Mayor Hanics called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 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.

### Public Comment

Millard Rooks, Vulcanite Avenue, discussed his problems with the new water meter installation at his residence and stated he would like to elaborate why it couldn't be done according to the person installing the meters. Councilman Dunwell stated that the same has occurred at his mother's house where it involves the valve and possible location and if the valve won't turn (inlet valve) the contractor doesn't want to do it they prefer the homeowner do it. Millard Rooks stated there is problem of the location of the valve being to far away from the meter.

Louis Cartabona, Fifth Avenue, commented on Mr. Rooks issue being that he is a licensed plumber and the problem of the location of the valve.

Mr. Cartabona asked how many meters have been installed so far, CFO, Lorraine Rossetti stated that there have been 347 installed.

### **Ordinances**

Motion made by councilwoman Tarsi and seconded by Councilman Gara, to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2011-12, roll call: Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

### **ORDINANCE 2011-12**

# AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 410 - ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA BY ADDING THERETO DEFINITIONS OF AND PROVISIONS ALLOWING FOR ALTERNATIVE (SOLAR) ENERGY FACILITIES AND DEVICES AND PROVIDING REGULATIONS RELATING THERETO

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, that the following amendments shall be and are herewith enacted to Chapter 410 – Zoning of the Code of the Borough of Alpha:

Section 1: Chapter 410 - Zoning, Article I – General Provisions, Subsection 410-3 **Definitions**; word usage, shall be amended by the addition thereto with the following definitions:

*Area of Solar Array* – means the area of the smallest encompassing square, rectangle (or other geometric figure) of a ground-mounted solar array.

*Ground Mounted Solar Array* - means a solar energy system, as defined herein that is mounted on armatures anchored to the ground with ground cover beneath.

*Rooftop Solar Array* – means a solar energy system, as defined herein that is mounted to roof of a building or structure.

*Solar Energy System* – means a solar energy system and all associated equipment which converts solar energy into a usable electrical energy, heats water or produces hot air or other similar function through the use of solar panels.

*Solar Panels* – a structure containing one or more receptive cells, the purpose of which is to convert solar energy into usable electrical energy by way of a solar energy system.

- Section 2: Chapter 410 Zoning, Article V Provisions Applicable to All Zones shall be amended by the addition thereto to Subsection 410-25. Accessory structures. new Subsections C. and D. and reading particularly as follows:
- C. Roof-mounted solar panels and solar panel arrays not exceeding a height of twelve (12) inches from the existing roof surface of a peaked rood and not exceeding a height of four (4) feet from the existing roof surface of a flat roofed structure and not resulting in an overall height in excess of that permitted for the principle structure in the Zone District in which the principle structure is located shall be a permitted accessory use in all Zone Districts.
- D. Ground-mounted solar panels arrays designed and capable of production of electrical energy not to exceed 110% of the energy needs of the principle structure located upon the same lot, based upon the average electric utility usage over the three-year period immediately prior to the application for the Zoning Permit shall be a permitted accessory use in all Zone Districts. Provided, however, that no portion of the solar panel array shall exceed a height of eight (8) feet above existing grade. Such solar panel arrays shall be located in the side yard and rear yard areas, only, of the lot and must meet the setbacks for accessory structures and maximum accessory structure area limitations for the Zone District in which the solar panel array is located. If located in the side yard area of the lot, the ground-mounted solar panel array shall be buffered from view of adjoining properties and roadways by fencing, screening or vegetation such as evergreen plantings having a minimum planted height of 48 inches and not exceeding an on-center planting spacing of ten (10) feet. Not more than ten (10) percent of the area of the lot or 2,500 square feet, whichever is lesser, shall be devoted to the use. Ground-mounted solar panel arrays shall not be located in any environmentally constrained area.

