Mayor Hanics called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

Mayor Hanics announced that adequate notice of the meeting was given to the Express-Times 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. The Municipal Clerk delivered to The Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, a notice containing the date, time and place of this meeting of the Alpha 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: Councilman Cartabona, Councilman Rooks, Councilman M. Schwar, Councilwoman C. Schwar and Councilman Seiss. Also present; Attorney Christopher Troxell, Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton, Engineer Frank Seney and CFO, Lorraine Rossetti.

Public Comment

Tom Fey, East Blvd., inquired about a date for the Christmas Tree Lighting at Veterans Park. It was consensus of Council to have it on December 5th at 6PM.

Mike Savary, Park Ave., asked about fixing the catch basins on Sigsbee and Park Avenues.

Public Hearing: Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Change Structure

Councilman Schwar reviewed the hand out provided by the CFO for the rate change study.

Councilman Schwar stated that the last rate increase was in 2005. The basis for the rate increase is due to an aging system that needed upgrading, in which has been long overdue.

Public Comment

Mike Savary, Park Ave., asked for an explanation of the billing rate structure for sewer.

Tom Fey, East Blvd., stated he thought businesses already paid more and asked if this was going to be considered.
Sean McDyer, Dewey Ave., stated that businesses pay a higher amount for other utilities.

Chuck Bodogh, East Central Ave., stated that he agrees in what is being proposed tonight and not having businesses pay more.

Chris Dragotta, Lyons Ct., stated a fixed cost and flat rate for everyone should be considered.

Tom Fey, East Blvd., asked what Phillipsburg charges.

Councilman Schwar ended the public hearing stating that this is only the public hearing portion tonight and no ordinance will be introduced.

*Bid Openings: Root Control Bid*

Attorney Troxell requested five minutes in executive session to discuss the bids received for Root Control.

*Ordinance*


**ORDINANCE 2014-13**
**BOROUGH OF ALPHA**
**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CODE SECTION 116-22 SNOW AND ICE EMERGENCY PARKING REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Alpha desires to amend a portion of Chapter 116-22, Snow and Ice Emergency Parking Regulations; violations and penalties, and amend its Code accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Borough of Alpha in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that “Section 116, Snow and Ice Emergency Parking Regulations; violations and penalties” be amended and supplemented as follows:

§ 116-22 Snow and ice emergency parking regulations; violations and penalties.

A. Definition of snow/ice emergency. A snow or ice emergency for parking purposes shall be in effect when declared by the Mayor or the Mayor’s designee upon the forecast of more than two inches of snow and/or ice upon paved or concrete streets in the Borough of Alpha. Said notice shall be by posting at the Borough municipal building, posting on the Borough’s website, or by any means of electronic or telephonic media.

B. Parking in a snow/ice emergency.
1. In the event of a snow or ice emergency, all motor vehicles shall be removed from the street(s) to driveways or other suitable off-street locations where same are available.

2. In the event that any off-street parking is unavailable, any affected motor vehicles shall park on only one side of the street. If the snow emergency is declared on an even-numbered date, said parking shall only be permitted on the side of the streets with even-numbered addresses. If the snow emergency is declared on an odd-numbered date, said parking shall only be permitted on the side of the streets with odd-numbered addresses. If snow emergency extends beyond one day, parking shall then alternate to the opposite side of the street.

3. Streets that are designated as “No Parking” shall remain as “No Parking”.

4. Streets that are designated as “No Parking” on one side of the street only shall have the “No Parking” rule on that side relaxed until the snow emergency is over. Vehicles on such streets shall abide by the emergency parking rules as herein referenced in this ordinance.

C. Violations and penalties. Any violation of this article shall, upon conviction, be punishable by a fine not exceeding the maximum allowed by law and said motor vehicle may be towed at the Borough’s direction with the violator being responsible for all towing and storage costs.

Resolutions


RESOLUTION 2014-116
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH ENGINEER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SEVENTH AVENUE PHASE II

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey formally authorizes the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers to prepare the grant application for the reconstruction of Seventh Avenue in the Borough, Project Phase II.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers is hereby authorized to act as the Borough Engineer in preparing the grant application for the reconstruction of Seventh Avenue, Project Phase II, in the Borough, and the Borough Council hereby approves the grant application for the reconstruction of Seventh Avenue, project phase II, in the Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to (execute and) submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2015 Borough of Alpha to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Borough of Alpha.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the

3
Borough of Alpha and that their signature(s) constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and hereby approves the execution of the grant agreement.


