

Mayor Dunwell called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on December 28, 2016

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 1, 2016, 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; Councilman Cartabona, Councilwoman Gable, Councilman Pettinelli, Councilman Schwar and Councilman Seiss. Also present, Attorney Christopher Troxell and Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton. Absent: Councilwoman Grossman.

Public Comment None.

Resolutions

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to approve resolution 2016-165, motion seconded by Councilwoman Gable. Roll call; Ayes: Cartabona, Gable, Pettinelli, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

RESOLUTION 2016-165 LIEN REDEMPTION CERTIFICATE #2016003

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Borough of Alpha has advised the Mayor and Council that the following property has been redeemed and the money due thereon paid to the Borough of Alpha Tax Collector,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough of Alpha Council this 28th day of December 2016, that refunds are made to the certificate holder as noted:

Arthur Frustaci
712 Rugby Road

Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Block 44, Lot 5 – 225 Williams Street
Certificate #2016003
\$2,005.31

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve resolution 2016-166, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll call; Ayes: Cartabona, Gable, Pettinelli, Schwar and Seiss.
Nays: none.

RESOLUTION 2016-166

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE

TRANSFER OF CURRENT FUND AND UTILITY OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfer of excess appropriations by no less than 2/3 vote of full membership of the governing body during the last two months of the fiscal year and first three months of the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that excess appropriations exist in some accounts and there is need for supplemental appropriations in other accounts in the Year 2016 Current Fund and Utility Operating Budgets,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the following appropriation transfers are hereby approved:

CURRENT FUND:

| | | <u>Transfer To:</u> | <u>Transfer From:</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Finance – S/W | (6-01-20-130-101) | \$110 | |
| Planning/Zoning – S/W | (6-01-21-180-101) | \$175 | |
| Garbage/Recycling – S/W | (6-01-26-305-101) | \$240 | |
| Recreation – O/E | (6-01-32-410-201) | \$50 | |
| Payroll Services | (6-01-20-133-201) | \$805 | |
| Social Security | (6-01-36-472-201) | \$1,050 | |
| Finance – O/E | (6-01-20-130-201) | \$1,185 | |
| Maint of Comp – O/E | (6-01-20-132-201) | \$1,400 | |
| Building Maintenance | (6-01-26-310-209) | \$3,900 | |
| Group Ins for Employees | (6-01-23-220-201) | | \$8,915 |

UTILITY OPERATING:

| | | <u>Transfer To:</u> | <u>Transfer From:</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Water/Sewer – O/E | (6-09-55-502-201) | \$38,000 | |
| Water/Sewer – S/W | (6-09-55-501-501) | | \$38,000 |

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve and hold the following executive meeting minutes, and seconded by Councilman Seiss: April 12th 2016, April 26th 2016, May 10th 2016, and May 24th 2016. Roll Call; Ayes: Cartabona, Pettinelli, Schwar, and Seiss. Nays: none. Abstain; Gable.

Department Reports

Administration, Councilman Peter Pettinelli, reported that starting January 1st, 2017 new email will be available for employees at alphaboro.nj.org. Councilman Pettinelli further reported that on January 4th Service Electric will be coming to put internet services in the library and utility room. Councilman Pettinelli also reported that Service Electric offers phone service and he will be looking into that. Councilman Pettinelli also reported that tablets were distributed on Sunday to Council members. Councilman Pettinelli requested 5 minutes in executive session for personnel.

In closing, Councilman Pettinelli approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Finance, Councilman Michael Schwar, reported that the next budget meeting will be held on January 5th at 7 pm. He further reported working with the CFO yesterday on all of the 2016 budget numbers. He stated that he will be on Thursday and will have copies in councils' boxes. Councilman Schwar reported that he had a meeting with DEP new commissioner. He stated that there will be one or two more budget transfers, and anything charged to 2016 budget can be paid within the first three months of 2017. Councilman Schwar stated that he is meeting with the library and any extra money will be due to them. He also stated that he is waiting for the CFO to get him information on disability rates paid by municipality, and should be done by later this week or early next week. Councilman Schwar requested 10 minutes in executive session for contractual.