Section 3: Use Regulations Subsection 410-20. I. Industrial Zone. Subsection D. Conditional Uses. shall be amended thereto by adding the following new provisions:

- (2.) Solar production systems meeting the following requirements and subject to the following limitations:
- (a) Any applicant proposing a solar production system must file conditional use and site plan applications with the Land Use Board and obtain site plan and all other requisite Board approvals, including conditional use approval, in accordance with Chapter 315 *Site Plan Review*.
- (b) Ground-mounted solar production systems shall be located only on non-forested sites or on sites that have been cleared for at least five (5) years prior to the submission of the application. Not in excess of twenty (20) percent of the lot shall be cleared for purpose of establishment of a solar production system.
- (c) The site shall contain an area of six (6) acres for each megawatt (MW) of electrical energy to be produced.
- (d) The design output capacity of a solar production system shall not exceed ten (10) megawatts (MW).
- (e) Not in excess of eighty (80) percent of the lot shall be devoted to a solar production system.
- (f) Solar production systems shall maintain a setback distance of 75 feet from all property lines.
- (g) Solar production system structures, appurtenances and facilities shall not exceed a height of fifteen (15) feet above ground level.
- (h) Ground-mounted solar production systems shall not be deemed to contribute to impervious surface calculations for drainage purposes, unless installed above an existing impervious surface.
- (i) The facilities and associated equipment shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the system and contact information in the event of an emergency. In no case shall any such identification be visible from the property line.
- (j) Wires, cables and transmission lines running between the facility and any other structure shall be installed underground.
- (k) Solar production systems shall be screened from view of all public streets by buildings and/or a 50 foot width buffer of dense evergreen plantings and/or fences as deemed necessary by the Land Use Board to effectuate the intended buffer.
- (l) Applications for approval of ground-mounted solar production systems shall include a landscape plan specifying the seed mix to be used as groundcover beneath the solar arrays which shall consist of a mix that requires low maintenance, promotes establishment of local wildlife and has a maximum growth height less than the height of the lower portion of the solar panels.
- (m) Solar production systems and associated equipment which have not been used for commercial production for a period of six (6) consecutive months shall be removed by the property owner. Furthermore, all equipment buildings, related facilities, fencing, utility connections and access driveways utilized for the solar production facility shall be removed and the site restored to its pre-development condition. Such removal shall be completed within sixty (60) days of the end of such six (6) month period. All costs associated with removal shall be the exclusive responsibility of the property owner.
- (n) In order to assure compliance with the facility abandonment requirements set forth in Subsection (m.) above, the developer and/or property owner shall provide a performance

guaranty satisfactory to the Land Use Board and the Borough Council as sufficient for the reasonably projected costs of removal of the equipment and restoration of the site. Said performance guaranty shall be in an amount equal to one-hundred twenty (120) percent of the estimated costs of removal and restoration and shall be subject to the approval of the Borough Engineer. Failure to remove an abandoned solar energy system shall enable to the Borough to remove same at the owner's expense and to assess the property upon which the facilities were located for all reasonable costs and expenses associated therewith, including professional (legal and engineering) services.

### Public Comment on Ordinance 2012-12

Louis Cartabona, Fifth Avenue, inquired about subparagraph C of the ordinance and inquired about future technology and affecting the megawatts. Councilman Pfefferle responded that the ordinance is built around today's technology. Mr. Cartabona inquired if this (Ordinance) changes in the future, then there's the issue of costs of advertising the ordinance again. Mr. Cartabona stated that the Borough is not a condo association and the ordinance is too restrictive. Lengthy discussions ensued with regards to electricity use and the State law on the usage and amount allowed.

Mr. Cartabona asked where the Borough got the language for this Ordinance. Councilman Dunwell stated that this ordinance was drafted by the Land Use Board Attorney. Councilman Dunwell stated that he sees this solar ordinance as being a guideline for people who are interested in solar industrially or a homeowner to use.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Councilwoman Tarsi and seconded by Councilman Dunwell, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to adopt the foregoing ordinance, motion seconded by Councilman Pfefferle. Roll call: Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

### Resolutions

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

### RESOLUTION 2011-99 REFUND OVERPAYMENTS

WHEREAS, the following properties have an overpayment of property taxes for the tax year 2011;

WHEREAS, any overpayment greater than \$5.00 must be returned;

Block 15, Lot 5	Hanics, Edward Jr. & Cindy		\$1,037.14
Block 35, Lot 8	Anilo, Rachael		\$320.98
Block 42, Lot 1	Devlin, Lawrence		\$1,098.61
Block 65, Lot 3	Buss, Steven & Rachel		\$1,359.55
Block 71, Lot 2	Fahey, John J. & Elyse A.	\$5.66	

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha on this 13th day of December 2011 that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue refund check for all of the above and the Tax Collector shall note the records accordingly.

