

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

December, 2018

The Borough Council met in session at 7:00 p.m. at the William Reinl Recreation Building on the above date with President Short presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Council President Harry Short.

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ROLL CALL

Council members present: H. Short; S. Urban; M. Corrigan; S. Durso; J. Connolly; S. Maiden; S. Oropollo

Council members absent: None

Officers present: C. Maniaci, Mayor; J. McBlain, Solicitor; P. Close, Engineer; P. Rankin, Treasurer; J. White, Borough Manager

Officers absent: None

MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilman Maiden seconded by Councilwoman Urban the minutes from the November 2018 Council Meeting be accepted as presented and unanimously approved.

RECEIPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ken Smith wanted to address council regarding parking on Beech Avenue between Magnolia Avenue and Rively Avenue. He stated that cars from Rively Avenue park on Beech Avenue making it difficult for the residents on Beech Avenue to park. Borough Manager John White let Ken know unfortunately as long as the car has valid registration and inspection and are parked legally, they are able to park on the street. President Harry Short let Mr. Smith know that council would look into the parking and see what could be done to resolve the issue.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

None

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Maniaci advised residents to lock car doors as always, especially with leaving presents in cars during the holiday season.

Mayor Maniaci thanked the Aldan Police Department and responding fire departments that were on scene at the fire at 277 Priscilla Lane. He stated the response time was fantastic and they did a great job in clearing the home. Mr. Maniaci just asked that people be respectful to the home owners and not video tape and put it up on social media, especially if the family is not home and unaware that the fire has started.

BOROUGH MANAGER

Borough Manager John White has asked with all of the car break-ins, i.e. getting into unlocked cars, that Aldan Police Department would like anyone with a camera to please register their camera with the police department. Officers can quickly reach out to registrants, request surveillance footage to help establish leads, identify suspects and save valuable investigation time. Mr. White advised that these crimes are happening everywhere and please do not be fooled into thinking this could not happen to you.

Mr. White advised about yet another scam that has been happening. There are e-mail scams through Amazon, the e-mails look legitimate and asked for your personal information before an item can be shipped. The best way to see the status of your order is to go right to amazon.com, sign in and look at your orders. Do not give out any personal information.

Mr. White also shared that we still have a Toys-for-Tots box in the lobby of the municipal building that will be out until Friday, December 15th.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS**TREASURER**

Mrs. Rankin read the Treasurer's Report:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>State Highway Fund</u>	<u>Sewer Fund</u>
Balance of cash on hand	\$ 702,804.04	\$ 15,796.74	\$ 489,556.99
Receipts for period	\$ 41,371.89	\$ 0.39	\$ 1,193.56
Expenditures Last Month	\$ 289,835.67	\$ 7,984.08	\$ 170,184.88
Loan from Reserve	\$	\$	\$
Transfer to Police Capital Res\$	\$	\$	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 454,340.26	\$ 7,812.94	\$ 320,565.67

Mrs. Rankin asked for council's approval for the following amounts of checks; from General Fund \$289,835.67, from the State Highway Fund \$7,984.08, and Sewer Fund \$170,184.88. Councilwoman Urban made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as reported and authorize the disbursements of funds, seconded by Councilwoman Corrigan and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Urban made a motion to pay any unpaid bills for the month of December that may come in after the council meeting, seconded by Councilman Maiden and unanimously approved.

Mr. Procopio asked if there were any restrictions on how much money can be spent on bills between the meeting and the end of the month. Solicitor John McBlain let him know that this is an auditing recommendation so that the 2018 is cleaned up. He stated if an unusual or non-budgeted bill comes in, it does not need to be paid.

SOLICITOR

Mr. McBlain advised that borough council has the Tax Levy Ordinance in front of them, which has been prepared in accordance with the preliminary budget and is subject to any amendments that may be submitted this evening. It has been advertised and is following the adoption of the 2019 budget.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close stated prior to this meeting at 6:30pm there was a required public hearing held for the 2019 CDBG application. At the hearing a proposed project was discussed for LED street light replacement for the street lights within the eligible CDBG quadrant in the Northeast portion of the borough. During Councilman Maiden's Highway Committee Report, he will present a resolution or consideration to submit the 2019 application. This application packet is due on January 10, 2019; however, we are looking to submit before the holidays.

Mr. Procopio stated he was unable to make the public hearing but was wondering what the total grant amount was and how many street lights would be replaced with the grant. Mr. Close stated the total grant request is 65,700.00 for a total of 73 LED lights on the existing poles. Mr. Procopio also asked what is on the poles now. Mr. Close let him know that currently is a mix of the sodium vapor metal halide. The new lights will be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly which also brings an annual energy savings. Mr. Procopio asked what that savings would be. Mr. Close stated that after speaking with manufacturers, normally there is a payback period of 10-12 years, but with the grant money, we do not have to pay the upfront costs so our payback would be immediate. They estimated a savings of \$2200.00 per year for the 73 lights in the quadrant.

