**October 11, 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 6:57 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 (via call), Joel Pheasant, and James Foster. Treasurer, Leslie McDermott and Solicitor, Greg Jackson were also present. Jeff Kelly, George Houck, Tori Wilt, Haldan Kirsch (The Daily News), and Ken Patterson were present.

* Approve meeting minutes from September 13, 2021
  + Motion to approve the minutes from Jim Foster, seconded by Joel Pheasant – motion carried

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS**

* Judy Scott mentioned amendment $2,100.00 for the Bridge painting that was not on the list
* Sam Miller motioned to approve the financial report and bills, Jim Foster seconded – motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jeff Kelly**

* Last 3 or 4 years the power company has been trying to get Hartslog Committee to change our method for Church St. and 6th Street. Jeff trying to find out where is the right away on 6th and Church St. – the power company doesn’t like us attaching to their pole anymore for Hartslog Day – so he is trying to put something down to provide electricity for future years
* He’s trying to plan ahead for next year
* One option is that he could put another pole in or an underground pedestal with meter based attachment or a temporary service like they do for job sites (with that you’d be digging a hole every year in the ground) – either way you look at it the earth needs a bit disturbed
* Judy Scott asked if the borough could ask for his ideas to be put down on paper and give council time to figure out about the property
* The power company first suggested a homeowners permission, but Jeff was hopeful the boroughs right away would be a bit more simpler to navigate
* Jim Foster asked if he could get the recommendation from the power company and then council could see if it fits.
* Jeff said they suggested the temporary service, but he doesn’t want to do it that way because you’d have to put two by fours into the homeowner’s property. Jeff would prefer a more permanent solution instead of putting up and taking something down every year.
* Mike mentioned putting the pole in, but Jeff explained that needs to be almost a 15 foot pole.
* He passed around a diagram of his option
* Greg asked about his underground option Jeff expressed that would be connected year round, but blocked off during the off season – trader pedestal for mobile homes, it’s like one unit that wouldn’t be that big or unsightly
* Jeff’s personal opinion likes the idea of a trader pedestal
* He will do some research and get back to council

**Tori Wilt**

* The luminaries are coming up and they had a donation box during Hartslog – they are about $125 short to do the luminaries.
* Tori contemplated going door to door if folks wanted to donate or do a flyer, does she need councils permission for that?
* There are a few people who donated last year and this year and her hope is that the community would take some ownership into it
* Jim Foster said going door to door is the easy way and the best way, but he doesn’t think we should do that – he thinks you should post online and then Tori can let council what she may need. You might get a donor to help that way. Tori said if they don’t get the money she would pay for it, but she hopes the community takes ownership
* Joel Pheasant said if this is something we want to do each year as a borough should we work it into our budget?
* Jim asked what does it cost – Tori said this year it’s changed and they have 2,500 hundred cancels – and anonymous donor is donating the bags – a few hundred dollars.
* Judy mentioned that the annual total is less than $500 for this year because last year they bought bags, but this year they were donated
* Jim Foster clarified that luminaries don’t promote any religious connotation or religious thing
* Tori said the history of luminaries was to light the way for Christ’s birth – that came from Catholicism, but she doesn’t know how well known that is
* Jim Foster asked Greg if we are okay to support that and Greg Jackson said yes
* Jim and Judy both said we will look if we can work that into the budget. Judy mentioned looking into the Christmas budget.
* Tori also mentioned that the new stops signs put up are continuing to be sped through – we have 14 kids on our block. She is bringing it to councils attention because she’s contacted State Troopers and they were only out for 10 minutes – it’s concerning and someone is going to get hurt if we don’t do something
* Tori said there are habitual people who want to blow through the stop signs
* Judy Scott thanked Tori for bringing that to our attention
* Mike Peters mentioned asking the State Police to be there, Judy Scott said they said they’d monitor it, but their not – Mike Peters said about asking them to watch that area extra
* Tori mentioned a particular citizen can be volatile and she isn’t comfortable addressing this issue. There are several people doing it, but there’s a person very specifically doing it. Occasionally it’s even when the bus is around. Jim suggested getting a car’s license plate number and identification.
* Ken Paterson recommended putting speed bumps up there
* Mike Peters asked about getting blinking red lights for the stop signs
* Joel Pheasant mentioned the people missing a stop sign are different than when people blow the stop sign or go through when a bus stops
* Joel Pheasant this is a larger problem in our town with many traffic violations and no one to enforce it.
* Mike Peters said as far as the stop signs go and people seeing these violations he asked Greg if we can make an ordinance in our town about traffic laws – for example, fining people for any violation
* Greg said if you had a municipal police department they could file a violation against the motor vehicle code, but he’s unsure if a borough could do that or a constable
* George said that on Saturday if he had a $1 every time someone came through the stop sign we could’ve bought a million Christmas lights