Motion seconded by Councilman Dunwell, roll call: Ayes Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

### **RESOLUTION 2011-100**

### A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CURRENT FUND 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 2011 Current Fund Budget,

**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:

Transfer From: Transfer To: Amount

Legal OE (20-155-226)

Administration OE (20-100-203)

\$3,500.00

Motion seconded by Councilman Dunwell, roll call: Ayes Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution:

## RESOLUTION 2011-101 RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE BOROUGH'S COMMITMENT TO The Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant Program

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Alpha had applied for and received a clean energy block grant (funds) from the Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough clearly intends to participate in and use the funds under and pursuant to the grant; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has been subjected to unforeseen delays due to retrofitting and necessary building modifications to complete the work under the grant, such work including the installation of a new HVAC system by H.G. Lyons.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Borough of Alpha hereby declares its intent to participate (or continue participating) in the Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant Program and acknowledges that any building modifications are solely the responsibility of the Borough, with a cost estimate from the Borough Engineer not to exceed \$3,000.00 for the modifications. Councilman Michael Savary is hereby authorized to manage and complete the project per this resolution.

Motion seconded by Councilman Pfefferle, roll call: Ayes Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

### Minutes

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi and seconded by Councilman Dunwell to approve the following minutes; 09/27/2011 and 10/11/2011. All were in favor.

### Department reports

Administration, Councilman Craig Dunwell: Councilman Dunwell requested that if anyone has updates to the website to email him with those and any other additional updates. Councilman Dunwell asked if anyone has something different to put on the home page to replace the twitter feed. Councilman Dunwell requested 15 minutes in executive session for contractual to discuss the raw mater transmission main as part of the water treatment plant upgrade. In closing Councilman Dunwell approved all bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Finance, Councilman Chris Pfefferle: Councilman Pfefferle discussed joining the South Warren Municipal Government association for shared services. Councilman Pfefferle requested 30 minutes in executive session for contractual to discuss shared services. In closing Councilman Pfefferle approved his bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Health and Welfare, Councilman Alex Zikas: Councilman Zikas gave the report from the Warren County Board of Health. In closing Councilman Zikas approved all his bills, salaries and wages for his department. Councilman Zikas requested 30 minutes in executive session for contractual. Councilman Dunwell inquired about the property at 930 High Street (apartment complex) and if the health report was copied to the property manager or asked if it is a tenant issue. Councilman Zikas responded that it is a tenant issue and he will call the Warren County Health Board and find out if the report was forwarded to the manager.

Public Property, Councilman Michael Savary: Councilman Savary stated he is working on getting prices for lighting in Council's Chambers. Councilman Savary stated that he is also working on getting a new sign for Industrial Park. Councilman Savary requested 10 minutes in executive session for contractual. In closing Councilman Savary approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Safety, Councilman Robert Gara: Councilman Gara stated that he received the report from the Fire Department and the wire issue, which was brought up regarding Schley Avenue, has been taken care of with JCP&L. In closing Councilman Gara approved his bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Works, Councilwoman Klara Tarsi:, Councilwoman Tarsi briefly went through the report of the Department of Public Works; water main break on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, curbs marked for the leak detection company, mason dump was worked on, hydraulic hose repair on a vehicle, two new taps on Leona Street, curb repaired on 913 North Boulevard, pump problem at the pump house, garage bays cleaned up and replaced bulbs on the exit signs on the municipal building. In closing, Councilwoman Tarsi approved all bills, salaries and wages for her department.