Another resident asked about the temperature of the lights as there is concern about high color temperature LED lights and the effects on night visibility with driving. Mr. Close advised that LED lights have become common throughout the county with their energy saving benefits. The brightness has been discussed. Right now we are proposing to install the lights and seek the money for it. Once the money is received, the wattage can then be discussed at that point and there will be different wattages between side streets and main roads such as Providence Road.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilman Durso reported on the November trash and recycling totals, 178.48 tons of trash was collected and 29.05 tons of recycling was collected.

Mr. Durso reported that our recycling contract is due to terminate on December 31, 2018. The contract was put out for bid, it was advertised and the bids were opened on Monday, December 10th at 11am. Due to all of the uncertainty in the recycling world, due to the cost rising from \$65 a ton to up to \$150 a ton, disposal places may or may not stay open. The bids were very high as expected.

Councilman Durso presented a motion to council to approve an extension on a month-to-month basis, not to exceed 6 months (June 30, 2019), of the agreement on consent to assign refuse collection contract and recycling contract with Creative Waste Solutions, LLC also known as B&L Disposal Services, for the recycling contract dated November 18, 2015 on the same terms and conditions; such extensions being terminable by the borough with 30 days written notice to the contractor subject to the solicitor's approval seconded by Councilman Maiden and unanimously approved.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Maiden presented a resolution to council to apply for the 2019 CDBG Grant to install LED lighting in the eligible areas, seconded by Councilman Durso and unanimously approved.

Mr. Procopio asked about the gas meters that need to be removed from the inside of homes to the outside, he asked if they will give notice about this work. Mr. White let him know that they give homeowners notice and the markings on the street and in the yards is the notice to the neighbors that it will be occurring. Mr. Procopio also questioned how far along they are on the project and Mr. White let him know he was unaware exactly where they are at, but it is a 3 year project.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo reported that a sinkhole has developed at 501 and 503 W. Rively Avenue recently and a plate was put over it. He is waiting for Cleaver to give him a final estimate and exact cause of the break and who is responsible to repair it.

Mr. Oropollo asked residents to please make sure all leaves are cleaned up from the street so that they do not clog the drains. If anyone sees clogged drains please call Mr. Oropollo and he will get out and get them cleaned out.

A resident asked about her property where water runs across her yard and down the garden, which has been remedied so many times but continues to go down into the streets. Mr. Oropollo let him know he would be out the following morning with Mr. White and they will see what is going on.

Mr. Oropollo also reminded residents to not pump their sump pump into the drain that goes out into the sewer line. He also stated to follow the ordinance if you do have a sump pump to not run it down the driveway and into the street because it will cause a major problem especially this time of year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Corrigan reported that Collingdale Fire Company #1 and #2 responded to 12 calls in the month of November, all of which resulted in no damage. Collingdale EMS along with surrounding EMS responded to 26 calls in the month of November for the Borough of Aldan.

Councilwoman Corrigan reminded residents that all electrical lights and ornaments should be checked for broken wires and faulty defects. While you are not home please turn off all decorations. All live trees must be kept in water and away from heat sources and ignition points.

Fire places, wood burning stoves and other types of open flame appliances and chimneys should be kept clean and serviced to ensure proper and safe use. Heaters should be serviced and cleaned on a yearly basis.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Connolly there were 26 building permits issued with a construction value of \$92,877. In addition 4 transfer inspections and 10 midterm inspections were completed for the month of November.

Councilman Connolly reminded residents that when winter weather comes, we are obliged to clear an adequate path on the sidewalk abutting our homes within 24 hours of the snow stopping. Please do not deposit the snow into the street; it will block the flow of water during the first melting period which can cause icing which impacts both pedestrians and drivers.

Last month, work was stopped at numerous properties when contractors lacked liability or workers compensation insurance. This is not to inconvenience the residents, but to make sure that they are not put at any financial risk by improperly insured companies or individuals.

Mr. Procopio asked how many contractors were stopped. Mr. White let him know it was on an as needed basis, when Jim Quinn or Tony Tartaglia drive by and do not see a placard they will stop them. Mr. White stated that we do not have an exact number but Tony may know the answer. Mr. Connolly advised he would follow up with Tony and let Dan know.

FINANCE

Aldan Borough Council once again presents a balanced budget to the residents of Aldan for the 2019 fiscal year. The 2019 Budget calls for a General Fund Revenue and Expense of \$2,278,243.70 and a Sewer Fund Revenue and Expense of \$712,769.80.. This Budget plan is approximately \$94,721.20 higher than 2018, driven mainly by police costs.