In closing Councilman Schwar approved bills, salaries and wages.

Health & Welfare, Councilwoman Jennifer Gable: Councilwoman Gable had no report.

In closing, Councilwoman Gable approved bills, salaries and wages for her department.

Public Property, Councilman Louis Cartabona, gave the following report in Councilwoman Grossman's absence: No report.

Public Safety, Councilman Thomas Seiss: No report. In closing, Councilman Seiss approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Works, Councilman Louis Cartabona: Councilman Cartabona reported that December 31, 2016 will be the official retirement of Charles Olah. He prepared a proclamation of appreciation for him that he read aloud. Councilman Cartabona reported an update on the 2011-2016 sanitary sewer system. He also stated that he needs to get the air quality permit to the Municipal Clerk. Councilman Cartabona stated that he had 3 responses to the emergency equipment operator position and would like 5 minutes in executive session for personnel.

In closing, Councilman Cartabona approves bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Mayor: Mayor Dunwell gave a briefing on a meeting he had on December 23rd with Carrie Pflug; Director of New Jersey DEP. She is meeting with municipalities and ours is the 100th that she's met with. During the meeting, open space issues were discussed and he also asked her for assistance with the Green Acres grant. Mayor Dunwell also discussed with her the Homa Lane drainage project and firm capacity. They also spoke of the landfill disturbance permit and transfer station for recyclables.

Mayor Dunwell discussed about how our meetings are conducted going further. There have been issues with making appointments and library board appointments. He stated that our meetings should be run with decorum, and we will not entertain things that were entertained last year.

Mayor Dunwell requested the following for executive session:

15 minutes – Personnel/Salary Ranges

Police Department, Captain Stettner: Captain Stettner stated that there is racing around in park and they would like to come to a resolution on this issue. There are a lot of rumors of who it is. Mayor Dunwell added that he would like to put a snow fence up to deter the issue. Councilman Cartabona inquired about putting up low tech cameras and asked if that would be a problem with the Police Department.

Engineer, Frank Seney: Mr. Seney distributed the 2016 report. He stated that the municipal aide is back now. He went on to explain that the fund has doubled to 140 million dollars and that Warren County may see an increase in funding. Mr. Seney also inquired about

approving a meeting in January to discuss funding for roads in the borough. Previously it had been stated that it would be for the western end of North Boulevard, and to include some sidewalk. Two applications will be submitted for the two roads to get done. Mr. Seney also discussed that other projects including roads 2-3 are done. He went on to explain that the fire house generator will receive new service the week of the ninth. Mr. Seney also stated that the Schley Avenue sidewalk is completed and that 23456 can be removed.

Mr. Seney reported that a change order is in effect for 6th Avenue into the contract. The change order will be by resolution for most supplemental items. Mr. Seney stated that the contract amount is \$675, 497.31 total with change order. The change order amount is \$19,090.75.

Mr. Seney briefly reported that the Homa Lane drain project plans are completed, but the engineer report for DEP application needs to be completed. He went on to discuss thoughts about planting on open space purchases and using some open space to plant on it.

Mr. Seney also stated that the material for Benke Field will be in this week. They will be installing framing for bleachers, dug out and pavilion after the first of the year.

Mr. Seney discussed the water project and stated that the utility will start after the first of the year and the redundancy will return January 2nd to start back up. He also advised that Stephanie was promoted to senior associate and that he received 25 years with R&V.

Attorney, Christopher Troxell: No report.

Mr. Troxell requested the following for executive session:

2 minutes – Contractual

Sewer Engineer, Jim Hill: Mr. Hill gave his report from the 22nd. He gave an update that the grouting point repairs are done and he submitted final inventory from Oswald. Mr. Hill also stated that the pump station was waiting for delivery of the tank and it should be completed by the 10th. He gave estimates for the alarms for 2017 budget. Mr. Hill distributed reports of the completed work since 2011.