Mayor Hanics stated that he received calls from residents that cannot get a hold of Mr. Sands for their meters to be installed.

Councilwoman Tarsi stated that the due dates of water bills will need to be extended due to the contractor not getting the meters that have been installed to the CFO in time (209 meters).

Councilwoman Tarsi stated that Mr. Sands was supposed to be turning them in every Friday which he is not doing, so the water bills will need to be estimated (over 600).

Discussions ensued regarding picking up branches from the October storm and having the trucks ready.

Councilman Dunwell stated that a letter went out today regarding the fifteen foot requirement in the alleys to have them clear from trees and branches.

Councilman Dunwell stated that the Borough sent out a fair and open bid request in November for Licensed Water Operator, Labor Attorney and Engineer. They received six responses for Engineer. The other positions will be solicited and have interviews conducted. Councilman Pfefferle at this time requested 15 minutes in executive session for personnel.

Councilman Savary inquired about water leaks on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and asked what the time frame will be to repair. Councilwoman Tarsi stated that the plumber is away for a day or two. Councilman Dunwell stated that the homeowner has been cooperative, but there is no ordinance in effect to force them on their side to fix. Councilman Savary stated that they need to work on that ordinance. Mayor Hanics stated there should be a timeline to fix a leak.

Councilman Savary inquired about the manhole covers. Councilwoman Tarsi stated that they have not come in. Councilman Savary inquired about AYAA. Councilwoman Tarsi made a call to the AYAA but has not heard or received anything.

Councilwoman Tarsi stated that Charter Partners has not received anything and they also cannot get a hold of someone from the AYAA. The insurance, come January 1<sup>st</sup> will expire. Discussions ensued regarding policies on the AYAA's bill payment procedures.

Councilman Pfefferle requested that a letter go to the AYAA requesting them to come to a meeting before Council. Councilman Savary agreed and that the Council needs to get to the bottom of the situation with the AYAA. Councilman Dunwell stated that he wanted on public record that he feels that they are being set up by the AYAA. Councilman Dunwell insisted that the Mayor sit down with the president of the AYAA and have him sign the renewal policy for their insurance.

### Committee Reports

**Insurance**: Councilwoman Tarsi reported that there will be changes regarding PAIC with the claims company. Councilwoman Tarsi stated that due to PAIC changing carriers for claims, the Borough needs to list any possible claims and forward to PAIC immediately. Councilwoman Tarsi requested 15 minutes in executive session for contractual and possible litigation to discuss this.

Shared Services: Councilman Dunwell asked that since Councilman Gara is the chair for Shared Services to offer the residents in light of the Express-Times article some update of the police contract without compromising the negotiation process. Councilman Gara responded that he thinks that they are not compromising much at this point of time. There have been issues that have been discussed and at this point and time it's a matter of looking at this and part of the executive session will be that. Councilman Gara went to the white board and drew a picture of the surrounding municipalities around Alpha showing his theory as to why Pohatcong Township is the better choice for police coverage.

### Professionals and Officials Reports

Mayor Edward Hanics: Mayor Hanics stated he received a letter from the Alpha Borough Public School thanking us for the lighting project at the school. Mayor Hanics continued on with his report and stated that there will be a dinner for the Phillipsburg Emergency Squad. There will be a sewer meeting with the Phillipsburg Sewer Utility on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Phillipsburg Council's chambers.

Mayor Hanics stated that he needed to make an appointment tonight for the Planning Board and stated that Lorraine Rossetti will be the Municipal Plan Conformance Liaison and Municipal Grant Manager.

Fire Department, Charles Bodogh: The fire truck will be going around town with Santa on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Engineer Report, Shelley McGregor: Ms. McGregor discussed the issues with the water. She spoke with the DEP for permitting and was on the phone for forty minutes to discuss a number of issues. The most important issue right now is water allocation. A meeting will be set up to meet with the DEP. Relocating the well over the Pursel Street site is being looked at to address the firm capacity issues on the Borough's water allocation permit. A major permit modification would need to take place which will be a paper trail only. Councilman Dunwell inquired about the change in price for the new well.