**SOLICITOR REPORT**

* Later in minutes under Property Maintenance Ordinance

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

* **George Houck**
  + On the corner of Shelton and High – the stop sign needs fixed, it’s leaning
  + Across the way there’s a tree blocking it and the resident needs to take care of it
  + Judy said grooming of the trees on Shelton Ave. is scheduled for in November
* **Ken Paterson** 
  + Did Mrs. Gahagan’s bank
  + Cleaned up after the arborist
  + Mowed grass
  + What about we doing about the winter snow removal – Jim and Judy said we need to put that out for bid
  + Judy Scott requested Leighton put an advertisement out to request bids
  + Mike Peters asked if the bidding is for a season or calendar year, Judy said calendar year
  + Judy said ask for the bids to be in by November 5th – scratched
  + Mike Peters somewhat concerned about an early snow and how our contract falls, Jim Foster said the annual calendar year makes sense
  + Greg Jackson actually said that we can’t make a motion at this meeting to advertise due to the Sunshine Act – this isn’t a matter that involves immediate danger to someone so we have to wait and do this next month once it’s on the agenda.

**Old Business**

* **Army Corp Study**
  + Judy concerned that we shouldn’t give options back for an incomplete study
  + Judy said we want a complete study done on our system – what they’ve presented wouldn’t make that much of a difference
  + Jim said their priorities weren’t even close to our priorities
* **Stop Sign and Speed Limit Signage**
  + Judy mentioned talking to a trooper and he regarded that once our signs are replaced then maybe something could be done
  + Mike asked if he basically said he wasn’t going to enforce things until the signs were up and compliant
  + Judy also mentioned a conversation with Ted Simpson that he has several signs, poles, and product that belong to the borough – that will help
  + Ken P. asked if he can take the odd and even signs down – Judy said it would be better to wait and do it all at the same time – he counted 8 signs for snow removal and Judy said we have 7 speed limit signs to install
* **Arborist Report**
  + The arborist is cataloguing every tree in the borough – that will also help with DCNR
  + He is doing a great job with all the trees
  + One concern he brought up is a tree on a private property – it’s a very large sugar maple, but because it is on private property Judy asked what they should do – Jim said ask the property owner and Greg said to do so also
* **Walk Bridge Project**
  + Judy said everything is still underway, the painting is completed, artisan is working, and we are waiting for the stamp of approval to break ground and get the bridge in. The approval comes from DEP – Judy was told it is on someone’s desk waiting to be processed. Ours should be easy.
* **2022 Budget**
  + Leslie gave copies of the budget to everyone
  + We have $74k to work with
  + Last year the borough got crushed on snow plowing and we need to be careful going forward so everything is understood – Jim mentioned
  + Jim asked if there was anything big or new we should know, what about fire tax – Leslie said not really, we’re good
  + Joel asked where do the Christmas Lights fall in
  + Jim asked if we have miscellaneous where we could put in for the luminary type projects?
  + Judy mentioned that we had suspended funds (not eliminated) simply because it’s such a tight budget
  + ‘Small tools and parts’ is a category we have that Leslie said we could put lights or something like that
  + Leslie reiterated that this (the budget) is a guideline
  + Jim Foster made a motion to approve a preliminary budget, Mike Peters seconded, all in favor – motion carried.
  + Mike Peters made a motion to advertise the budget for 30 days, Jim Foster seconded that, all in favor – motion carried.
  + **Leighton add the 2022 Budget to the December Agenda**
  + Joel will post proposed budget to the website as well
  + Ken P. mentioned owing Porter Twp a thank you – **Leighton send Porter Twp a thank you note for taking in our tree debris and burning it for us**
* **Property Maintenance Ordinance** 
  + Greg apologized for missing last month’s meeting.
  + He began to put together a new ordinance based on what we talked about –
  + Couple questions:
    - First, council talked about provisions to fencing
      * Max height of 5 feet
      * 3 foot buffer yard (That means you want a setback on property lines of no less than 3 feet for construction of fence)
