

Mayor Dunwell called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 9th, 2018.

Mayor Dunwell announced that adequate notice of the meeting was given and posted on the bulletin board in the Clerk's office satisfying the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act:

NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given. On January 5, 2018, the Municipal Clerk delivered to the Star Gazette/Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Clerk's office a notice containing the date, time, and place of this meeting of the Borough Council. Also said notice has been mailed to persons requesting the same.

Mayor Dunwell led prayer and the salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Present; Councilwoman Grossman, Councilman Pettinelli, Councilman Seiss and Councilman Singleton.

Absent; Councilman Cartabona, Councilman Schwar.

Public Comment

Mr. Schmidt, 1312 Schley, asked if we got an extension on the pool quote and further questioned the absence of certain Council members who don't show up when we are going to have a pool vote.

Mr. Morris, 527 Alpha St., inquired about the status of the water softener issue. He stated that he is on his second hot water tank. Mayor asked our Water and Sewer Engineer to address Mr. Morris' concerns. Stephanie addressed Mr. Morris' questions by reviewing the next steps in the process.

Louis Pettinelli, Fifth Ave., Echoed Mr. Morris' sentiments regarding the water softener issue. Mayor Dunwell, clarified that the issue isn't the water softener. The issue is the PH control. Mr. Pettinelli also ask the status of the water service repairs. Discussion continued on the topic of water service with regard to the properties and the work that is behind done.

Councilman Cartabona arrived at 7:21 PM

Beth West, 705 South Blvd., expressed her dissatisfaction and frustration regarding the pool vote and the three abstentions.

Councilman Cartabona added that door-to-door vs voter turnout on a topic such as this doesn't necessarily render a true result. Councilman Cartabona further explained that he believes that the majority of the residents actually want the pool.

Mr. Schmidt, 1312 Schley, reported that South Blvd. reported that the stones that were used to fill a hole in the road are now packed down and have created another dip in the road.

Mr. Pfeiffer 400 East Central Ave., had additional questions about the water softener.

Ordinances None

Resolutions

Resolution 2018-32 is listed on the agenda but has not been completed.

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to table Resolution 2018-32, seconded by Councilwoman Grossman. Roll Call; Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli and Singleton. Nays: None. Absent: Schwar

Motion made by Councilman Pettinelli to approve Resolution 2018-35, motion seconded by Councilman Seiss. Roll Call; Ayes Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Seiss and Singleton; Nays; None. Absent Schwar

RESOLUTION 2018-35
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF AN EMERGENCY
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Alpha deems the hiring of an emergency equipment operator in the Borough Department of Public Works in the best interests of the Borough of Alpha.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Alpha that Jason Pfeiffer be hired as an emergency equipment operator for the Borough of Alpha at a rate of \$25.00 per hour to work on an as needed basis.

Motion by Councilman Pettinelli to approve Resolution 2018-36, motion seconded by Councilman Singleton.

Motion by Councilwoman to table Resolution 2018-26, seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll Call; Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman and Singleton. Nays; Pettinelli and Seiss. Absent: Schwar.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Department Reports

Administration, Councilman Singleton, reported that the Deputy Clerk will be returning tomorrow and that the Acting Borough Clerk will start her classes this weekend to become a certified municipal clerk. He also commented on the class he took on Saturday and gave an update on website vendors. Councilman Singleton requested five minutes of executive session for personnel, Clerk's Office. In closing, Councilman Singleton approved all bills, salaries, and wages for his department.

Finance, Councilman Pettinelli, gave the following report in Councilman Schwar's absence: He reported on a date and time for the next budget meeting and that the CFO has already closed out several of the fund accounts. It could not be confirmed that Councilman Schwar approved all bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Health & Welfare, Councilman Pettinelli, reported on the activities of the ACO and the success of the Free Rabies Clinic held on January 13th, 2018. In closing, Councilman Pettinelli approved all bills, salaries, and wages for his department.

Public Property, Councilwoman Grossman, reported on the positive feedback regarding the ice rink and she received a resignation of our custodian effective January 19th, 2018. She also requested five minutes of executive session for personnel regarding the vacated custodian position. In closing, Councilwoman Grossman approved all bills, salaries, and wages for her department.

Public Safety, Councilman Thomas Seiss, reported that he got an email from the Clerk that a woman reported a sidewalk that wasn't shoveled. Our Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Fey took care of that. In closing, Councilman Seiss approved all bills, salaries, and wages for his department.

