Mayor Hanics called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

Mayor Hanics 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, 2011, 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.

Mayor Hanics led prayer and the salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Present: Councilman Dunwell, Councilman Gara, Councilman Pfefferle, Councilman Savary, Councilwoman Tarsi and Councilman Zikas. Also present Borough Attorney, Christopher Troxell, Borough Clerk, Laurie A. Barton, CFO, Lorraine Rossetti and Borough Engineer, Shelley McGregor.

Mayor Hanics wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated Carol Schwar for her election to Council and Mary Van Lieu (Pohatcong Township Council Elect).

Ordinance

Motion to open the public hearing for the following ordinance was made by Councilwoman Tarsi and seconded by Councilman Gara, all were in favor:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-11
BOROUGH OF ALPHA
ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA ESTABLISHING "PAY TO PLAY"
REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUALS OR
ENTITIES CONTRACTING WITH THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA

WHEREAS, professional business entities are exempt from public bidding requirements in most situations; and

WHEREAS, it has become common for professional business entities to make substantial political contributions to the election campaigns of the local government elected officials who are ultimately responsible for awarding professional service contracts or other contracts or agreements which are not subject to public bidding; and

WHEREAS, substantial local political contributions from professionals' receiving discretionary contracts from the elected officials who receive such contributions raises

reasonable concerns on the part of taxpayers as to their trust in the process of local government, if not the quality or cost of services received; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 271, a municipality is authorized to adopt by ordinance measures limiting the awarding of public contracts to business entities that have made political contributions and limiting the contributions that the holders of a contract can make during the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 40A:11-5 and <u>N.J.S.A</u>. 40:48-1, municipalities have the right to establish rules and procedures for contracting with professional business entities.

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

County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the policy of the Borough of Alpha will be to set

maximum amounts that professional business entities may contribute politically beyond which

they become ineligible to receive a public professional service contract from the Borough of

Alpha.

Section 1. Prohibition on Awarding Public Contracts to Certain Contributors.

a. Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the municipality or any of its purchasing agents or agencies or those of its independent authorities, as the case may be, shall not enter into an agreement or otherwise contract to procure professional, banking, insurance coverage services or any other consulting services, including those awarded pursuant to a "fair and open" process, from any professional business entity, if that entity has solicited or made any contribution of money, or pledge of a contribution, including in-kind contributions, to any Borough of Alpha municipal candidate or holder of the public office having ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract, or campaign committee supporting such candidate or office holder, or to any Borough of Alpha party committee, or to any political action committee ("PAC") that regularly engages in the support of Borough of Alpha municipal elections and/or Borough of Alpha municipal parties in excess of the thresholds specified in subsection

- (d) below within one calendar year immediately preceding the date of the contract or agreement.
- b. No professional business entity which enters into negotiations for, or agrees to, any contract or agreement with the municipality or any department or agency thereof or of its independent authorities for the rendition of professional, banking or insurance coverage services or any other consulting services, including those awarded pursuant to a "fair and open" process, shall solicit or make any contribution of money, or pledge of a contribution, including in-kind contributions, to a Borough of Alpha municipal candidate or holder of the public office having ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract, or campaign committee supporting such candidate or office holder, or to any Borough of Alpha party committee, or to any political action committee ("PAC") that regularly engages in the support of Borough of Alpha municipal elections and/or Borough of Alpha municipal parties between the time of the first communication(s) between that business entity and the Borough regarding a specific professional services agreement and the later of the termination of negotiations or the completion of the contract or agreement.
- c. For the purposes of this ordinance "'professional business entity' seeking a public contract" means an individual including the individual's spouse, if any, and any child living at home; person; corporation; professional corporation; partnership; organization; or association. The definition of a business entity includes all principals who own ten percent (10%) or more of the equity in the corporation or business trust, partners, and officers in the aggregate employed by the entity as well as any subsidiaries directly controlled by the business entity.
- d. Any individual meeting the definition of "professional business entity" under this section may annually contribute a maximum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) each for any purpose to any candidate, for mayor or governing body, or Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) to the Borough of Alpha party, or Five Hundred to a PAC referenced in this Ordinance, without violating subsection (a) of this section. However, any group of individuals meeting the definition of "professional business entity" under this section,

such principals, partners, and officers of the entity in the aggregate, may not annually contribute for any purpose in excess of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to all Borough of Alpha candidates and office holders with ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract, and all Borough of Alpha political parties and PAC's referenced in this Ordinance combined, without violating subsection (a) of this section.