**RESOLUTION 2014-117**
**REFUND OF UNUSED ESCROW MONIES**

WHEREAS, the below listed developer has now completed their application before the Land Use Board, and

WHEREAS, a balance of unused monies remain in the developer’s escrow account, and

WHEREAS, the proper professionals have signed an escrow release form certifying the work to be complete and all professional payments have been made,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha hereby authorize the Certified Finance Officer to release the estimated account balances below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; Address</th>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamanna LLC</td>
<td>13-001</td>
<td>$3,866.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>801 Third Avenue</td>
<td>Alpha, NJ 08865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**RESOLUTION 2014-118**
**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH ENGINEER TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF A NJDOT FY 2015 MUNICIPAL AID GRANT APPLICATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the firm of Remington & Vernick Engineers is hereby authorized to act as the Borough Engineer and proceed with the engineering services in regard to the preparation of a NJDOT FY 2015 Municipal Aid Grant Application for 7th Avenue Phase II in an amount not to exceed $1,800.00, upon written certification of funds by the Borough CFO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, Clerk, Borough Attorney, and/or Borough Engineer are authorized to execute all necessary documents to effectuate the services.
Minutes

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve the May 13th, May 21st and May 27th minutes with changes, motion seconded by Councilwoman Schwar, all were in favor.

Department Reports

Administration, Councilman Thomas Seiss: No report. Councilman Seiss approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Councilwoman Schwar inquired about the social media policy that former Councilman Zikas was researching.

Finance, Councilman Michael Schwar: Councilman Schwar stated the next budget meeting will be scheduled for October 22nd at 7PM. Councilman Schwar discussed the outcome of the Insurance meeting he attended which touched on the topics of OPRA and Executive Sessions.

A meeting with the Library Board is scheduled. Councilman Schwar asked if anyone objected to him helping to clean out the recreation building. Councilman Schwar also spoke with the AYAA and there are old uniforms that need to be discarded that are no longer used.

Councilman Schwar spoke about code violation complaints and suggested that Tom Fey be appointed as the Code Enforcement Officer from today until December 31st prorated. Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve Resolution 2014-119 appointing Tom Fey as Code Enforcement Officer, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

RESOLUTION 2014-119
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey as follows:

To hire Thomas Fey as Code Enforcement Officer for a period from today until end of the year at a prorated salary of $3,000.00 per year to end December 31, 2014.

Councilman Schwar continued on with his report discussing held Resolutions for various appointments since the beginning of the year.

In closing, Councilman Schwar approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.
**Health and Welfare, Councilman Millard Rooks:** Councilman Rooks announced that the recycling area will be open from now until December 1st for fall clean up. Councilman Rooks stated that it will then re-open in the Spring.

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

Councilman Rooks requested five minutes in executive session to discuss potential shared services regarding the leaf recycling area.

**Public Property, Councilwoman Carol Schwar:** Councilwoman Schwar gave the following report:

Philipsburg Police will coordinate having community service workers paint and power wash the field house. Two broken windows and the hot water heater have been repaired at the field house. Councilwoman Schwar spoke with the grass cutting contractor regarding the quality of grass cutting; another dumpster has been placed at the pool house to finish cleaning it out.

Infield mix will be put down on Benke field, in which Councilman Rooks suggested to do in the Spring.

Councilwoman Schwar received a request to use a metal detector at areas within the pool grounds. Councilwoman Schwar stated that the County is now processing all food establishments’ applications and has put the Clerk down as a contact for Alpha’s kitchen at the field house.

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

**Public Safety, Councilman Louis Cartabona:** Councilman Cartabona reported on the Phillipsburg Court and reports will be provided in the future as was done in the past.

Councilman Cartabona received a request for a speed control sign for 7th Avenue and will be looking into getting prices.

In closing, councilman Cartabona approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

**Public Works, Councilman Thomas Seiss:** Councilman Seiss reported that he only received one quote for the restoration of Bagely, Myrtle and Dewey Avenues.
Councilman Seiss requested 20 minutes total for contractual. In closing Councilman Seiss approved bills salaries and wages for his department.

