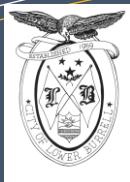


SPRING  
2020

City of Lower Burrell  
2800 Bethel Street  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068



## City Meetings

Monthly Council Meetings  
(All are 7 PM unless noted)

Agenda - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday

Council – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

Municipal Authority

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 PM

Planning Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Zoning Hearing Board 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

Parks Commission 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

Stormwater Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

(March-June-Sept-Dec) Meeting

Recycling Task Force 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday

## Your City Officials

### Mayor John Andrejck

Department of Public Affairs

### Councilman Chris Fabry

Department of Accounts/Finance

### Councilwoman Rosina Albanese

Department of Parks and Property

### Councilman Robert Hamilton

Department of Public Works

### Councilman Joseph Grillo

Department of Public Safety

### Controller – Tony Farina

### Treasurer – Brian Eshbaugh

City Administrator – Amy Rockwell

Chief of Police – John Marhefka

Ordinance/Zoning – Michael Nedley

All emergency calls, please use 911.

Contact us at 724-335-9875.

# Lower Burrell Insider



## Upcoming Events

- April 5 Easter Egg Hunt
- June 6-13 Lower Burrell Firemen's Carnival
- June 13 Opening Day Farmers Market
- July 25 Food Truck Roundup
- August 16 Officer Brian Shaw Memorial Scholarship Ride
- August 22 Officer Derek Kotecki Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing

## Messages from Council

### Mayor's Office

To the Good Citizens of Lower Burrell,

Welcome back to the first of many newsletters. When asked if I thought it would be a good idea to bring this forum back, I did not hesitate but one short second – “Yes.” I personally believe there is no better way to open the lines of communication between City Government and its residents; and I personally will endeavor to do just that in each and every issue.

I've also been asked lately by many, many friends, relatives, and acquaintances, “How has it been going so far?” My answer has been a consistent and resounding question to them. “Have you ever been on a rollercoaster where it has the highest track, the lowest track, the fastest car, and it never ends?” That does NOT mean that I'd give up the ride at Kennywood or the scariest new haunted house or even an adventure into the unknown. I've always been known to extend many a fishing excursion by looking ahead while wading an unfamiliar stream or creek, and saying to myself, “I've just got to see what is around that next bend in the river.” The vast majority of what awaits me there is another beautiful riffle or deep run, chock full of hungry fish – much like what I've experienced so far as the new Mayor of Lower Burrell.

While we have spent many late nights together recently tackling some very important issues, away from our loved ones, please know that “The Great Team Around Me” that I've spoken about often has slowly but surely been building day by day. I say this with conviction, I have personally witnessed the composition of Lower Burrell Council come together as a major part of this team, get immediately and promptly ultra-focused; and, I must say that I am pleasantly surprised, impressed, and elated with the addition of its newest and youngest member, Rosina Albanese. I truly look forward to the days ahead where we all overcome each and every “Tough Call” that passes our desks and eventually bring to Lower Burrell many new ideas, and ultimately “Keep Lower Burrell The Wonderful City That It Is.”

I take great pride in the fact that some athletes that attend Burrell High School have had recent success. Please, take a short moment out of your busy days to congratulate the Burrell Wrestling Team on its climb, once again, to WPIAL Champion supremacy. That is not a given. I know it takes hard work; notably, because I had the pleasure of coaching and nurturing most of these fine gentlemen in the past. Especially, since each and every year brings with it the fact that the target on their backs gets bigger because every program out there wants to knock off the King of the Mountain.

Since taking office here, I have been trying to attend all Municipal hearings or meetings within City Hall, meet these fine people who run the City, and offer my hand of assistance from the Office of Mayor. Needless to say, I've missed a few. I promise to all that I will get there eventually. I also promise that I will extend my hand to you with a good, firm handshake and ask you all to come along with me on this joy ride of a trip. Until then, thank you, all, for your great service to the City of Lower Burrell, and God's Speed to you all, including EVERYONE that resides in this Great City.

