

ALDAN BOROUGH, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

April, 2018

The Borough Council met in an Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. and in a regular session at 8:00 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Council members absent: None

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

Officers absent: C. Maniaci, Mayor

MINUTES

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

RECEIPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Councilman Maiden, made a motion to approve James Pisani Jr. as a part time non civil service police officer in the Borough of Aldan, seconded by Councilman Oropollo and unanimously approved.

Accompanying James was his father James Pisani Sr., mother Cheryl Pisani, brother Vincent Pisani and uncle Ed Pisani who is a former police officer and current Township Manager for Ridley Township. James graduated from Ridley High School in 2015. Upon graduation he attended Gwynedd Mercy University and later transferred to Delaware County Community College where he is currently finishing up his Associates Degree. James was hired by the Delaware County Park Police in 2017 and graduated from the Delaware County Municipal Police Academy in December 2017.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Maniaci was absent.

BOROUGH MANAGER

Mr. White advised that Mayor Maniaci, President Short and himself attended a School Board Budget Meeting on Saturday, April 7th, in which the School Board was proposing a 1% earned income tax. They met before the meeting with Kevin Hobbs, our school board representative, to let him know that they, along with the community, are against this tax. They do have PA Fair Funding Lawsuit in progress and we will support them in any way we can.

Mr. White reminded residents of upcoming events in the borough, Saturday, May 5th, 9am-4pm is the Annual Aldan Booster's Plant Sale in the Municipal Building Parking Lot. The Swim Club also has an Open House, Saturday April 28th from 1pm-3pm for anyone interested in touring the swim club. Lastly, there is an E-Cycling and Drug Take Back Event which Councilman Durso will give more information about.

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	\$ 134,358.72	\$ 34,415.31	\$ 8,964.69
Receipts for period	\$ 496,270.74	\$ 113,613.25	\$ 213,213.33
Expenditures Last Month	\$ 179,318.97	\$ 9,409.49	\$ 1,424.24
Loan from Reserve	\$	\$	\$
Transfer to Police Capital Res\$	\$	\$	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 451,310.49	\$ 138,619.85	\$ 220,753.78

Mrs. Rankin asked for council's approval for the following amounts of checks; from General Fund \$179,318.97, for the State Highway Fund \$9,409.49, and Sewer Fund \$1,424.24.

Councilwoman Urban made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as reported and authorize the disbursements of funds, seconded by Councilman Connolly and unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR

Mr. McBlain reported that he is still negotiating with Comcast to renew our cable franchise agreement. It is a 10 year renewal of the agreement; the borough would capture 5% of all revenues related to cable T.V. They are working on securing complimentary internet access with Comcast to buildings that are important to the borough, the Recreation Building being one of them. This would be in conjunction with the cameras programs that have been discussed. This would help in assisting Town Watch and the police, so it would also be at the swim club.

In working with Mr. Connolly we have a few properties that we have been working on. The first we have a new press on which is the Korber Residence as it's been known at the corner of Glenwood and Providence. The owner passed away many years ago and the son is the owner of the property. The property is tax delinquent and in poor condition. There have been a number of maintenance liens. The borough has been doing the minimum maintenance required for the property because the current owner has not been keeping up with maintenance. The property did go to tax sale and Mr. Korber is disputing this. The best conclusion is those who bought the property at the tax sale take possession and make the improvements.

Mr. Connolly and our Building Inspector have been in contact with the owners of the property on Springfield Road that suffered damage from a building fire. A deadline date for the end of March was established for the owners to abate the nuisance at the property. The expressed intent of the owners was to rehabilitate the property but we have seen no action. Our Building Inspector indicated that the cost of the property verse redoing it makes more sense to tear it down, it would cost more to bring it up to code than what the property is worth. Mr. McBlain suspects that we will be abating the nuisance ourselves which may include the demolition.

Last July we had another building fire on Bonsall Avenue, which is rare to have one let alone two in one year, but thankfully that property was completely abandoned and it was demolished and grated.

Finally, Mr. McBlain reported on the 2017 Trash and Sewer Delinquencies. Tom Morse, our current Tax Collector, is still in charge of taxes from 2017 and before and he has come up with a list of delinquent properties for 2017. There are about 24 properties which is consistent with previous years. Letters were sent to the property owners demanding full payment with penalty and interest. If the owners do not pay, Mr. McBlain's office will file liens on these properties and more fees would be attached. Most of the properties are not owner occupied and are owned by someone outside of the borough. This list will be cross-checked with our property rental list so that these properties are not earning revenue and at the same time not paying their taxes.

Mr. McBlain wanted to congratulate members of council on notable accomplishments. First, he congratulated Councilman Maiden on becoming President of the Aldan Youth Club; he has been a real leader in that organization. Mr. McBlain gave credit to Mr. Maiden as well as others for keeping those programs alive for the kids.

Second, Mr. McBlain wanted to share his excitement and congratulations for Councilwoman Rankin as she was honored into the Archbishop Prendergast Hall of Fame.

