

Alexandria Borough Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Susan Parks; Mr. Jason Showalter; Sam Mohnkern's assistant, Kelly Mohnkern

Council Members Present:

Vice President Mike Peters, President Judy Scott, Jane Pilch

1. Opening

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayer
- Welcome by President Scott

2. Approval of Minutes

- *March 10th and March 31st Minutes:*
VP Mike Peters noted a duplication of the name "Lucas" in the March 31st minutes.
 - Motion to accept March 10th minutes as presented and March 31st minutes with amendment by VP Peters.
 - Seconded by Pilch.
 - All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Financial Report & Payment of Bills

- Motion to accept financial report and payment of bills made by VP Peters.
- Seconded by Pilch.
- All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Chipper Rental Request

- President Scott discussed arborist Sam's request to rent a chipper (max cost: \$500).

- Kelly Mohnkern explained its purpose: to chip invasive shrubs and other brush along a new pathway in the park by the river. Chips will be used on the pathway; a grassy meadow nearby will be planted with turf grass.
- Jane Pilch asked if invasive plants could regrow from chips. Jason stated they wouldn't.
- Jerry offered use of his own chipper if fixed.

5. Representative Reports

- *Water/Sewer Authority*: VP Peters shared that the engineer gave preliminary approval to tap into Shelton Ave for the new washer. Peters will obtain a permit for Brian.

6. Community Concerns: Jerry & Susan Parks

Street Sweeping:

- Jerry noted that the street sweeper skipped his side of Main Street.
- He sweeps manually but neighbors don't, and it's become unsightly.

Noise Complaint – Bluegills Restaurant:

- Jerry raised concerns about loud music.
 - Originally told it would be 2–3 nights per week, but 61% of summer weekends (28 nights) have already been scheduled.
 - Music sometimes exceeds 75 decibels (PA state law), making it hard for grandkids to stay overnight let alone them to enjoy their home.
 - Lighting during concerts is excessive, more than on Halloween.
 - One night went past 10:00 PM.
 - Some performances are disruptive (“screamers and squealers”).
 - The Parks are considering moving due to the disturbance.
 - Emphasized residential over commercial character of the community.
- VP Peters and Jane Pilch discussed potential compromise solutions like ending events earlier (9–10 PM), changing music styles, or adjusting volume.
- President Scott to review council-approved limitations and consult solicitor. Wants to see Bluegill's thriving and will plan to talk with them.

Additional Concerns from Jerry & Susan Parks:

- Suggestion to light the swings at night to deter vandalism.
 - VP Peters noted swing and mulch updates are in progress.
 - Jane Pilch added the park officially closes at dusk.
 - Jerry suggested lighting would prevent damage that often occurs after dark.
- Expressed frustration at declining property care in town.
- Interest in helping with future tree plantings post-construction.
- Concern over lack of street sweeping tied to tree work.
 - Jerry compared it to Huntingdon, where cars are towed for being on the street during sweeping.
 - Volunteered to place notices on cars himself.

7. Jason Showalter – Project Manager & Landscaper

- Oversees the Bridge and upcoming Canal Street projects.
- Confirmed with council that mulch choices must be made.

Mulch Selection for Canal Street:

- Council discussed two options: Jelly Bean (pastel/gray) vs. Brown Painted Rubber Mulch.
 - Brown was considered more aesthetically pleasing with 12–15 year color warranty and 20–25 year product lifespan.
- Jason detailed specs, cost, and maintenance tips (e.g., cautious leaf blowing).
- Motion by Jane Pilch to use Brown Painted Rubber Mulch from IMC.
 - Seconded by VP Peters.
 - All in favor. Motion carried.

Payment for Mulch:

- President Scott will coordinate payment and invoice process with Leslie.

- VP Peters made a motion to authorize up to \$18,000 for mulch payment to IMC Outdoor Living.
 - Seconded by Jane Pilch.
 - All in favor. Motion carried.
- Jason will manage ordering, scheduling, and provide reference number.
- Work to fix equipment requires 3 consecutive days over 70°F. Project to be completed by end of May.

8. Kelly Mohnkern – Pavilion & River Access Project

- Pavilion cost estimated at \$20,000–\$30,000. Plans reviewed by EADS Engineering.
- River access to be handled by the engineer, not Sam.
- Objective: Complete project by Summer 2026.
- Pavilion likely constructed with large logs.
- President Scott emphasized legacy-building and community ownership.
- Sam will manage planting and trail creation.

9. Borough Clean-Up Day

- Proposed Dates: May 10th and May 24th
 - Council prefers May 24th (Saturday), 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Dumpsters to be placed at base of Canal Street near firehall.
- Restrictions: No hazardous waste.
- One dumpster will be designated for metal.
- President Scott and VP Peters will coordinate with Mount Union for metal bin.
- Dumpster must be supervised during event.

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM by VP Peters.

- Seconded by Jane Pilch.
- All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 12, 2025