- e. For purposes of this section, the office that is considered to have ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract shall be the following:
 - The Borough of Alpha Council and Mayor, if the contract requires approval or appropriation from the Council;
 - The Mayor of the Borough of Alpha, if the contract requires approval of the Mayor, or if the public officer who is responsible for the award of a contract is appointed by the Mayor.

Section 2. Anti-Circumvention Provision.

It shall be a breach of the terms of the Borough's professional service agreement or agreement for goods or services for a business entity to (i) make or solicit a contribution in violation of this ordinance; (ii) knowingly conceal or misrepresent a contribution given or received; (iii) make or solicit contributions through intermediaries for the purpose of concealing or misrepresenting the source of the contribution; (iv) make or solicit any contribution on the condition or with the agreement that it will be contributed to a campaign committee of any candidate or holder of the public office in the Borough of Alpha; (v) engage or employ a lobbyist or consultant with the intent or understanding that such lobbyist or consultant would make or solicit any contribution, which if made or solicited by the business entity itself, would subject that entity to the restrictions of this Ordinance; (vi) fund contributions made by third parties, including consultants, attorneys, family members, and employees; (vii) engage in any exchange of contributions to circumvent the intent of this Ordinance; or (viii) directly or indirectly, through or by any other person or means, do any action which would subject that entity to the restrictions of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Contributions Made Prior to the Effective Date.

No contribution of money or any other thing of value, including in-kind contributions, made by a professional business entity to any municipal candidate for Mayor or Council, or municipal or county party committee or PAC referenced in this Ordinance shall be deemed a violation of this section, nor shall an agreement for property, goods, or services, of any kind, whatsoever be disqualified thereby, if that contribution was made by the professional business entity prior to the effective date of this section.

Section 4. Contribution Statement by Professional Business Entity.

- a. Prior to awarding any contract or agreement to procure services, including banking or insurance coverage services, with any professional entity, the Borough or any of its purchasing agents or agencies, as the case may be, shall receive a sworn statement from the professional business entity made under penalty of perjury that the bidder or officer has not made a contribution in violation of Section 1 of this Act;
- b. The professional business entity shall have a continuing duty to report any violations of this Act that may occur during the negotiation or duration of a contract. The certification required under this subsection shall be made prior to entry into the contract or agreement with the Borough and shall be in addition to any other certifications that may be required by any other provision of law.

Section 5. Return of Excess Contributions.

A professional business entity or Borough candidate or office holder or municipal or County party committee or PAC referenced in this Ordinance may cure a violation of Section 1 of this Ordinance if, within thirty (30) days after the contribution, the professional business entity notifies that Borough Council in writing and seeks and receives reimbursement of a contribution from the Borough candidate or municipal or County political party or PAC referenced in this Ordinance.

Section 6. Penalty.

Any professional business entity which violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be disqualified from eligibility for future Borough of Alpha contracts for period of three years from the date of violation.

Section 7. Severability and Effectiveness Clause.

- a. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.
- b. Any Ordinance inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with law.

Hearing no public comment, motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilman Gara, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to adopt the foregoing ordinance, motion seconded by Councilman Dunwell, roll call, Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas.

Nays: none.