Third, professionally, he made note of Councilwoman Urban's handling of a high profile homicide case, in which she convicted the individual, where a truck driver in Yeadon was shot and killed. With the help of the investigators, police and DA's office, they were able to provide circumstantial evidence to locate, try and convict this individual for the murder.

ENGINEER

Mr. Close reported on the 2018 Department of Community and Economic Development Grant Application, for the park pavilion and snack bar project. At last month's council meeting, council approved a resolution of adoption to submit that application. Currently the application and attachments are being put together and coordinated with Borough Manager John White. The application packet will be ready for submission by the May 31st deadline.

Mr. Close reported on the 2017 CDBG project that is street improvement projects in the Northeast quadrant of the borough. The project was awarded the project to InConn in the amount of \$101,115. Mr. Close recently attended the county's OHCD reconstruction meeting on Friday, March 23, the contractor was issued a notice to proceed on April 2nd. He does expect to start between the last week of April and first week of May and should take about 2 weeks, weather permitting.

Last, relative to the 2018 road program, per last month's authorization by council, we have advertised the project for bidding. It has appeared in The Spirit on Wednesday April 4th and today, April 11th. Bids are due and will be opened at the caucus on May 1st. Our target award will be Wednesday, May 9th at council meeting and target for construction will be June or July of 2018. The estimate is about \$103,000. This program is for 3 roads, Beech, Albert and Stratford Avenues, between W. Providence and W. Magnolia Avenue.

During the Highway Committee Chairman's report, he will bring for adoption a resolution for submission of the County Aid Application. Every year a County Aid Application has been approved, this year Mr. Close was informed it has been changed to an electronic submission process that the state does call Dot Grants. The form that was filled out will no longer be accepted and crossed paths with this new program so we will need to readjust the way we process our application.

Mr. Whiteside did ask if Mr. Close's department was responsible for street signs, in which Mr. Close let him know it was not him and was advised it was the Highway Committee. He was allowed to ask his question at the end of Mr. Close's report. Mr. Whiteside does live on a one way street and stated he has brought to the attention of Mr. White the fact that cars come up his street (Aldan Avenue) the wrong way off of Springfield Road. He along with his neighbor stated that this mainly happens around rush hour, but does occur throughout the entire day that they come up the wrong way and speed up the street. Mr. Whiteside asked if a blinking sign could be put up at the end of the street or part of the street could be blocked off so that cars are unable to get up the street. Their concern is for the safety of the neighbors and the children. Council President Short let him know a sign could be put up, however, Mr. Whiteside stated that there are two signs already that do not seem to be working. Mr. Short let him know that he would speak with the chief and possibly have a police car posted there for a time to keep an eye on these individuals cutting up the street the wrong way. Mr. White also advised he would look into one of the solar blinking signs to put up.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Councilman Durso stated that for the month of March 2018, 134.93 tons of trash and 25.70 tons of recycling were collected.

Mr. Durso reiterated that on Saturday, April 28th, up at the Municipal Parking Lot there will be an E-Cycling and Drug Take Back Day from 10am to 2pm. Any unused drugs can be disposed of safely and can also be dropped off at the Drug Take Back box in the Municipal Building during normal business hours. He stated that for the E-Cycling portion of the event a resident ID from Aldan or Clifton Heights will be needed. This event will not be a shredding event that will occur in July. All of this information is in the calendar that was given to all of the residents.

Intercommunity Health will be putting mosquito traps out as they do every year. They generally put them in the open areas, not on anyone's private property. They will be tracking for West Nile Virus and Zika Virus. These traps are collected every so often to test the mosquitoes. If there is a positive, they will decide if they are going to spray or not, if they do they will let us know beforehand. Last year there were no positives in the borough.

Lastly, Councilman Durso stated that he has had complaints about the trash and recycling not being handled correctly. He himself has actually driven around the borough a few times so he can see problems. Mr. Durso stated that if there are problems please give him a call and if you have a cell phone with a camera to take a picture and send to him. He would like to see exactly what is going on and wants to be actively involved in making this situation better. Mr. Durso stated that the recycling contract is coming up, so he wants to be able to show if there is a problem. By the time he gets home from work, someone has picked up the trash, so a picture would help him in fixing the problem.

Aldan resident, Carol Murray, stated she spoke with Mr. Durso as well as Mr. White about the trash. She stated she has been complaining about the trash because of the trolley. She stated that B&L is "Big & Lousy for a trash company." Ms. Murry stated that they drop trash everywhere. She stated a solution may be to make it mandatory that everyone put their trash into trash bags, because when they flip the can into the truck loose items are dropped and not picked up. She stated that her main concern is if trash gets into the trolley tracks and trash getting blown either into someone's windshield or it hitting a child in the face in the afternoon coming home from school. Mr. White stated that he has driven around mainly after complaints, but he follows them around when he sees them and never sees these issues. Mr. White advised that he has called B&L to let them know where the complaints are coming from so that they are more aware as they drive down and pick up trash from that area. Mr. White advised that residents should do just as she suggested and put their lids on their cans and their trash in bags.

