Mayor Hanics called the Meeting of the Common Council of the Borough of Alpha to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 27, 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, Councilwoman Grossman, Councilman Pettinelli, Councilman Rooks, and Councilman Schwar. Also present: Attorney Christopher Troxell. Absent: Councilman Seiss and Borough Clerk, Laurie Barton.

Public Comment:

Tom Fey, East Blvd., stated the tree lighting is set for December 4th at 6pm. The school choir, cub scouts, and brownies will be decorating and attending.

Marianne Mauer, Evergreen Apartments, spoke about her water/sewer bill and noticed that there are additional surcharges for her water/sewer.

John Burke, Evergreen Apartments also stated his issues. He is getting white chunks in filtered water. He is currently having his water tested at his own expense.

Craig Dunwell, 7th Ave., spoke of the increases, agrees on rate increase but feels it should have been done over time, not all at once. Mr. Dunwell also spoke about parking during football games. Questioned the widening of Vulcanite Avenue and believes it is wide enough for parking on both sides of the street. Also spoke of the manhole situation. Stated 7th Avenue is within the two-year maintenance bond and should be covered there for expenses.

Resolutions:

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey applied and received grant monies from the NJDOT under their Federal Safe Route to School Grant Program for Schley Avenue Sidewalk Improvements Phase II from North Boulevard to East Vulcanite Avenue (Project)

WHEREAS, the Project promotes safe pedestrian travel for the Borough’s elementary school children by providing concrete sidewalk, painted crosswalks and signage along the school route from North Boulevard to East Vulcanite Avenue

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey advertised on their website and conducted a Public Hearing regarding the Project at their April 28th Council Meeting:

WHEREAS, the Public gave full support of the Project at the Public Hearing and expressed satisfaction that the Project would promote safe pedestrian travel for the Borough’s elementary school children

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they are in full support of the Project and look forward the start and completion of the construction of the project.

Motion made by Councilman Schwar to approve Resolution 2015-113, motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman. Roll Call: Ayes; Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks and Schwar. Nays; None.

RESOLUTION 2015-113
RESOLUTION FOR POTENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT
BLOCK 103 LOT 1 – LEHIGH FUEL CORP PROPERTY – 7TH AND NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey economic Development Authority has a grant program known as the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF);

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey has submitted a HDSRF grant application to perform environmental investigations of Block 103, Lot 1; 7th and New Brunswick Avenues, (AKA Lehigh Fuel Corp Property) in the Borough of Alpha is a site eligible to receive a grant from this Fund;

WHEREAS, the site has a potential for redevelopment based on its location, zoning, and features:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they have declared Block 103, Lot 1 in the Borough of Alpha to have potential redevelopment within three (#) years of full environmental site remediation
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution will be forwarded to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Motion made by Councilman Cartabona to approve Resolution 2015-114, motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman. Roll call: Ayes; Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks and Schwar. Nays; None.

RESOLUTION 2015-114
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH ENGINEER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION HAZARDOUS DISCHARGE SITE REMEDIATION FUND (HDSRF)

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha has an abandon or potentially underutilized facility that has the potential for environmental liability associated with potential soil and groundwater contamination;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority has a grant program available known as the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF);

WHEREAS, the HDSRF provides grants to municipalities to perform environmental investigations of these sites and Block 103, Lot 1; 7th and New Brunswick Avenues, (AKA Lehigh Fuel Corp Property) in the Borough of Alpha is a site eligible to receive a grant from this Fund;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Borough Engineer Remington & Vernick Engineers is authorized to prepare a grant application and submit it on behalf of the Borough of Alpha for Block 103, Lot 1; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution will be forwarded to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve the regular minutes of April 9, 2015 and April 14, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman, all were in favor. Motion made by Councilman Rooks to approve the executive session minutes of March 10, 2015, March 24, 2015, and April 14, 2015, motion seconded by Councilwoman Grossman, all were in favor to approve and hold.
Department Reports:

Administration, Councilman Pettinelli: Provided an update on computers. In closing, Councilman Pettinelli approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Finance, Councilman Schwar: Councilman Schwar discussed the budget process for 2016 and advised the budget meeting will be on November 4, 2015 at 7pm. Councilman Schwar requested five minutes in executive session for Litigation regarding the Library and requested another five minutes for Personnel regarding the Tax Assessor. In closing, Councilman Schwar approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Health & Welfare, Councilman Cartabona: No report. Councilman Cartabona requested 10 minutes in executive session for contractural regarding LMR dumpsters. In closing Councilman Cartabona approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Property, Councilwoman Grossman: Councilwoman Grossman agreed to pay bills with exception for Bill #15-00551 which Mayor Hanics stated it will be discussed under new business. Councilwoman Grossman requested five minutes in executive session for Litigation regarding Wayne Street.

Public Safety, Councilman Rooks: No report. Councilman Rooks approved bills, salaries and wages for his department.

Public Works, Councilman Seiss: No report.

Professionals & Official Reports:

Mayor, Edward Hanics, Jr.: Mayor Hanics advised the tribute to the Veterans will be held at PHS on November 8, 2015 at 1pm. Mayor Hanics asked the Deputy Clerk to make a note for Laurie Barton, (Clerk) that the 11/10 Council Meeting will begin at 6pm to discuss Best Practices for one hour prior to the public meeting and will need to be advertised as such.

Police Department, Chief James Faulborn: No report.

Fire Department, Chief Sean McDyer: No report.

Attorney, Christopher Troxell: No report.

Engineer – Gregory Sullivan: Mr. Sullivan attended the meeting in absence of Frank Seney and provided information on pricing for the Benke Field restoration.

Sewer Engineer – Jim Hill: Mr. Hill provided an update of the manhole issue on 7th Avenue.
Code Enforcement – Thomas Fey: Mr. Fey sated he is sending several certified letters to abandoned properties or residents that have already received letters by regular mail in which they have not responded.

Payment of Bills & Claims:

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

Councilman Pettinelli made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all bills authorized by the director. Councilman Rooks seconded the motion. Roll call: Ayes; Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks and Schwar. Nays; None.

Councilman Pettinelli made a motion that the CFO be authorized to pay all salaries and wages approved by the director. Councilman Rooks seconded. Roll Call: Ayes; Cartabona, Grossman, Pettinelli, Rooks and Schwar. Nays; None.
Executive Session:

Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve the following resolution to go into executive session for fifteen minutes for litigation, personnel, and contractual discussion.

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 15 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 the regular session, motion seconded by Councilman Schwar, all were in favor.

Adjournment:

Seeing no further business to come before Council, motion made by Councilwoman Grossman to adjourn meeting at 9:31 P.M., motion seconded by Councilman Rooks, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Sharpe
Deputy Borough Clerk