

Council President Michael Schwar called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015.

Council President Schwar 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.

*Roll Call:* Present; Councilman Cartabona, Councilwoman Grossman, Councilman Pettinelli, Councilman Rooks, Councilman Schwar, and Councilman Seiss. Also present: Attorney Christopher Troxell and Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton. Absent: Mayor Hanics.

#### *Public Comment*

Craig Dunwell, 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., discussed miscommunication with regards to the water improvements project from 2013 and added that the contractor is off the hook for the work that he should have done. Lengthy discussions ensued regarding the project and the contractor for work that was not done.

Mr. Dunwell discussed final trench repairs that should have been done by PennBower.

Mr. Dunwell inquired about the following: Redundancy project, the water softener and vessel lining and discussed what the budget is for the department.

Mike Savary, Park Ave., inquired about the chipping and dumping situation at the salt shed. Mr. Savary inquired about a person from Pohatcong working on DPW equipment and asked if that person has any certifications. Mr. Savary also inquired about the sewer repair on Route 519 regarding an improper mark out, in which he was responsible to pay out of pocket for costs. Lengthy discussions ensued with Mr. Savary discussing that his property already had a lateral in place.

Craig Dunwell, 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., inquired about the second public comment recently being removed from the agenda.

Jim Pfeiffer, East Central Ave., made Council aware of a manhole cover that looks to be settling on Warren Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

Jodie Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., inquired about the water and sewer rates increasing. Mrs. Smith stated that using tax payer money to demolition the pool is wrong.

Joey Foore, Morris St., asked Councilmember Tom Seiss about following up to Mr. Dunwell's concerns.

Tom Fey, East Blvd., stated his support in bringing back a second public comment to the agenda.

Phillipsburg Emergency Squad gave their report at this time due to a conflict in schedule. There were 3315 calls for the 2014 in which 190 of those calls were from Alpha. Negotiations are ongoing with acquiring the old post office for a second squad building here in the Borough.

The Phillipsburg Emergency Squad put in a request to have the Borough pay for their water, sewer and electric bills.

#### *Resolutions*

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve Resolution 2015-36, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-36  
AUTHORIZING JIM HILL FOR ADVERTISEMENT  
OF THE GROUT WORK BID  
REGARDING THE BOROUGH'S SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Alpha is required by NJ State Law to publicly bid for **Grouting and Lateral Connection Repair** work in and to the Borough of Alpha's sanitary sewer system in the Borough of Alpha as it is anticipated the cost will exceed the minimum bid threshold of **\$17,500**; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Hill of Frey Engineering is the Borough's C2 Operator and Sewer Engineer and is in charge of the sewer infrastructure work.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council hereby authorizes this project to be advertised for public bid pursuant to Jim Hill's preparation of specifications and notice.

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to table Resolution 2015-37 (Award of Contract-Hale Built-Reconstruction of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave) until the next meeting, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona , all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilwoman Grossman to table Resolution 2015-38 (Award of Contract-Pool Demolition), until next meeting, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to approve Resolution 2015-39, motion seconded by Councilman Cartabona. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-39  
PROPERTY REDEEMED**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector of the Borough of Alpha has advised the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, that the following property has been redeemed within five (5) years of the tax sale and a premium of \$600 was paid at the time of sale,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Borough of Alpha Council this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2015 that a refund be made to the certificate holder as noted:

US Bank Cust for ProCap III, LLC  
50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1950  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Block 36, Lot 10  
Certificate 201304  
\$600.00

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to table Resolution 2015-40 (CFO Shared Services-East Amwell) until after executive session, motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman, all were in favor.

*Minutes*

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 28, 2014 and November 10, 2014. Motion seconded by Councilman Schwar, all were in favor.

