

**Albion Borough  
Council Meeting  
September 30, 2019**

**PRESENT** President Sam Steff, Vice President Scott Seaton, B. Altman, R. Irvine, G. Hemmis, Rebecca Marshall, Jason Harayda, Borough Manager Gary Wells.  
Absent: Mayor White, Chief Ries

**CALL TO ORDER** 7pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Approve  
of Agenda  
09/30/19** **S. Seaton:** motion to approve 09/30/19 Agenda  
**B. Altman:** second motion  
**Vote:** All in favor. Motion passed

**President Sam Steff:** At this time, I would like to turn over the meeting to our Attorney David Rhodes.

**Attorney David Rhodes:** Good evening, I going to give a little brief on what is happening procedurally and how we to where we are tonight. On September 19 Council adopted an ordinance to dissolve the Albion Borough Police Department, that ordinance passed by majority vote of Council. Subsequent to that action the Mayor exercised his authority to veto the ordinance. We received the written information of the veto from the Mayor and that will be incorporated into the minutes of tonight's meeting. Under Pennsylvania Law when we have an ordinance that has been adopted by Council, vetoed by the Mayor, Council has the opportunity to override that veto. Doing so requires, in this case, the affirmative vote of five (5) Council members. So, with vote of five (5) Council members, they have the legal authority to override the Mayor's veto. So that is the purpose of tonight's special meeting. Now like with our other meetings we are going to allow for public comment. I wasn't present for the prior meetings, but my understanding is council has received extensive public comment both at the meeting when they first advertised this ordinance as well as the meeting when the ordinance itself was adopted. So really what we are going to open the floor up to is to if anybody has any new comments or information that Council's not had previously. This would be your time to offer that comment. We are going to limit that comment period time to three (3) minutes per person to keep things moving along and anyone making a comment needs to be a resident or property owner of Albion Borough.

**Public Comment:** **Shirley Dinger, 46 Highland Avenue:** I don't know why 5 members of Council are willing to overturn this veto. They say they care about this community that they were elected to represent us. And I believe the overwhelming majority of residents of this Borough want their police department. My other question is, or comment, is that they were to save money when they reduced hours, almost 2 years ago, so I would like to know

where that money has gone and what they plan to do with the funds that they think they are going to save by disbanding this police department. And I think they are making a big mistake.

**Linda Bambarger, 32 Deer Street:** These council members don't think there is a drug problem in this town, I beg to differ. I have one that just got out of rehab, where do you think he got it from? Is this the legacy you guys want to leave behind? Albion the overdose town, Albion the meth town, Albion where these elderly are scared to go out. Is that what you people want to leave behind? I moved here because it was safe. There was police presence, it was a nice town. Sam, this is one hell of a legacy to leave behind for your kids and your grandkids. The man that destroyed Albion.

**Lorinda Neubauer, 31 North Main Street:** Did you know there was a family that a death threat was made against the husband, the wife, the 3 children, and the dog? This was last Wednesday. There were 3 different incidents where they tried to break into her house across the street. There needs to a police presence.

**Larry Bright, 296 East State Street:** I have a comment, what I would like is the resident and business owners that are here to night a show of hands of all that are here who are in favor of keeping our police department.

**Jeannie Bright, 296 East State Street:** I think it is pretty sad that at all these meetings, other than Jason Harayda and Greg Hemmis, not one of you have bothered to look anyone in the eye. That really says a lot and is very sad. It is very sad the shape you are leaving Albion in, thanks Sam.

**Jim Vorse, 236 East Pearl Street:** Just so you know, there was 36 people that raised their hands that all want the police. My next thing is now that they are disbanding the police when is the Borough going to start taking down the speed limit signs? When a child gets hit, I hope that family holds each one of you Council members personally liable.

**Janet West, 31 Cherry Street:** My question would be, if there are so many people that would be in favor of the police it seems to be a money issue. If it's put to the people if we are willing to pay to have a police department and people are willing to put their money into having a police department then I wouldn't see why the Council would be against that. If it's voted on and people are willing to pay. Somewhere along the line we have to come up with finances to cover these things. If people want this, are we willing to pay for it? And if we are, I don't see a problem to it.

**Jason Harayda:** What I would like to say is what I have a problem with the past year and a half that I have been on it's just been a constant set of games with the rest of Council, between all the meetings and everything I have heard behind the scenes. It's not financial, it does go down to I really think this is your hail Mary. We know we are done soon, we know you wanted to get rid of Dan for a long time, let's band together and make this happen. I have yet to hear any of you stand up and look anyone in the eye and tell them exactly why we are disbanding the police department, besides the term financial. Every meeting we are only told what you want us to hear. You get mad and hold it against employees when I talk to them, but that is the only way to know what is really going on here. I get nothing honest from any of you.

**Motion to  
Override Veto on  
Ordinance  
NO 03-2019**

**R. Marshall:** motion to override the Mayor's veto on the Police Ordinance  
No: 03-2019

**R. Irvine:** second motion

**Roll Call Vote:** **J. Harayda** - No, **R. Marshall** - Yes, **G. Hemmis** - No, **R. Irvine** - Yes, **B. Altman** - Yes, **S. Seaton** - Yes, **S. Steff** - Yes. Motion passed 5-2.

**Attorney David Rhodes:** under the Pennsylvanian Law that is an override of the Mayor's veto and that ordinance is effective.

**Adjourn  
Meeting**

Motion made by **R. Irvine**, seconded by **R. Marshall**  
to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Angela Telega

  
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Signature

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Date 11/19/2019