**Mayor John Andrejck**

### Director of Accounts and Finance

I would like to thank the residents of Lower Burrell for re-electing me to another four-year term. I will continue to honor and serve our City. I welcome John Andrejck, Rosina Albanese and John Marhefka to their new positions and look forward to working with them.

This will mark my third year as Director of Accounts and Finance. With the help of Amy Rockwell and Brian Eshbaugh, we have kept close eyes on the budget. I'm pleased to report that every department finished under budget in 2019. We were able to pass the 2020 budget with no tax increase while maintaining the second lowest millage rate of any third-class city in Westmoreland County.

Lower Burrell operates on 6.9-million-dollar budget with another 3.3 million for sewer operations. To help oversee this, I have instituted both monthly reviews and quarterly workshops. Each department has also put a focus not only on current needs but also long term capital expenses.

Please take notice that we have moved the Agenda and Council meetings to two different dates. This was done to give council time to do additional research without having to push an item to the following month. It also gives us the opportunity to address your concerns in a timely manner. If you need to discuss something with council, we recommend bringing it to our Agenda meeting on the first Monday of the month. We can be made aware of your concern and have a week to research it before our next meeting. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome you to join us.

**Councilman Chris Fabry**

## VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

The Lower Burrell # 1 V.F.C. starts their annual Lenten Fish Fry on Ash Wednesday and continue every Friday thru Lent. Hours of Operation are 11 AM to 7 PM.

The Lower Burrell #1 V.F.C. also does a monthly raffle ticket. These tickets include PA Lottery Scratch off tickets, gun tickets and other various raffles. Check out our website @ [www.lbvfc1.com](http://www.lbvfc1.com) or call 724-339-7537 for more info.

The Lower Burrell Fire Companies will sponsor their upcoming annual Fireman's Carnival which will run June 6th thru 13th. The Lower Burrell # 1 V.F.C. is always accepting new active, junior and social memberships. The Number of volunteers is dwindling every day in our service. Please consider stepping up and helping your community by joining your local fire company. For more information, visit our website at [www.lbvfc1.com](http://www.lbvfc1.com) or call 724-339-8855.

As we come to the tail end of winter and the beginning of spring, we would like to remind you of some safety tips if you use space heaters to warm your home.

- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.

As providers of fire and EMS protection at Lower Burrell #3, we highly encourage you ensure that we can see your address from the street. Too many times we spend wasted seconds searching for an address that is either missing or not visible at a distance or is not well lit. Something that might seem so simple can make a difference. Speaking of making a difference, daylight savings time is fast approaching. On March 8th please update your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries. They do save lives. One last item: the volunteer fire services is always in need of personnel. There are many different tasks that need performed from actually fighting fires and performing rescues to administrative functions and fundraising ventures. Please consider investing some time in your community via membership in a fire department.

Lower Burrell #3 is proud to present our Food Truck Roundup Fundraiser on Saturday, July 25, 2020. Stop by our station and get some great food and drink! from our vendors!



## The City of Lower Burrell - where you belong

### City Parks

Lower Burrell Residents, let me begin by saying that I am so honored to have been elected as your City Councilwoman this past November. At our reorganization meeting in January, I was named Director of Parks and Public Property. I am thrilled about this opportunity. Lower Burrell has provided exciting and family friendly events in the past, and I look forward to continuing the yearly traditions you love attending and hope to expand our programming and utilization of our parks.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 5 from 3-4:30 PM. We will have fun activities for kids of all ages beginning at 3 o'clock and will begin the Egg Hunt at 4 PM.

If you are interested in volunteering, or have a desire to be involved with planning community events like the Easter Egg Hunt, the Farmer's Market, Cookies with Santa, the Bands in the Park, or any of the events we are hoping to begin, please email me at [RAIalbanese@CityofLowerBurrell.com](mailto:RAIalbanese@CityofLowerBurrell.com)

I would also appreciate a "like" on my Facebook page. I post updates on current events happening in the city, upcoming events, news articles, and more. This is a great avenue for us to connect and for you to keep up to date on Lower Burrell happenings! The web address to my Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/CouncilwomanAlbanese](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilwomanAlbanese)

I have already learned a great deal since being sworn in and look forward to continuing to learn more every day. In January, I attended a Newly Elected Officials Training put on by the Pennsylvania Municipal League. I absorbed a wealth of knowledge regarding how to serve as a representative of your best interests in the City of Lower Burrell. Thank you again for this opportunity, and feel free to contact me any time with any questions or concerns.

