the council members should be commended for getting things in order. We don’t want to go too far out there and not do our best for what we’re doing.
  + Sam said if this in particular is too short of a timeline maybe it’s something we can aim for and be prepared for when it’s released next year
  + Jim asked approximately how much it’d cost to do sidewalks, Dain Davis said several hundred thousands
  + Judy said the preliminary cost work up was about $400,000
  + Mike is familiar with applications like this, but doesn’t recall one 75 pages long
  + Joel asked if there’s any in-kind requirement, Sam said yes that it would be a reimbursement for a completed job at 100%
  + Mike Peters motioned that council pursues the 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program. Sam Miller seconded. Jim Foster voted “no”. Motion still carried.
  + Sam confirmed we’d look into it and observe the practicality
  + Dain said Jim ‘Latere’, Huntingdon Country planner has probably been through it, so get in touch with him.
  + Jim said we need to research it and see what information we can find and whether it’s worth pursuing this year considering the time frame or not… rather than just say we are going to submit for it within a month. Is it feasible for us? \
  + Joel mentioned if we do the digging for this year and can’t we can do it for next year.
* **Course Vector Web Management**
  + Tori Wilt handles the website and social media. She’s had difficulties with Course Vector
  + Course Vector says we need to do a $90 training with them, so Judy requested the appropriate forms and fee
  + Joel offered to meet with Tori and take a look at it with her; Judy said please do that especially because we have to ensure our agenda and meeting minutes are posted on our website. We have to streamline the access to the website.
* **Main Street Café Lawn Care** 
  + Mike Peters called the bank on a Monday and said we’d try to do by the weekend. It was done by Tuesday.
  + Joel said that he picked all the stuff by the building and moved it back too and things by the dumpster were also taken away
  + The bank was Community State Bank of Orbisonia
  + Joel has gotten 500 questions about whether it was sold or not
* **Jim Latere Request**
  + Sent a message and is requesting the presence of Alexandria Borough and Porter Township to get together meeting with Army Corps of Engineers and another engineer on August 10th or August 11th to discuss the flood plain studies within Huntingdon County.
  + Wednesday, August 11th at 10:00 am on Zoom – Sam Miller, Jim Foster, Joel Pheasant, Judy Scott, and Mike Peters will attend
* **Mike Peters had a Request**
  + Was contacted at work by his plant manager and asked if council would be interested in owning a stretch of land against Shelton Ave. it’s behind the Medical Center. He asked if ACCO brands bought it and gave it to council. It would have to be with Porter too.
  + Mike asked Greg if he should say something to Porter
  + The park is owned by a partnership of Alexandria and Porter, this could be a similar partnership
  + Jim said to tell him that we are interested
  + Mike will mention to the Porter Township Supervisor and tell Jerry we are interested, but not committing yet
* **President Judy Scott got a letter**
  + Handed letter to Greg to inquire about ISO because she doesn’t know anything about them. Letter came in the mail today.
* **The Historic Stepping Stone**
  + Mr. Simpson said we can remove it and move it down to the depot. Sam Miller said the Historic Society would like it to the diamond rather than the depot. The Simpson’s just want to pay tribute to where it regularly was.
  + Jim said we should ask about George Houck’s if he’d like his removed or not…

**Executive Session begins: 8:21 pm**

**Executive Session ends: 8:49 pm**

**Motion for Adjournment made by Mike Peters and seconded by Joel Pheasant. All in favor. Meeting adjourned: 8:49 pm**