

Mayor Hanics called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2015.

Mayor Hanics 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, 2015, 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 Hanics led prayer and the salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Present; Councilman Cartabona (*arrived at 7:20 p.m.*), Councilwoman Grossman, Councilman Pettinelli, Councilman Rooks, Councilman Schwar, and Councilman Seiss. Also present, Attorney Christopher Troxell. Absent: Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton.

Public Hearing-Reconstructing of 5th Avenue

Motion to open public hearing on the reconstruction of 5th Avenue made by Councilman Rooks, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli, all were in favor. Hearing no public comment, motion made by Councilman Rooks to close the public hearing, motion seconded by Councilman Seiss all were in favor.

Presentation-Marybeth Ringo-South Warren Municipal Alliance

Marybeth Ringo, representative of the South Warren Municipal Alliance presented information to Mayor and Council on the Alliance which includes the following municipalities; Alpha, Greenwich, Pohatcong and Lopatcong.

Mrs. Ringo summarized the purpose of the Alliance which includes education on drug abuse and explained the grants and donations they receive from the State. Mrs. Ringo stated that the committee meets quarterly. A cash match of approximately \$1,000.00 gets paid by the municipality. A resolution every year is required to be adopted.

Resolutions

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve Resolution 2015-25, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-25
ANNUAL PART-TIME DAYS OFF POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha has part-time employees working on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks to provide a days-off policy for said employees for this calendar year only and may review same annually.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that part-time employees shall be afforded ten (10) days leave for the calendar year 2015 only to be approved by their director at a rate not to exceed six (6) hours pay per day provided the part-time employees are working twenty (20) hours per week on average and have been employed by the Borough for two (2) years.

Motion made by Councilman Pettinelli to approve Resolution 2015-29, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-29
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE SOUTH WARREN MUNICIPAL
ALLIANCE GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren and State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our community amongst persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only the public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that they hereby recognize the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of an application for The South Warren Municipal Alliance Grant for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$21,502.00.
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering The South Warren Municipal Alliance, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve Resolution 2015-34, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-34
REDEMPTION OF TAX
SALE CERTIFICATE
#201404**

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpha this 9th day of February 2015 that the refunds are made to the certificate holder as noted:

US Bank Cust PC5 Sterling National
US Bank Global Corp Trst Serv
50 South 16th Street, Suite 1950
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Block 49.01, Lot 4
Amount \$1,218.62
Property Location – 536 Alpha Street

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve Resolution 2015-35, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-35
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
BOROUGH ENGINEER RETAINER**

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 construction management, inspection services and consulting engineering services for small Borough projects in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, upon written certification of funds by the Borough CFO.

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve the regular minutes of September 23, 2014 and October 14, 2014, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor with the exception of Councilman Pettinelli abstaining.

Administration, Councilman Peter Pettinelli: Councilman Pettinelli stated that the Clerk is continuing to process animal licenses. In closing, Councilman Pettinelli approved bills, salaries and wages for his department. Councilman Schwar discussed the mercantile fees and the late fees that were recently enacted.

Finance, Councilman Michael Schwar: Councilman Schwar reported that he has an insurance meeting tomorrow with PAIC. Councilman Schwar reminded Council that they are continuing to work on a temporary budget and cautioned on spending. Councilman Schwar reminded Council on getting quotes for projects that they may have stating that they should try and get two or more quotes when within the threshold. Councilman Schwar requested 15 minutes in executive session for personnel regarding the CFO.

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

Health and Welfare, Councilman Louis Cartabona: Councilman Cartabona received a carbon copy of a request from a resident for a refund of the animal license that was put down a month after paying for the license. Councilman Cartabona requested five minutes in executive for contractual with Phillipsburg Rescue Squad. In closing, Councilman Cartabona approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Property, Councilwoman Tracy Grossman: Councilwoman Grossman thanked the Alpha Volunteer Fire Department and the DPW with their assistance in filling the ice skating rink. Councilwoman Grossman discussed the issues with the field house and access to the building with issues of multiple padlocks and keys. Councilwoman Grossman discussed having areas mulched around the municipal building. Quotes will be solicited from contractors for Benke Field for the bleachers and the roof. Councilwoman Grossman discussed the phone bill the Borough pays for at the field house. A new water cooler came in. Discussions with Trane about having the HVAC system serviced have been ongoing as well as an old bill still owed to Trane. Councilwoman Grossman stated that the fobs in certain parts of the building aren't working. Councilwoman Grossman stated that the Open Space Committee should look into having meetings to start planning on what to do with the basketball courts.

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

Public Safety, Councilman Millard Rooks: Councilman Rooks stated his satisfaction of the success of the ice skating rink. Councilman Rooks discussed the new snow ordinance and was glad to hear most residents adhering to it. Councilman Rooks requested 15 minutes in executive for contractual (Phillipsburg Police and Emergency) and personnel (Finance). In closing, Councilman Rooks approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Works, Councilman Thomas Seiss: Councilman Seiss requested ten minutes in executive for DPW. Councilman Seiss reported on repairs needed for the DPW equipment. Councilman Seiss reported on his meeting with the Engineer, Stephanie Cuthbert with regards to the Alpha Street pump house and the Redundancy project. Councilman Seiss requested permission to have the Engineer prepare the bid documents. Motion made by Councilman Seiss to authorize the Engineer to prepare and advertise the bid documents for the Redundancy project, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

Councilman Seiss continued on with his report adding that there were some outstanding costs from 2014 with inspections fees with regard to Remington & Vernick.

A letter was sent to PennBower to see what their time frame will be to complete their work. In closing, Councilman Seiss approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Professionals & Officials Reports

Mayor, Edward Hanics Jr: Mayor Hanics appointed Barbara Ryan to the Library Board for a four year term. Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve the appointment of Barbara Ryan, motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman, discussions of the position ensued. Motion was withdrawn to meet with Ms. Ryan before appointing.

Police, Chief James Faulborn: Chief Faulborn gave the Police report for the month of January.

Fire Chief, Sean McDyer: Chief McDyer gave the report for the month of January. February 28th is the annual banquet. The annual Cat in the Hat breakfast is coming up next month. Later this month a first trip will be taken by members for the new fire truck to go over the engineering.

Attorney, Christopher Troxell: Mr. Troxell requested five minutes in executive session for litigation for Pohatcong Township.

Engineer, Frank Seney: Mr. Seney summarized the report that was previously distributed for tonight's meeting updating on projects and bids from last year and what is expected for this year.

Sewer Engineer, Jim Hill: Mr. Hill summarized his report and stated that not too much is going on until the weather breaks.

Recycling Coordinator, Thomas Fey: Mr. Fey reported on his visits to area businesses.

Code Enforcement, Thomas Fey: Mr. Fey reported on violation letters that went out last week. There have been some positive responses.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona have the Directors reports be made part of the minutes, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to authorize the CFO to pay all bills approved by the Directors, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: None.

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to authorize the CFO to pay salaries and wages approved by the directors, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: None.

New Business

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to approve the pavilion permit for Nelson Tanfani for June 27th with alcohol, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor with the exception of Councilman Cartabona abstaining.

Discussions ensued regarding bank owned properties and the Borough going after the owners for costs associated with lack of maintenance.

Executive Session

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to approve the following resolution, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli, 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 50 minutes, allowing for a five (5) minute recess between the regular session and the executive session.

Return to Regular Session

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

Adjourn

Seeing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Councilman Rooks to adjourn at 9:08 P.M., motion seconded by Councilman Schwar , all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Barton
Borough Clerk