**Councilwoman Rosina Albanese**

### City Treasurer

**2020 City and County Property Tax** bills will be mailed for March 1, 2020.

Both tax bills will be in the same envelope.

**Credit Card Payments** are accepted inhouse and online through our website under the **Treasurer & Tax Office** tab on the left-hand side of the home page. Accepted payments for city, county, school property taxes, sewer & recycling bills can be made online. All the previous items may be made in our office along with smoke & dye and occupancy inspections. There will be a 2.45% service fee with a minimum fee of \$1.00 per transaction. **Please only use the payment option on our website.**

**Online Banking Payments** have become a common way for residents to pay bills. Please include your account number, account name and what bill the payment is to be applied to. Also, please leave enough time for the check to reach us, the date you submit to your financial institution is not the date our office receives your payment. Financial institutions may wait till they have numerous payments before they are mailed which may cause your account to accrue late fees.

### Public Works

With longer days ahead, the Public Works Department is looking towards our work for Spring and Summer. Along with planning for our yearly paving projects, we have a planned installation of a new play structure in Veteran's Park. Once we have finalized the list for paving, we will publish it on the city's website and Facebook page. Please be sure to check for updates!

The city continues to work to address stormwater and road issues. If you see it, report it. Please contact the Public Works Department if you spy an issue which needs our attention. Please call 724-889-2008 to notify us to investigate.

The public works facility has been finished, and the crews are moved in. With the new space and enhancements, we can work safer and more efficiently. Once the project is complete, we will have an opportunity to share the renovations with our residents. We look forward to welcoming you into the new building.

The sewer department continues to work on maintenance and operations of our main lines and pump stations. Late last fall, we had an issue with the Big Braeburn Pump Station and worked round the clock to contain and repair the issue. We thank the residents for their patience and understanding during the overnight repairs. While not ideal, it was the only way to correctly address the issue.

As the weather starts to break, our crews are out on the roads, be cautious as you approach a work area and slow down as you pass by. Thank you for keeping us safe.

**Councilman Rob Hamilton**

### Public Safety

Hello Friends. I am enjoying this mild winter, and I hope you are as well. Soon we will be seeing the sprouting of flowers and everything the spring has to offer.

Please refrain from putting them on telephone poles or City street signs.

My colleagues and I are working with each other for our Firefighters providing a tax credit to them if they live and serve our Community. I hope this effort will help attract people to join one of our two companies and give our members already serving something back - LET ME SAY THANK YOU IN A BIG WAY.

Just a reminder to landlords, they need to have their properties inspected for safety. They need an occupancy permit to rent their properties out and they need an inspection every time someone leaves their property before they rent it again. Any Landlord that doesn't call the tax office for an inspection, can be prosecuted. When absentee landlords move in and properties become blighted, it allows crime to move in easily.

I would like to thank David Kristof for the years he dedicated to the Planning Commission and wish him well in his retirement. At the same time, I would like to welcome Katie Watson and thank her for serving our Planning Commission. I wish her well in this venture with our City.

I also want to thank and offer best of luck to Gary Alcorn, Michael Pahlman, and Patricia Hawk for offering to represent our Community by sitting on Our Appeals Board.

I would like to offer my sincere sympathies and condolences to Pat Colin on the loss of her husband Lew. In my opinion, he was one of those guys who really worked where he lived. As a matter of fact, I would consider him Mr. Lower Burrell. Over the years he served on many commissions in our city such as Parks, Planning, and Zoning Commissions- He served as a firefighter and was the city's first Emergency Management Coordinator. He was also a proud World War II Veteran- He was also one of our cities Constable's. Thank you Lew for everything that you have done for our Community and thank you for your service and friendship. I've been blessed knowing you - REST WELL MY FRIEND.

In closing, please consider a donation to our fire departments.

Congratulations to the Burrell Bucs Wrestling Team!

**Councilman Joe Grillo**