The 2019 Budgeted Income remains similar to 2018's income projections with significant variations in just two income categories. Budgeted cash on hand to begin the 2019 fiscal year will be approximately \$72,452.17, Borough Council is able to achieve this increase by having controlled spending in 2018 and also recognizing additional income in real estate transfer taxes and certain miscellaneous income. In addition to this increase in available cash on hand to begin the fiscal year, Borough Council also expects to deposit part of the 2018 surplus into the General Fund Reserve. The General Fund Reserve for the Borough remains healthy, exceeding the 10% best practices recommendation for municipal government general fund reserves.

The 2019 Real Estate Transfer Tax income is expected to rise again as the housing market rebounds and sales of existing homes increase. The Borough has already seen actual 2018 transfer tax income exceed budgeted projections by a large amount, and expects this trend in Aldan to continue in 2019. When a home sells, Pennsylvania imposes a 2% tax on the value of the sale. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania keeps 1% of that tax and the Borough and the William Penn School District each receive a distribution of one half of one percent.

The Aldan Police Department remains the largest expense to the General Fund Budget, constituting 56% of all General Fund costs. In 2019, the total Police Department expense is budgeted at \$1,272,852.00, an increase of \$32,892.00 over 2018 spending. The two main areas of increase are in the salary line items and fringe benefit costs. One of the department's full time civil service police officers became unavailable for duty midway through 2017 due to a non-work related disability, and that officer remains unfit for duty. Nonetheless, the Borough is still bound to pay salary and fringe benefits to the officer.

Other increases are in Health and Sanitation expenses, With rates at \$205.74 per household, The Trash and Recycling budget will increase \$38.62 per household, largely due to Solid Waste implementing an increase from \$33.00 per ton to \$53.00 per ton , \$40,000.00 increase and with our expiring Recycling contract the Borough did not pay tipping fees in 2018 but for 2019 we are projecting tipping fees at \$65.00 per ton and a 20% increase to haul away the recycling materials for an additional \$26,603.24.

There is no increase in the sewer fee for 2019, with the rate remaining at \$350.62 per household.

The Sewer Fund Budget holds income and spending steady at 2019 levels in the amount of \$712,769.80. Borough Council is hopeful that its efforts at the reduction of storm water inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system will result in a reduction of its required contribution to the Darby Creek Joint Authority. If that savings is realized, such funds would be returned to the Sewer Fund Reserve for capital and maintenance projects.

In conclusion, Borough Council is proud to present the 2019 revenue and spending plan to our residents. Aldan's tax rate continues to compare favorably to other similar local governments. The Borough continues to expand and deliver quality services to our residents with public safety remaining our highest priority. Budgeting is not simply a one month exercise that occurs after Thanksgiving each year. Borough Council, the Borough Manager and the Borough Treasurer work year round towards the goal of controlling taxes and delivering a high standard of services to our citizens. WE are proud that we have that goal for 2019.

Councilwoman made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Maiden and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Urban made a motion for the 2019 Tax Levy Ordinance as advertised at 8.13 mills, seconded by Councilwoman Corrigan and unanimously approved.

Mr. Procopio asked Councilwoman Urban for the Current Reserve funds for the General, Highway and Police. Councilwoman Urban presented those numbers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing outstanding.

NEW BUSINESS

Caucus will be held Tuesday, January 8th at 7:30 P.M at the Municipal Building

Council will meet Wednesday, January 16th at a 7:00pm in the William Reinl Recreation Center.

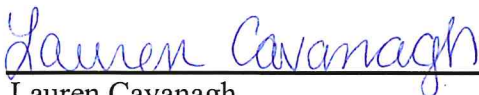
PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Barber, Aldan Borough's Tax Collector, wanted to give an update on how much of the taxes have been collected so far this year. Mr. Barber let residents know that there was an error with the school taxes, where the school district sent out delinquent notices early to everyone paying on installment plans. These individuals were not delinquent, but he reached out to the school district and they sent out a letter rectifying the situation. Currently we are 95% collected for Borough Taxes and 96% collected for School Taxes. Mr. Barber stated that his 2019 office hours to collect borough taxes would be the last 2 weeks and 3 days during the discount time period, which is the last 2 weeks in March on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Reinl Recreation Building. All of this information will be on the bill. Tuesday night's beginning in February-second week of March and the last two weeks of March will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7-8pm.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Connolly and seconded by Councilman Maiden, unanimously approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 7:48pm.

ATTEST



Lauren Cavanagh
Asst. Borough Secretary