Council President Harry Zikas Jr. called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

Council President Harry Zikas Jr. announced that adequate notice of the meeting was given to the Star Gazette 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, 2010, the Municipal Clerk delivered to the Star Gazette 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.

Council President Harry Zikas Jr. led prayer and the salute to the flag.

*Roll Call:* Councilman Gara, Councilman Savary, Councilwoman Tarsi, Councilman A. Zikas and Councilman H. Zikas. Also present, Borough Attorney, Christopher Troxell, CFO, Lorraine Rossetti and Borough Clerk, Laurie A. Barton. Absent: Mayor Hanics and Councilman Hajdu.

## Public Comment

At this time Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton opened a public comment period for Pinstripes, to Barbara Wilson regarding a complaint received regarding the place of business where alcohol is served within the Borough.

After lengthy discussions and concerns from both residents and the Governing Body, Mrs. Wilson (*owner of Pinstripes*) stated that she will comply with the recommendations regarding noise, serving alcohol in the patio area, delivery of goods and the concerns of the fan.

Luis Cartabona, 1119 Fifth Avenue, spoke on the issues of the 2.5% property cap, freezing employee's salaries, the DPW contract and asked when will Council start working on next year's budget.

Mr. Cartabona also inquired about the sewer water bills and revenues paid on other expenses.

Mr. Cartabona also stated that he attended a Planning Board meeting and stated that he spoke with other citizens of the area of Second Avenue regarding a proposed project and stated that they do not want a building on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue site and that the Vulcanite (behind Alpha Sub) site was more appropriate. Mr. Cartabona also inquired about children riding their bicycles

without helmets. Chief Hager stated what the police department does regarding a bicycle safety program and mentioned National Night Out also addresses the issue.

Craig Dunwell, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, inquired about, 1162 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue again regarding junk and weeds. Lengthy discussions ensued regarding the property owner bringing garbage to the property from his house in Pohatcong Township. Mr. Dunwell suggested that the DPW take the garbage bring it to the landfill and bill the owner. Attorney Troxell stated the Borough can cite the owner.

Mr. Dunwell also commented on the minutes and the accuracy of them and the minutes from April not yet available on the website. Mr. Dunwell brought to the Council's attention a link on the website that asks for money in the Zoning Officers page.

Mr. Dunwell also inquired about draft copies of the ordinances and resolutions that are on the agenda's.

Mr. Dunwell inquired about the water sewer budget and changing the sewer billing like other places have already done and the DPW employee salaries being paid from the fund.

Mr. Dunwell also inquired about the hands free law that went into affect a couple of years ago and what the Borough's policy is on this and if anything was implemented into the personnel policy.

Mr. Dunwell brought to Council's attention printouts from Facebook regarding a DPW employee, and read posts that Mr. Pursell put on Facebook during work hours. Councilwoman Tarsi stated that she was not aware of this. Mr. Dunwell discussed the paving plans within the Borough and stated that on May 13<sup>th</sup> he was at the Pohatcong Township municipal building and spoke with Mayor Babinsky and Sam Souders and they said they knew absolutely nothing about the plan *(paving in a joint effort with Pohatcong Township's DPW)*. Councilwoman Tarsi stated that the Borough is not using their paver; one is being rented for \$600.00 per day. Mr. Dunwell stated that he thought from the last meeting it was mentioned that the Borough was using their (Pohatcong) paver and added that Mr. Babinsky's comment was "this is not going to happen".

Mr. Cartabona brought up the issue of the water sewer department regarding the salaries paid from that budget.

Mr. Dunwell asked about employees using cell phones and excessive usage.

Councilwoman Tarsi stated an investigation will be done. Attorney Troxell stated that this is a

personnel matter and should not be discussed in public.

Lengthy discussions ensued regarding the water sewer department.