Committee Reports

Open Space: Councilwoman Schwar reported on the presentation to the Warren County Conservancy Land Trust Board on behalf of Alpha regarding acquisition of property in Alpha for preservation. Their next meeting will be October 6th at 7:30 P.M.

Professionals & Officials Reports

Mayor, Edward Hanics: Mayor Hanics received a letter from Mr. Morris on Alpha Street requesting a variance for the installation of gas services. Mayor Hanics and Attorney Troxell discussed the issue of the mail being forwarded incorrectly from the post office stemming from a request to forward Court mail.

Attorney Troxell explained his letter he sent to the post office to remedy the situation, which has impacted other borough mail.

Discussions ensued regarding the property next to the pumping station that has been reverted back to the Borough with regard to a tax lien. Councilman Seiss stated that Mr. Duran who lives next to it wants to purchase it.

Attorney, Christopher Troxell: Mr. Troxell requested five minutes in executive session to discuss the Root Control bids.

Engineer Frank Seney: Mr. Seney reviewed his report that was distributed to Mayor and Council. Discussion ensued regarding the generator grant for the Firehouse.

Sewer Engineer, Jim Hill: Mr. Hill updated Council on the progress of the sewer repairs and upgrades. Mr. Hill reported that the owner’s manual for the pump station has been updated.

Public Comment

Mike Savary, Park Ave., suggested the Borough foreclose on the property next to the pump station and keep it for ourselves.
Sean McDyer, Dewey Ave., inquired about the uniforms to be discarded at the field house and asked that it be brought to the fire house clothing bin drop. Chief McDyer explained that the Fire Company receives money for any clothing items dropped.

Charles Bodogh, East Central Ave., commented on the quality of the work done at the monument at Veterans Park.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Motion made by Councilwoman Schwar to have the Directors Reports part of the minutes, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to authorize the CFO to pay bills approved by Directors, motion seconded by Councilwoman Schwar. Roll Call: Ayes: Cartabona, Rooks, C. Schwar, M. Schwar and Seiss. Nays: Cartabona voting no on bill# 00550.

Old Business

Councilman Schwar discussed a previous request for a variance for a street opening for gas utility line installation. Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve Mr. Morris at 527 Alpha Street, granting a variance, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll call: Ayes Cartabona, M. Schwar and Seiss. Nays: C. Schwar. Abstain: Rooks.

Councilwoman Schwar report that a key fob system will be installed at the field house.

Councilman Cartabona discussed Phillipsburg High School taxes. Councilman Cartabona discussed the aspect of representatives from these districts are not allowed to vote on the issues and added that there should be a regional high school.

Executive Session-45 minutes

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve the following resolution to go into executive session, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar, 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 45 minutes, allowing for a five (5) minute recess between the regular session and the executive session.

Return to Regular Session

Motion to return to regular session made by Councilman Cartabona and seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor,

RESOLUTION 2014-120
RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT
FOR ROOT CONTROL IN SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that a contract is hereby awarded to Duke’s Root Control, Inc., having submitted the lowest responsive responsible quote, for root control work in the Alpha Sanitary Sewer System in the amount not exceed $28,486.00 upon written certification of funds by the Borough CFO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, Clerk, Borough Attorney, Frey Engineering, LLC and/or Borough Engineer are authorized to execute all necessary documents to effectuate the contract.


RESOLUTION 2014-121
RE-APPOINTMENT OF UTILITY COLLECTOR
FOR THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA

WHEREAS, the position of Utility Collector exists within the Borough of Alpha and on the Salary Ordinance and Salary Resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpha hereby appoints Christy Rose as Utility Collector in accordance with the salary ordinance which is a provisional appointment from today until the end of the year (12/31/2014).


RESOLUTION 2014-122
APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK
FOR THE BOROUGH OF ALPHA

WHEREAS, the position of Administrative Clerk exists within the Borough of Alpha and on the Salary Ordinance and Salary Resolution presently; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpha hereby appoints Christy Rose as Administrative Clerk in accordance with the salary ordinance, which is a provisional appointment from today until the end of the year (12/31/2014).
Discussions of the status of new computers ensued.

Adjourn

With no further business to before Mayor and Council, motion made by Councilman M. Schwar to adjourn, motion seconded by Cartabona, all were favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Barton

Borough Clerk