      * Permit required for fencing
    - Second – he wanted to understand the exceptions made for boundary fences verses items for pool fences.
    - Greg mentioned no objections to a solid fence around someone’s pool verse a boundary line
  + The ordinance the council passes will be in effect, Greg wants to thoroughly understand what council wants
  + Swimming pools within the borough need fenced in
  + Mike Peters mentioned that for non-perimeter fences
  + Council would set particular criteria for perimeter fencing and then non-perimeter fences council could have a lot more circumstantial flex
  + He saw a reference to prohibit barbwire and chain-link
  + Greg clarified that any fence within the borough wouldn’t be affected by our new ordinance – this will stand for new construction
  + You will run into a problem if you have a specific type of fence prohibited in your ordinance and someone comes with that design – so if someone comes with a design regardless of how nice it may look you can’t approve that design
  + Council talked about the motions they made
  + Greg reiterated that council can make changes to what he puts together – based on what minutes he had he thought there was more consensus than what there is
  + With respect to lawn care and landscaping – Greg wants to recognize we have more rental properties than what we previously had – he mentioned that we impose the liabilities on the property owners not the tenant
  + The ordinance liability should be affixed to the property owner – they have ownership interest in the property verse a tenant
  + In respect to the porches and keeping porches in better esthetic – how can council make that clear – Greg suggests saying homes with a porch must be kept neat and tidy, etc.
  + Greg will have a draft in November
  + Judy mentioned that some items in the FEMA ordinance help cover some guidelines as well
  + Judy talked about this ordinance not seeking to be authoritarian, but respective of our neighbors and taking the best care of our town possible
  + Jim asked when is the reorganization meeting – it’s January 6th – Tori Wilt, Jane Pilch, and Mike Peters are on the ballot
  + Should sidewalks be under property maintenance, the greenway and not to blow grass into the street – yes
  + Other ordinances will have to be repealed to create this one – Joel wants to ensure we don’t miss anything
  + Greg said included within this revision of the ordinance will be repeals – he cautioned council given the size of this we can anticipate that there will be a hefty advertisement bill – Judy said we’ve only used half of our advertising bill so we should be good
  + Jim Foster wants to notify the public of burning ordinance as well while we’re doing this
  + **Greg reminded there is no amount of legislation you can pass that would change someone’s character**
  + Judy said it’s not to the boroughs benefit to be passive, we need to find ways to ensure we’re enforcing our ordinances
  + The tree that’s a problem the address was provided.
* **Hartslog Day**
  + Hartslog Day was a success – everyone seemed happy.
  + Judy mentioned the booth that will benefit our Christmas lights
  + Joel said that a woman mentioned that every year they come walk around the town just because of how beautiful it is
  + Jim mentioned what a nice job the historical team did with the museum
* **Christmas Lights**
  + Judy said we have raised enough funds to replace the bulbs – not the strings, but bulbs
* **Hometown Heroes Banners and Brochure**
  + Judy mentioned we had several stories come in and she would call others to get more
  + Jim asked how much a bracket is or how much several brackets, the ones we have now are $28 per set. The more you get you can get free shipping, a double set is $49.95 – Jim is going to get money for the brackets, there are people who really want to help and said we just have to keep trying.
  + Joel said would we like to post the stories we get on the heroes to the borough website – Jim and Judy both really like that idea
* **FEMA**
  + Judy said we had a resident that we had a resident who had an issue with the last flood. The resident contacted FEMA and they helped that resident get things expedited from the insurance – it was a help.
  + The resident thanked the borough and FEMA for the help

**Entered Executive Session: 8:45 pm**

**Resumed Regular Session: 9:00 pm**

**Motion for Adjournment made by Joel Pheasant and seconded by Mike Peters. All in favor. Meeting adjourned: 9:00 pm**