Ordinances 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following ordinance with the public hearing and adoption set for June 8<sup>th</sup>:

## ORDINANCE 2010-06

# AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS ON FRANKLIN AND RINGWOOD AND THE REPLACEMENT OF HYDRANTS AND VALVES SURROUNDING THE ALPHA PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA AND APPROPRIATING \$70,000 OF UTILITY CAPITAL FUND BALANCE FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

# BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Section 1</u>. The Borough of Alpha, in the County of Warren, in the State of New Jersey, authorizes improvements of water lines on Ringwood Avenue and Franklin Street in addition to replacement of hydrants and valves around the Alpha Public School, for the Borough of Alpha to be funded from the sources specified in Section 2 of the Ordinance.

Section 2. The amount of \$70,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the following account: Utility Capital Fund Balance for the purposes stated in Section 1 of the Ordinance.

Section 3. In connection with the purpose and the amount authorized in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, the Borough determines the purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not a Current Expense and is an improvement which the Borough of Alpha may lawfully make as a general improvement.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon due passage and publication according to law.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that the above entitled ordinance was approved on first reading at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpha held on May 25, 2010 at

the Alpha Municipal Building at 1001 East Blvd., and that public hearing concerning same will be held at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on June 8,2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alpha Municipal Building at which time all persons both for and against shall be given the opportunity to be heard concerning the same.

Motion seconded by Councilman Gara, roll call: Ayes: Gara, Savary, Tarsi, A. Zikas and

H. Zikas. Nays: none. Absent: Hajdu.

# Resolution

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

#### RESOLUTION 2010-46 A RESOLUTION SETTING THE 2010 SALARIES FOR EACH EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the annual salaries of the officers and employees of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey:

Air Quality	Charles Olah	\$2,060 \$6,180	
Animal Warden	Tom Deacon		
Building Service Worker	Rita Miller	\$16.53/hour	
Chief Financial Officer	Lorraine Rossetti	\$58,000	
Clean Communities Coord.	Charles Olah	\$500	
Clerk/Typist	Open	\$15.75/hour	
Construction Official	Kevin Duddy	\$22,300	
Code Enforcement Officer	Open	\$3,000	
Court Clerk	Dawn Laird	\$15.45/hour	
Court Clerk Call Out	Kathy Cupon & Dawn Laird	\$35.00	
Council member	Robert Gara, John Hajdu, Louis Pettinelli, Klara Tarsi, Alex Zikas and Harry Zikas Jr.	\$2,540	
Deputy Borough Clerk	Christy Vishnesky	\$17.66/hr	
Emergency Management Coordinator	ncy Management Coordinator Robert Gara		
Emergency Management Deputy	John Hajdu	\$695	
Emergency Equipment Operator	Open	\$15.00/hour	
File Clerk	Open	\$8.60/hour	
Fire Inspector	Albert Hoppings	\$1,130	
Insurance Fund Commissioner	Klara Tarsi	\$1 stipend	
Mayor	Edward Hanics	\$3,305	

Municipal Court Administrator	Kathy Cupon	\$16,025	
Municipal Judge	Louis Mellinger	\$7,210	
Municipal Prosecutor	Christian Perrucci	\$2,650	
Park Attendant, I	John Kszak	\$11.00/hour	
Park Attendant, II	Open	\$8.00/hour	
Planning Bd. Secretary	Dolores Hanisak	\$14,998	
Plumbing Subcode Official	Leon Fortin	\$3,200	
Public Defender	Scott Wilhelm	\$150 per use	
Public Works Superintendent	Clarence Deemer	\$9,720	
Public Works Repairer I	Leo Pursell, Jr. & Dean Olah	\$54,685	
Pumping Station Operator	Mark Smith, Carl Gercie & George Cupon	\$13.80/hour	
Pumping Stat. Oper. Retainer	Mark Smith, Carl Gercie & George Cupon	\$275/qtr	
Registered Municipal Clerk	Laurie A Barton	\$61,000	
School Crossing Guard	Shirly Courter & Anna Hall	\$26.00 / day	
Senior Public Works Repairer	Charles Olah	\$72,674	
Sewer C-2 Operator	Art Groves	\$2,410	
Tax Assessor	Kathy Degan	\$18,760	
Tax Collector	Carrie Rochelle	\$21,805	
Tax Search Officer	Carrie Rochelle	\$605	
Utility Collector	Lorraine Rossetti	\$14,000	
Zoning Officer	Kevin Duddy	\$4,090	
Mileage allow personal car, contractual or		\$.50 cents/mile	