Public Works, Councilman Louis Cartabona, reported that we add a second person on as an emergency equipment operator due to the other person being out on sick leave. He also updated everyone on the Mason truck plow. This will give us a third piece of equipment to remove snow. In closing, Councilman Cartabona approved all bills, salaries, and wages for his department.

Councilman Pettinelli asked Councilman Cartabona about why the original emergency equipment operator didn't show up, He also asked why it took so long to get the plow if we had the truck since March of 2017. Councilman Pettinelli inquired about getting an additional full-time DPW worker. Councilman Cartabona asked for 10 minutes of executive session, contractual and personnel for DPW.

Committee Reports

There were not committee reports, however; Mayor Dunwell stated with regard to the Sewer Committee that the Phillipsburg Clerk did send the dates for the 2018 sewer meetings.

Professionals and Officials Reports

Mayor: Mayor Dunwell stated that he missed an appointment at the Reorganization Meeting last week. He would like to appoint William David Santowaso to a two-year term as an alternate Land Use Board member. The term will end December 31, 2019. Mayor also read off the subcommittees for 2018. Mayor continued, by saying he spoke with the attorney and the CFO and we would like to make a change before approving the bills, PO 17-00832. Mayor would like to make the change from \$1,025,000.00 to \$1,040,000.00. Discussion was had that the slightly higher amount is a proactively covering possible additional closing fees. The difference will be refunded to the Borough if there was excess. Mayor Dunwell request 10 minutes executive session for contractual to discuss sale of public property, 10 minutes executive session for contractual for Land Use Board issue and 15 minutes executive session for contractual and possible litigation for a 2016 water improvement project contractual issue.

Police Department Chief Stettner: Reported on the status of the crossing guards with nothing else to report. Councilman Cartabona thanked the Phillipsburg Police Department for the work they do in the Borough.

Fire Department, Chief Sean McDyer: Councilman Seiss reported on community events coming up in the next few months.

Office of Emergency Management, Todd Pantuso: - No report. Councilman Seiss said they are working on the 911 information that county has requested. Mayor Dunwell asked if all of the officers for the Fire Department were chosen. Councilman Seiss that he would have that by the next meeting.

Emergency Squad: Not present – No report

Attorney, Christopher Troxell: - No report

Engineer, Stephanie Cuthbert: Stephanie referred everyone to the January 9th report that was distributed, giving updates and status of ongoing projects in the Borough. Councilman Cartabona had commented that we are at a point where we are doing the fine tuning. He further stated that he would like to be at the next meeting with the engineer(s) and the Mayor. Stephanie said she would send him a meeting request. Councilman Seiss observed that the disinfection portion of the project appears to have not moved much and asked for a status of that. Stephanie updated Councilman Seiss. At this time Mayor Dunwell asked to amend his 10 minutes of executive session for a Land Use Board issue to 15 minutes and he asked Stephanie to sit in for that.

CFO, Lorraine Rossetti: In the absence of Councilman Schwar, Councilman Pettinelli reported that most of the fund accounts in the process of being closed.

Acting Municipal Clerk, Donna L. Messina: No report.

Recycling Coordinator, Thomas Fey: No report.

Code Enforcement, Thomas Fey: There was a complaint about sidewalks from a neighbor and Mr. Fey stated he will take care of that issue. Councilman Cartabona asked for clarification on the sidewalk complaint.

Library Board, Steve Knoll: Mr. Knoll reported out on the library activities for the next month. He also said they are still short three library board members.

Second Public Comment: Joey Foor, Morris Street, asked if there was a bypass system for the water softener with regard to filling up the pool.

Louis Pettinelli, Fifth Ave., brought up his concern about his water service and the process for fixing the water issue he has now. Further discussion was focused around the process and procedure for fixing his issue.

Tom Fey, stated the wasn't aware there was a problem with the Land Use Board. Mayor Dunwell stated that he is welcome to discuss it in seven minutes prior to the executive session. With no further public comment Mayor Dunwell reviewed the process for paying bills.

Payment of Bills & Claims:

Councilman Seiss made a motion to make the director's report a part of the minutes. Councilwoman Grossman seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Councilman Seiss made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all bills authorized by the director. Councilwoman Grossman seconded the motion. Roll call: Ayes; Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Seiss and Singleton. Nays: none. Absent: Schwar

Councilman Seiss made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by the director, Councilwoman Grossman seconded. Roll call: Ayes; Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Seiss and Singleton. Nays: none. Absent: Schwar.