At this time Councilman Schwar made a comment about meeting with Deangelo from Trane and he requested payment from last council meeting. They worked out some numbers and came up with a number that concurred with him. Councilman Schwar emailed it to him asking that he respond and verify and he failed to respond. He will not release until he confirms.

Attorney Troxell suggested to try calling him as well as emailing.

Recycling Coordinator, Tom Fey: Mr. Fey stated that by April he may be submitting reports to Trenton. He inquired about what was going on at the dumpster by the pool. Mayor Dunwell commented that the issue was not resolved and asked Mr. Fey to contact LMR for materials.

Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Fey: Mr. Fey updated the council about court hearings. Last Wednesday Mr. Fey had to go and testify for Mr. Adolesse on West Vulcanite. Mr. Hais garage pleaded guilty and he was given another 90 days. Also, Mr. Smogi pleaded not guilty but that issue is still being investigated. Ascolese (sp) was found guilty and fined. He refused offer on a payment plan and was hauled to jail.

Library, Steve Knoll: No report.

Fire Department, Fire Chief Sean McDyer: Chief McDyer reported that there were 14 calls in November. He also reported that the Santa breakfast went very well as well as Santa on the fire truck.

Public Comment- None.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Councilman Seiss made a motion to make the director's report a part of the minutes. Councilman Cartabona seconded the motion, all were in favor. Roll call; Ayes: Cartabona, Gable, Pettinelli, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

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

Councilman Schwar made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by the director. Councilwoman Gable seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Councilman Cartabona approved bills, salaries and wages for his department. Roll call; Ayes: Cartabona, Gable, Pettinelli, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

New Business

Councilman Pettinelli thanked Laurie Barton for giving up one of her vacation days to attend the meeting. Councilman Pettinelli gave an opinion on refurbishing the pool and that it could cost an estimated \$600,000.00. He stated that perhaps they could toss around the idea of building a community center with a pool inside of it including a wellness center.

Executive Session

Motion made by Councilman Pettinelli to approve the following resolution, motions seconded by Concilwoman Gable, 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), 45 minutes, allowing for a five (5) minute recess between the regular session and the executive session.

Return to Regular Session

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

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to approve resolution 2016-167 with amendment, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli. Roll call: Ayes; Cartabona, Gable, Pettinelli, Schwar, and Seiss. Nays: none.

RESOLUTION 2016-167
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE
HIRING OF TWO DPW WORKERS

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 Charles Bodogh III be hired as an emergency equipment operator for the Borough of Alpha at a rate of \$25.00 per hour.

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to approve resolution 2016-168 with amendment, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar. Roll call: Ayes; Cartabona, Gable, Pettinelli, Schwar, and Seiss. Nays: none.

RESOLUTION 2016-168
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
EXECUTE THE CONTRACT WITH THE WARREN COUNTY CONSERVANCY
TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha sought a monetary grant from the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund (“the Fund”) to put towards the purchase of certain property in the Borough for Open Space, specifically , Block 103, Lot1; and

WHEREAS, the Borough was selected by the Fund and awarded a grant of \$137,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Alpha that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the contract proposed by the Fund, accepting the said grant money for the Borough.

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to approve resolution 2016-169 with amendment, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli. Roll call: Ayes; Cartabona, Gable, Pettinelli, Schwar, and Seiss.

**RESOLUTION 2016-169
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA
AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha has hereby approved a contract in the amount of \$656,406.56 for the reconstruction of 1st Avenue and Olive Street in the Borough of Alpha with Top Line Construction Corp.; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer, Remington & Vernick has recommended a change order to said contract for an additional \$19,090.75, bringing the total of the contract to \$675,497.31.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Alpha that it hereby approves a change order in the additional amount of \$19,090.75, bringing the total to \$675,497.31 for the contract between the Borough of Alpha and Top Line Construction Corp. for the reconstruction of 1st Avenue and Olive Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that he Mayor, Clerk and Borough Engineer are authorized to execute all documents needed to effect same.

Adjournment:

Seeing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Councilwoman Gable to adjourn this meeting at 10:31 pm, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Barton