Motion seconded by Councilman A. Zikas, roll call: Ayes: Gara, A. Zikas and H. Zikas. Nays: Savary. Abstain: Tarsi. Motion fails resolution not passed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

# RESOLUTION 2010-47 REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NJSA 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159)

**WHEREAS**, NJS 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Alpha in the County of Warren, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2010 in the sum of \$6,030.33 which is now available from the Solid Waste Administration of the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$6,030.33

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the like sum of \$6,030.33 is hereby appropriated under the caption Clean Communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the above is the result of funds from the Solid Waste Administration of the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$6,030.33

Motion seconded by Councilman Savary, roll call: Ayes: Gara, Savary, Tarsi, A. Zikas

and H. Zikas. Nays: none. Absent: Hajdu.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

## RESOLUTION 2010-48 NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR COLLECTION OF GARBAGE

WHEREAS, The Borough of Alpha seeks bids pursuant to law for the collection of garbage, refuse, and curbside recycling from all designated sites and locations within the Borough of Alpha; and,

**WHEREAS,** New Jersey law requires that Notice to Bidders be publicly advertised before a contract may be awarded;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough

of Alpha this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010 that the attached Notice to Bidders be advertised by the Borough Clerk pursuant to law.

Motion seconded by Councilman Savary, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

## RESOLUTION 2010-49 RESOLUTION RESCINDING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS AND AFFIRMING THAT PART-TIME EMPLOYEES ARE NO LONGER ENTITLED TO DENTAL BENFITS

WHEREAS, the Council members of the Borough of Alpha had previously approved and authorized part-time employees in the Borough to enroll and receive dental insurance benefits at the sole cost of the said employees; and

WHEREAS, the Borough CFO has indicated that presently part-time employees should not be allowed to buy into the State Health Benefits Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is presently addressing governmental employees' pension benefits and health insurance benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council believes the prudent approach to the current situation is to rescind prior Resolutions and no longer allow part-time employees to receive dental benefits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Alpha that all part-time employees and planning board members are hereby declared ineligible to participate in the State Health Benefit Plan and shall no longer receive dental benefits as of June 30, 2010 (at 11:59 p.m.) and specifically Resolutions 07-24, 07-37, 07-71, and 2010-22 are hereby rescinded and shall have no further effect. The Borough CFO is authorized to sign any documents effecting this termination and provide those parties involved with written notice.

Motion seconded by Councilman Savary, roll call: Ayes: Gara, Savary, Tarsi, A. Zikas and H. Zikas. Nays: none. Absent: Hajdu.

## Release of Executive Session Minutes Previously Approved

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to release the executive session minutes under Litigation dated: 01/23/2007 #2 Vreeland Estate, motion seconded by Councilman Savary, all were in favor.

## Department Reports

Administration, Councilman Harry Zikas Jr.: No report, in closing Councilman H. Zikas approved all bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Finance, Councilman John Hajdu:* No report. The CFO stated that Councilman Hajdu previously approved his bills for his department.

*Health & Welfare, Councilman Mike Savary:* Councilman Savary reported on areas of high grass within the Borough. Councilman Savary inquired about tree branches from whole trees be taken down and whether the Borough will take the branches. Councilman Savary requested fifteen minutes in executive session for personnel. In closing, Councilman Savary approved all bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Council-President H. Zikas Jr. stated that there will be a water/sewer special meeting on 6:00 p.m. on June 8<sup>th</sup>. And this will be advertised.

*Public Property, Councilman A. Zikas:* Councilman A. Zikas stated that the foul ball net at the John Dolak field fell down. Mr. Metz donated his bucket truck to fix it at no cost to the Borough. In closing, Councilman A. Zikas approved all bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Public Safety, Councilman Robert Gara:* Councilman Gara stated he is in communication with the Police Chief and the Fire Chief. Councilman Gara spoke briefly of the flood mitigation concerns of the County and the impact on the Borough. A plan will be devised and submitted, even though the Borough is not affected by flooding from the dam or storms. In closing, Councilman Gara approved all bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Public Works, Councilwoman Tarsi:* Councilwoman Tarsi stated that Edge Road is complete except for the trees. Councilwoman Tarsi received both compliments and complaints with regards to the recent paving jobs throughout the Borough. Yards were damaged and they came in to fix the damage but weren't done correctly. Councilwoman Tarsi stated to hold up on the payment until the repairs are complete and up to the Borough's standards. Discussions ensued regarding the no parking signs that were installed up near the school. In closing, Councilwoman Tarsi approved all bills, salaries and wages for her department.