Resolution

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2011-98 UTILITY FUND EMERGENCY RESOLUTION – NJS 40A:4-48

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to flooding and water infiltration into the sanitary sewer system and, no adequate provision was made in the 2011 Utility budget for the aforesaid purpose, and NJS 40A:4-46 provides for the creation on an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the emergency appropriations created, including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$77,000 and three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for 2011 is \$88,463 and

WHEREAS, the foregoing appropriation together with prior appropriations does not exceed three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, (by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJS 40A:4-48:

- 1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for Utility Other Expenses in the amount of \$77,000
- 2. That said emergency appropriation shall be provided for in full in the 2012 budget, and is requested to be excluded from CAPS, pursuant to NJS 40A:4-53.3c(1)

- 3. The municipal clerk shall file two (2) certified copies of this resolution with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services
- 4. The municipal clerk shall file one (1) copy of the Certification for Emergency with the Director of the Local Government Services included with the certified resolution copies, as prepared and submitted by the CFO in accordance with NJS 40A:4-48 prior to adoption of said resolution.

Discussions ensued regarding the reason for this resolution and the reason why the bill is higher than normal.

Motion seconded by Councilman Pfefferle, questions: Councilman Dunwell asked why the borough is over \$77,000 over for the sewer flow to the Town of Phillipsburg. Discussions ensued for the reason of the overage and maintenance on the sewer system. Roll call, Ayes: Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: Dunwell.

Department Reports

Administration, Councilman Craig Dunwell: Councilman Dunwell reported that Intercounty Paving project for an asphalt plant was dismissed with prejudice and they cannot come before the board again for this. Councilman Dunwell reported on a proposed senate bill S-2950 and stated that this bill has been withdrawn and the Borough no longer needs to do a resolution. Councilman Dunwell reported on seminars he attended while at the League of Municipalities convention. The flyer regarding tree trimming will be going out early next week. Chipping should be done well into December to accommodate the trimming that will be done by result of the flyer. In closing, Councilman Dunwell approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Councilman Savary inquired about a resolution or an ordinance for Intercounty prohibiting bituminous concrete plants in the Borough. Councilman Dunwell stated his reasons for prohibiting this type of plant and polled Council on their feeling of reintroducing a modification to the ordinance. Majority was in favor of passing an ordinance as long as there are no pending applications before the Land Use Board.

Finance, Councilman Chris Pfefferle: Councilman Pfefferle reported on seminars and information he received from attending the League Convention. Mr. Pfefferle reported on his findings regarding the library and stated that the library here is a municipal library. Mr. Pfefferle stated that anything above 20% surplus is supposed to be returned back to the town and currently they don't do this. Councilman Pfefferle went on to state that the library needs to have an audit every year and currently they don't.

Councilman Pfefferle requested fifteen minutes in executive session for personnel. In closing, Councilman Pfefferle approved bills, salaries and wages for his department. A budget meeting was scheduled for December 15th at 6 p.m.

Health and Welfare, Councilman Alex Zikas: No report. In closing Councilman Zikas approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Property, Councilman Mike Savary: Councilman Savary stated a new sign will be ordered for Industrial Park and the park where the pavilion is. In closing, Councilman Savary approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Councilman Zikas inquired about the pool being full of water. Councilman Savary stated that it's not harming anything and that it's keeping the walls from collapsing in.

Public Safety, Councilman Robert Gara: Councilman Gara reported on the two power lines that were down in the Borough. Santa will be going out around town on December 17th.

Breakfast with Santa at the firehouse will be held on December 4th from 9 a.m.-12:00 noon. In closing, Councilman Gara approved all bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Works, Councilwoman Klara Tarsi: Councilwoman Tarsi reported that she met with Chuck Sands regarding the meter installations. A mailing will be going out to the residents to have them contact Mr. Sands and Mr. Durnin to get these meters installed and Councilwoman Tarsi even suggested that it be announced in the newspaper. If the people won't respond then their water will be shut off. Sixty shut off letters went out for nonpayment. The recent saturation mailing cost \$271.91, in which Councilwoman Tarsi stated she believes that QC should be responsible for paying this. Councilwoman Tarsi stated she is adding a purchase order in the amount of \$271.91 to the bill list.