January 5, 2018 06:23 PM		BOROUGH OF ALPHA Bill List By P.O. Number		Page No: 1						
P.O. #	PO Date	Vendor	PO Description	Status	Amount	Void Amount	PO Type			
17-00414	06/22/17	HEALTH	STATE OF NJ HEALTH BENEFITS	HEALTH BENEFITS - MAY-DEC 2017	Open	2,825.81	0.00			
17-00434	06/29/17	TRITE	DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SERV	COPIER LEASE 6/15/17-1/14/18	Open	144.59	0.00			
17-00445	07/05/17	LMR	LMR CLEANOUT & DISPOSAL	TRASH REMOVAL - JUN-DEC 2017	Open	12,833.33	0.00			
17-00574	08/16/17	NAPA	CARVER'S AUTO PARTS OF WC	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PARTS	Open	118.01	0.00			
17-00710	11/10/17	NAPA	CARVER'S AUTO PARTS OF WC	7/19 backhoe repairs	Open	76.25	0.00			
17-00711	10/22/17	ULINE	ULINE	OSHA SAFETY EQUIPMENT	Open	1,856.15	0.00			
17-00775	12/14/17	ULINE	ULINE	SAFETY EQUIP/GARBAGE RECEIPT	Open	1,175.49	0.00			
17-00796	12/19/17	HOME	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	VACUUM-MUNIC BLDG/DPW SUPPLIES	Open	313.04	0.00			
17-00816	12/27/17	AMGAS	AMERIGAS - CLINTON 7510	PROPANE-FRACE ST/SPRINGTOWN RD	Open	787.94	0.00			
17-00817	12/27/17	ULINE	ULINE	ICE MELT	Open	1,131.98	0.00			
17-00819	12/27/17	HOME	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	PVC PLUGS/WOOD DOWELS	Open	17.92	0.00			
17-00820	12/27/17	NAPA	CARVER'S AUTO PARTS OF WC	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PARTS	Open	153.08	0.00			
17-00822	12/27/17	NAPA	CARVER'S AUTO PARTS OF WC	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	Open	45.84	0.00			
17-00823	12/27/17	NAPA	CARVER'S AUTO PARTS OF WC	SPREADER WORK LIGHTS	Open	274.28	0.00			
17-00825	12/29/17	JCP&L	JCP&L	ELECTRICITY CHARGES DEC 2017	Open	69.89	0.00			
17-00826	12/29/17	ATLSA	ATLANTIC SALT	SALT DELIVERY 12/19&20/17	Open	5,668.10	0.00			
17-00828	12/29/17	COOPR	COOPER ALARM SYSTEMS	MONITORING--NOVEMBER-NOVEMBER	Open	436.00	0.00			
17-00829	12/31/17	EHRLI	EHRLICH, INC.	PEST PROTECTION - DEC.	Open	189.00	0.00			
17-00830	12/31/17	NJADVME	NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	2017 FALL CLEAN-UP ADVERTISING	Open	1,000.00	0.00			
17-00831	12/31/17	NJSTA	NJ STATE LEAGUE MUNICIPALITIES	Orientation for New Officials	Open	130.00	0.00			
17-00832	12/31/17	CORTES	CORTES & HAY, INC.	Purchase of PPOPEFY - ROCOD	Open	1,025,000.00	0.00			
17-00834	12/31/17	NJPLAN	NEW JERSEY PLANNING OFFICIALS	D. LYNN-LUB MANDATORY TRAINING	Open	85.00	0.00			
Total Purchase Orders:				22	Total P.O. Line Items:	0	Total List Amount:	1,054,331.70	Total Void Amount:	0.00

Old Business: No old business to report.

New Business: Councilman Pettinelli asked what the process is for starting the community with an indoor pool. Mayor Dunwell advised present the concept at a budget meeting, and speak with the engineer, think about location. Councilman Pettinelli further asked who reached out to get the consent for the pricing bid extension. Councilwoman Grossman said that she reached out.

Executive Session:

Councilman Pettinelli made a motion to approve the following resolution to go back into executive session for 60 minutes for contractual, litigation, and personnel. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman, all were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion(s) of the hereinafter specified subject matter(s).
2. The general nature of the subject matter(s) to be discussed is: Personnel, Litigation and/or Contractual,
3. It is anticipated at this time, that the above stated subject matter(s) will be made public when it is no longer a matter of confidentiality.
4. Action may or may not be taken after executive session.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Borough of Alpha that the public shall be excluded from an executive session for approximately 1 hour(s), 0 minutes, allowing for a seven (7) minutes recess between the regular session and the executive session.

Return to Regular Session:

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to return to the regular session, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli, all were in favor.

Adjournment:

Seeing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Councilman Singleton to adjourn this meeting at 9:46 PM, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Messina

Acting Borough Clerk