## Committee Reports

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Councilwoman Tarsi stated that there needs to be more volunteers for the committee.

Professionals & Officials Reports:

*Police, Chief Paul Hager:* The workers from the correctional facility were here in the Borough on Sunday, but wasn't sure if any work was able to be done due to the weather.

Councilwoman Tarsi stated that the AYAA needs to be signing the insurance forms and send back. The Clerk stated that she has no contact information regarding who is on the AYAA.

*Attorney, Christopher Troxell:* Mr. Troxell requested fifteen minutes in executive session for personnel and contractual and litigation. Correspondences have been circulated.

*Engineer, Shelley McGregor:* Ms. McGregor updated Council on projects and future projects within the Borough. Ms. McGregor stated that they recommend the award of bid to Reivacs for the Phase II water system improvements. The bid came in at \$58,466.27. Discussions ensued regarding the project on Edge Road.

*CFO, Lorraine Rossetti:* Mrs. Rossetti briefed Council on the postage meter machine and stated the current one is considered to be old and the company recommends updating and getting a new one. Mrs. Rossetti went into brief details of some of the highlights with the new machine.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the lease for a new postage machine to take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, motion seconded by Councilman Savary, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to allow the CFO sign the lease (*postage machine*), motion seconded by Councilman Gara, all were in favor.

## Payment of Bills and Claims:

Councilman Gara made a motion to make the director's report a part of the minutes. Councilman H. Zikas seconded the motion. *Roll call*; Ayes; Gara, Savary, Tarsi, A. Zikas, H. Zikas. Nays: none. Absent: Hajdu.

Councilwoman Tarsi made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all bills authorized by the director. Councilman Gara seconded the motion. Ayes; Gara, Savary, Tarsi, A. Zikas, H. Zikas. Nays: none. Absent: Hajdu.

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0-00312 05/20/10 QC	Ç, INC.	·	Dpen	165.00	0.00	
0-00323 05/20/10 VERIZ	VERIZOH WIRELESS		Coen	228.33	0.08	
C-00314 05/20/10 TOWNP	TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG	2010 2nd quarter sewer treat		\$5,046.37	0.00	
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Councilwoman Tarsi made a motion that the CFO is authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by the director, Councilman Gara seconded. *Roll call*; Ayes; Gara, Savary, Tarsi, A. Zikas, H. Zikas. Nays: none. Absent: Hajdu.

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## Old Business

Councilman Savary inquired about the memorial service that was held on Sunday at the MEMORIAL and stated that he was not aware of the service. Council-President H. Zikas stated that it is a Firehouse event.

Councilman Savary inquired about the email and letter Council received regarding Pohatcong's request for using the borough's court room. Council-President H. Zikas stated that this should be referred to the Mayor being that he has been in talks with the Pohatcong's Mayor regarding the matter.

## New Business

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the pavilion permit for the girl scouts on June 10<sup>th</sup> with the request of waiver of fee, motion seconded by Councilman Savary, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the pavilion permit with alcohol for Theresa Badway on July 17<sup>th</sup>, motion seconded by A. Zikas, all were in favor.

### **Executive Session: 30 Minutes**

Councilman Gara made a motion to approve the following resolution to go into executive session for thirty minutes for contractual, personnel, and litigation with a five minute recess:

#### RESOLUTION

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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: Contractual, Personnel, and Potential Litigation
- 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.

Motion seconded by Councilman Gara seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Back in regular session: 10:00 P.M.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to go back into regular session, motion seconded by Councilman Gara, all were in favor.

Adjourn: 10:01 pm

Seeing no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Tarsi made a motion to adjourn. Councilman A. Zikas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie A. Barton, Municipal Clerk