Ms. Murray stated that it is not just the lids; it is the fact that the trash men dump the trash into the truck, trash falls out, and same when they compress the trash. She stated that they see the trash fall and do not pick it up. Mr. White advised that we do not receive complaints from any other street, except for Woodlawn. Mr. White advised that he will continue to follow the trash men and follow up with the complaints.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Maiden made a resolution to authorize the borough to submit the County Aid Application for 2018 Road Program.

Councilman Maiden made a motion to approve a resolution to authorize the borough to submit the County Aid Application for the 2018 Road Program, seconded by Councilwoman Urban and unanimously approved.

Councilman Maiden further advised that the boy's baseball and girls softball season has kicked off. The first game will be Friday 4/13 for the girls and the boys will start around May 1st. The Youth Club kicks off the season with a clean-up day which will be Saturday, April 14th from 9am-12pm. The goal is to clean up the leaves and take care of the fields so that the younger kids can start practicing. He stated that he will be cleaning out the attic in the recreation building and going through all the old archives. He stated if anyone is attached to anything that he may find to let him know.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councilman Oropollo advised that there were two bills due to inlets that needed to be cleaned out on Aldan Avenue. The bills were totaled as follows for the clean-up, 332 Aldan Avenue, \$3,250.00 and across the street was \$3,450.00 due to there being more damage.

Mr. Oropollo stated that Image on Springfield Road and Clifton Avenue was getting water in the basement. Officer Scanlan met Mr. Oropollo there and they popped the sewer drain manhole. The sewer was filled to the top, so General Sewer was called and they came out and cleaned the debris out of the line.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilwoman Corrigan reported that there were 10 calls to Collingdale Fire Company's 1 and 2 for the month of March and most of those calls were from down wires due to the storm that we had.

During the month of March, Collingdale Ambulance and EMS responded to 21 calls within the Borough of Aldan.

Lastly, Fire Marshall Garrity spent time checking homes for fire hazards after the storm and he did an inspection and floor plan was approved for 11 E. Providence Road related to a step-by-step adult group residential home.

LAW, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Connolly reported that there were 36 building permits issued with a construction value of \$117,855.48. In addition 10 transfer inspections and 15 midterm inspections were completed for the month of March. One (1) plumbing permit was issued totaling \$5497.

Mr. Connolly advised that the exterior work at the corner of Oak Avenue and Providence Road is nearing completion. Plans were reviewed for a convenient store, but no licenses for plumbing or electrical applications have been received.

The inspector met with a representative of the bank and prospective buyer for the property at 122 Shisler Avenue. The inspector reiterated the requirement that large sections of drywall will need to be taken down for inspection which the prospective buyer agreed upon.

We have not received a site plan for the property at 117 S. Clifton Avenue. Additional citations will be filed due to no action.

Aldan resident Richard Whiteside stated that there are residents in town that are getting away with work without required permits in which he talked to John White about already. Mr. Connolly stated that if anyone sees someone else without a permit to call himself or Mr. White and someone will be sent over to advise them a permit is needed. Council President Short stated that even if the contractor is gone to please advise that the work was completed without a permit. Mr. White advised he will follow-up in the morning and that our Code Enforcement Officer, Jim Quinn, does find at least one a day. When Mr. Quinn does find contractors, or homeowners working without a permit, he will issue a Stop Work Order and a citation will be filed. Mr. Short advised that these rules to have inspections done and to receive permits are to help the homeowner.

Mr. Borders stated that a street light at the corner of Providence and Bonsall was missing.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Urban reported that two major deposits were made this month. The first was Pennsylvania State Liquid Fuels Funding in the amount of \$113,613 and the second was our Finance Franchise Fees for Comcast was over \$76,000.00. Ms. Urban stated that we did reconcile our accounts for the month.

Mr. Whiteside asked about the franchise fees for Comcast and what exactly that was. Mr. McBlain stated that this is for the entire borough to allow them to use the right ways. He questioned why we do not have this in place for Fios since they just came into the area. Mr. McBlain stated that we do, however Comcast's is up for renewal which is why it is brought up at this meeting. Mr. McBlain stated that the agreement with Verizon for the franchise, we are permitted to charge a maximum of 5% relating to the TV portion.

Aldan resident, Mark Greenslade stated that Verizon has been setting tents up around town and he wanted to know if they were required to pull permits. Mr. White stated that they need to stop in and apply for a solicitors license. Mr. Greenslade stated that they are setting up tents in the front lawn of a house where they just installed services and then waiting for everyone else to come home. Mr. McBlain stated that we did speak with the inspector about this and they are not permitted to set up on someone's private lawn. Mr. Short advised to call the Municipal Building when someone sees it happening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing outstanding.

NEW BUSINESS

Caucus will be held Tuesday, May 1st at 7:30 P.M at the Municipal Building

Council will meet Wednesday, May 9th at a 7:00pm in the William Reinl Recreation Center.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilman Maiden and seconded by Councilwoman Corrigan, unanimously approved, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was adjourned at 7:51pm.

ATTEST

Lauren Cavanagh

Lauren Cavanagh
Asst. Borough Secretary