*Department Reports:*

*Administration, Councilman Pettinelli:* Councilman Pettinelli stated that the Clerk's office is continuing to process mercantile and animal licenses. In Closing, Councilman Pettinelli approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Finance, Councilman Schwar:* Councilman Schwar requested 20 minutes in executive session. Councilman Schwar reported on his meeting with members from the Library Board. Mr. Schwar added that a final payment is owed to the Library. Councilman Schwar reported on the insurance meeting he attended that focused on OPRA requests. Councilman Schwar reminded Council of the webinar course that can be taken to receive a credit on the insurance bill. Councilman Schwar requested one more budget meeting. In closing, Councilman Schwar approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Health & Welfare, Councilman Cartabona:* Councilman Cartabona gave the report received from the Warren County Health Department for the month of January. Councilman Cartabona discussed a possible ordinance regulating grease traps in the Borough from restaurants. In closing, Councilman Cartabona approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Public Property, Councilwoman Grossman:* Councilwoman Grossman reported that the ice skating rink has been cleared of the snow. A toilet was replaced in the field house. Councilwoman Grossman discussed the possibility of acquiring a lot on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Olive Street for a pocket park. In closing, Councilwoman Grossman approved bills, salaries and wages for her department.

*Public Safety, Councilman Rooks:* Councilman Rooks gave an update on the fire hydrant that was damaged back in January and stated that Mr. Troxell is working on the insurance claim. Councilman Rooks added that the DPW will be able to repair it when the weather gets warmer.

The Fire Chief is in Wisconsin checking on the progress of the new fire truck. Councilman Rooks summarized the incident that occurred at Linde Gas where their water lines froze due to the heat being turned off accidentally. Councilman Rooks gave the court report received for the month of January. In closing, Councilman Rooks requested 10 minutes in executive session and approved his bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Public Works, Councilman Seiss:* Councilman Seiss reported on repairs that were needed to the snow plowing equipment due to raised manhole covers. In closing, Councilman Seiss requested 20 minutes in executive sessions for personnel and contractual and approved his bills, salaries and wages for his department.

*Professionals & Official Reports:*

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

*Engineer, Frank J. Seney:* Mr. Seney reported on D.R. Horton being interested in putting a dry water service line on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, before the reconstructive project starts. Mr. Seney continued on with summarizing his monthly report that was distributed to the Mayor and Council.

*Sewer Engineer, Jim Hill:* Mr. Hill reported on his projects with respect to the sewers and requested five minutes in executive session for litigation.

*Recycling Coordinator, Thomas Fey:* Mr. Fey reported that he is collecting the recycling reports from area businesses.

*Code Enforcement, Thomas Fey:* Mr. Fey reported on letters that went out to residents regarding snow and ice removal from sidewalks.

*Payment of Bills & Claims:*

Councilman Rooks made a motion to make the director's report a part of the minutes. Councilman Cartabona seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Councilman Seiss made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by the director, Councilman Rooks seconded. *Roll call;* Ayes; Councilman Cartabona, Councilwoman Grossman, Councilman Pettinelli, Councilman Schwar, and Councilman Seiss. Nays: none.

*New Business:*

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve the waiver of the pavilion fee to St. Mary's Church for July 19<sup>th</sup>, motion seconded by Councilman Pettinelli, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Seiss to table the Lao Association's Social Affair permit until the next meeting, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor.

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve the pavilion permit with alcohol for Bernie Caccese for July 18<sup>th</sup>, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar, all were in favor with the exception of Councilman Cartabona abstaining.

*Executive Session:*

Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve the following resolution to go into executive session, 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 one hour(s), 25 minutes, allowing for a five (5) minute recess between the regular session and the executive session.

*Return to Regular Session*

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

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to accept the resignation of Christy Rose, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor with the exception of Councilman Seiss abstaining.

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve Resolution 2015-41, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks. Roll call: Ayes: Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks, Schwar and Seiss. Nays: none.

**RESOLUTION 2015-41  
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

**WHEREAS**, the term of office shall from February 24, 2014 until December 31, 2015.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpha hereby appoints Susan Schier as Administrative Clerk at a salary of \$11.50 per hour up not to exceed 20 hours per week for 2015, which is a provisional appointment.

*Adjournment:*

Seeing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Councilman Cartabona to adjourn at 11:23 PM, motion seconded by Councilman Rooks , all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laurie A. Barton*

Borough Clerk