Ms. McGregor discussed with the DEP the possibility of holding off the hydrant replacement until the new calendar year, in which the DEP did not see the need to hold off on that project.

Safe Routes to School is still in a holding pattern. Norfolk won't give a window to remove the bridge until after the holidays.

North Boulevard Project: Zee Brothers is still looking to mobilize for storm sewer and water services later this year.

Highlands (drainage): the meeting is being rescheduled regarding the flooding with the two farms.

CFO, Lorraine Rossetti: Ms. Rossetti stated that this is her last request for the best practices policies and has reminded council a couple of times and asked that they be adopted at the next meeting. Ms. Rossetti inquired about a budget meeting that is scheduled for this Thursday. Ms. Rossetti stated she received information that Council does not want to continue with the mat service for the municipal building. Ms. Rossetti reported on a local finance notice she received for the required introduction date regarding the budget. The budget will also have 3 additional pages added to it for a good faith explanation of budget issues.

Ms. Rossetti stated she has not received approval to release the payment to Philipsburg Emergency Squad.

Ms. Rossetti reported that she will be off the last week of December for vacation.

Mayor Hanics stated that he didn't want any effects to happen due to holding payment to the squad. Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to release the funds to the Phillipsburg Emergency Squad, motion seconded by Councilman Dunwell, roll call: Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Pfefferle, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: None.

Ms. Rossetti reported on additional bills being added to the bill list.

Municipal Clerk, Laurie Barton: Mrs. Barton inquired about the date for the reorganization of Governing Body. It was a consensus of Council that January 3, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. be the date for the meeting.

### Public Comment

Louis Cartabona, Fifth Avenue, inquired about the excavation hole that was dug on Fifth Avenue and asked if this will be patched up. Councilman Dunwell stated he went around the Borough and has seen at least twenty open trench repairs that have not been repaired.

Millard Rooks inquired about the red light cameras and stated that the Borough should be exploring the option of letting Pohatcong Township take over the court entirely. Mr. Rooks expressed that he is upset of the release of the funds to the Emergency Squad.

### Payment of Bills and Claims

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

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

'66 12/08/11 EAS

67 12/08/11 DOG

EAS BY ACTION DATA

EAS BY ACTION DATA 12/2 payroll tax services 8656 Open NJ DEPT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SER November State Dog Report Open

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### Executive Session

Motion made by Councilwoman Tarsi to approve the following resolution to go into executive session for one hour and fifty-five minutes, motion seconded by Councilman Dunwell, all were in favor:

### **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.

- $1. \quad \text{The public shall be excluded from } discussion(s) \ of the \ hereinafter \ specified \ subject \ matter(s).$
- 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.

Return to regular session: 10: 16 P.M.

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

Councilman Dunwell discussed the accuracy of the clock in council's chambers. Motion made by Councilman Dunwell to have the Director of Public Property, set the correct time on the clock in council's chambers, motion seconded by Councilwoman Tarsi, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Gara to continue with the resolution for police coverage for

police protection from Pohatcong Township, motion seconded by Councilman Zikas, discussions

ensued regarding the figures and the details of the present contract and the current coverage.

Attorney Christopher Troxell went through the details of the amendments. Roll call: Ayes, Gara

and Zikas. Nays: Pfefferle. Abstain: Dunwell, Savary and Tarsi.

Motion made by Councilman Dunwell to authorize the Clerk to advertise request for

proposals for special sewer council in the Express-Times, with the job description and additional

information on the Alpha Borough's website, motion seconded by Councilman Pfefferle, Roll

call: Ayes: Dunwell, Gara, Savary, Tarsi and Zikas. Nays: none.

Shelley McGregor presented Council with the Safe Routes to School Grant program to

add more sidewalks in town. Borough Council expressed its interest in the program.

Motion made by Councilman Dunwell to have the Director of Public Property to set the

correct time on the clock in council's chambers, motion seconded by Councilwoman Tarsi, all

were in favor.

Adjournment: 10:30P.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

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