The road department has been going out and chipping. The Sigsbee water lines were discussed for repairs that need to be done. Shelley McGregor reported on her conversation with NY Leak Detection for the job on getting the leaks repaired. Councilwoman Tarsi stated she will meet with them on the 28th. Councilman Dunwell stated that this should not be delayed. Councilman Savary suggested that the job be contracted out. Heated discussions ensued regarding having the DPW doing the job and harassment to the DPW employees. In closing, Councilwoman Tarsi approved bills, salaries and wages for her department.

Motion made by Councilman Dunwell to authorize Councilman Savary to seek bids for an excavator to come in on the 28th to excavate along with one DPW employee to install five service lines for Leona Street not to exceed \$5,000, motion seconded by Councilman Pfefferle, roll call, Ayes: Dunwell, Pfefferle and Savary. Nays: Gara, Tarsi and Zikas. Mayor Hanics broke the tie and voted yes to pass the motion.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee, Councilman Pfefferle reported on the budget committee meeting.

There are areas that have been identified as large deficit items to look into.

Insurance, Councilwoman Tarsi reported on her meeting with PAIC she attended regarding email communications constituting a quorum and the open public meetings act.

Professionals and Officials Reports

Mayor, Edward Hanics: Mayor Hanics reported on his classes he attended at the League convention. Mayor Hanics reported that the recent incident regarding a shooting at the cemetery is still being investigated. Mayor Hanics reported on an incident regarding Mrs. Hub's house possibly sprayed by sealer by a contractor that was working in the Borough next to her home. Shelley McGregor stated she will follow up with the contractor and Mrs. Hubb.

Police, Chief Hager: No report. Councilman Gara requested five minutes in executive session for litigation.

Fire Department, Chief Bodogh: Chief Bodogh reported on a proposed bill for when wires go down for the department to bill for the hours, due to a recent deadly incident of a resident dying because of downed wires and that a fire company is now being sued.

Attorney, Christopher Troxell: Mr. Troxell requested five minutes in executive session.

Engineer, Shelley McGregor: Ms. McGregor reported on various projects (report distributed to Mayor and Council).

Councilman Dunwell asked how many hydrants are going to be replaced on High Street.

Ms. McGregor stated that two are going to be replaced.

Councilman Savary inquired about the type of hydrant that will be replaced and how high they will be sticking out of the ground.

CFO, Lorraine Rossetti: Councilman Pfefferle gave the report in Ms. Rossetti's absence and reported that October reconciliations are complete. Revenues are slightly behind but with

the upcoming tax sale that should change. Best Practices policies need to be reviewed and adopted.

Councilman Dunwell reported on the possibility of having online payments for water and sewer utility and for tax collection and for 2012 eliminating water and sewer payments here at the municipal building due to a large expenditure of time.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to make the director's reports part of the minutes, motion seconded by Councilman Dunwell. Roll call: Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

Councilwoman Tarsi made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all bills, including the added items, authorized by the director. Councilman Gara seconded the motion. Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi that the CFO be authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by directors seconded by Councilman Gara. Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

767 12/08/11 DOG

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Old business

Councilman Savary asked the Engineer if the Borough ordered the gaskets for the manholes. Councilwoman Tarsi stated that they arrived and there are 100 of them.

Councilman Pfefferle reported on information he obtained and had information from the New Jersey Department of Human Services for assistance for children under 21. Councilman Pfefferle stated that this could possibly alleviate the issue the resident has with the Borough concerning the insurance and payment of a claim and asked the Clerk send a letter to the resident with the contact information.

New Business

Approval of Raffle license # RA-2011-7 for St. Mary's Church with request of waiver of local fee.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the raffle license, motion seconded by Councilman Dunwell, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Pfefferle to approve the following 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: 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.

Motion seconded by Councilman Zikas, all was in favor.

Return to Regular Session

Motion made by Councilman Pfefferle to return to regular session, motion seconded by Councilwoman Tarsi, all were in favor.

Adjournment: 8:51P.M.

Seeing no further business to come before Mayor and Council, Councilwoman Tarsi made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Zikas seconded, and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Barton, RMC