

WILMERDING BOROUGH
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 4, 2020 MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOSEPH HARTZELL, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

P. SHURGOT/L.KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 23 & JULY 7, 2020 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The CIAC would like to acquire 114 Caldwell Avenue and have asked if we can relinquish the delinquent taxes and garbage.

G. EVASHAVIK: normally you cannot but I am not sure because they are a non-profit if that would give them any tax forgiveness. Normally it is illegal for us to do that as you cannot just pick and choose who will not pay taxes. I can look into see if there are any exceptions.

J. THOMAS: have we gotten any feedback from the School District?

S. SHURGOT: no and as bad as the building is some people feel that it is not a good investment on their part.

K. BELIN/ TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR LOOK INTO TAX FORGIVNESS FOR THE CIAC.

S. SHURGOT: motion did not carry by lack of second.

J. HARTZELL: can you refer them to 215 or 415 Marguerite, those houses are vacant and will cost them a lot less money.

S. SHURGOT: I will send them a letter about those.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK – the EMS for July responded to 49 calls and had 35 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.9 minutes and for non-emergences was 7.2 minutes.

The fire department responded to 43 calls, 11 in town and 32 out of town. There were 2 work details, 3 trainings, and 25 maintenance hours. We have been waiting on the Glick invoice but have not received it yet, but the total comes to \$8600.00. There were broken rear end springs, the brow light, a coolant gauge, 4 new batteries, rotors and brakes, and an alignment. The batteries and brakes were all original.

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P. SHURGOT: we are sending them out of town so much, can we limit them to the amount of calls they respond to that are out of town.

L. KIRK: we have talked about that in the past. We can go over that at workshop and come up with a plan. For the police report congratulations are in order. Assistant Superintendent Bryant has retired, Inspector Kearns was moved into that position and Lt. McClellan has been promoted to Inspector.

LT. MCCLELLAN: Thank you all, so the 1st thing I wanted to cover was the shots fired yesterday in town. It was about 1 p.m. on the 500 block of Middle where 3 rounds were fired, all persons involved were from Turtle Creek, and it was a love triangle gone bad. We had a female in custody yesterday and both individuals that were fired at were cooperative. The shooter has been identified and there is a warrant out for his arrest. As for the report for the month of July we had 211 events which included 11 abandoned vehicles, 5 animal complaints, 11 domestic disputes, 1 DUI, 1 escort, 3 vehicle crashes, 4 thefts, 13 traffic stops, and 7 warrant. There were 12 arrests made that included 1 criminal mischief, 1 dog at large, 2 PFA violations, 1 possession to deliver marijuana, 1 public drunkenness, 1 simple assault/domestic violence, and 5 warrants. The possession was a traffic stop and we worked with narcotics, so an officer is currently serving a search warrant on the 500 block of Middle.

L. KIRK: my neighbor was very happy that the police were able to find the person that damaged his vehicle on a Sunday afternoon. Officer Grimm did a fantastic job.

S. SHURGOT: can you have the officers go to the WCC in the evening, I spotted a youth climbing on top of the pavilion.

P. SHURGOT: There is a slow sign now on Herman avenue, if we paint the road stating 15mph can you legally ticket them?

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: once it is legally posted we can enforce it. You can paint the roadway but still need the sign.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: Everyone received a copy of my report.

G. JAKUB: the duplex at the end of Westinghouse, both sides are empty and just wanted to bring that to your attention.

P. SHURGOT: what is going on with 318 Middle?

A. HUSSEY: It is a process and with the COVID every time he gets a bricklayer set up, they have to cancel.

S. SHURGOT: what about the fence around the Faller Building?

A. HUSSEY: I had reached out to him and have not heard anything back. I will send a letter.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: They will be getting the signs up along Herman Avenue and I asked about a stencil for the 15 mph, we would have to purchase this. We have some application for the position so I will look through them. He leaves on vacation and has lined up workers from East McKeesport to come down and help the summer helpers. They have a list set up for them. I will have a list for Tony when he comes back. We rented the paint sprayer and the curbs look great. We should look at budgeting in a paint sprayer of our own.

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G. JAKUB: we discussed you giving him a list and him returning it with what has been completed, is that getting done?

P. SHURGOT: I do not get a list every week just at the end of the month. I can have it done weekly or daily if you all prefer.

L. KIRK: I think a weekly follow up would be best. He can check off what has been done off the list and every week you can send a new one. I do not feel that you get an accurate account of anyone's work if they have to remember what they did 30 days ago.

J. HARTZELL: do you know why there was overtime for the Foreman?

P. SHURGOT: he set it up with the police to paint the crosswalks around the bridge.

J. HARTZELL: we need to contact the county about the weeds going up 5th Avenue.

S. SHURGOT: we have sent letters on this and the June overtime was due to a downed tree and the police called him out.

C. LANG: yes, we sent letters regarding that, the weeds on Patton Street at the ramps and the graffiti under the bridge.

P. SHURGOT: Can you also ask them to do Ice Plant Hill.

AL HUSSEY: I can contact George Thompson regarding that.

K. MAXWELL: They did not paint the curbs from King's Way to Commerce.

P. SHURGOT: I will investigate it.

INSPECTOR MCLELLAN: I did forget one thing; Mr. Kelly was caught going onto people's property and pulling out their flowers. When confronted he told them he worked for the City go "F" yourself. He is being charged for both incidents.

S. SHURGOT: Caroline did you notify him in writing?

C. LANG: yes, we notified him in writing and Al has spoken with him numerous times and told him the same.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: once we actually charge him, we are going to look into getting him some help.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: The Orient slide – PA Soil & Rock has not completed the report, but they have completed the test holes and it's not good. They found in some places the soil is up to 701 or 80 ft deep. We cannot build a wall on something like that. He is looking at other recommendations at this time, he will have a final report by the workshop. The Ice Plant Hill – ALCOSAN grant we found we are no eligible for because the water coming down the hill does not go into the combined system. However, there are 2 other funding sources we are looking into. The 2019 Storm Inlet project was to be starting in late August and completed within 2 weeks. Finally, we have submitted the application for demolition of 10 structures under the DCED Blight Grant. We will probably hear back in November on this. Also, CD 47 pre application are due at the COG by September 11 so let me know if there is anything you would like to apply for.

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S. SHURGOT: can you go over the facts regarding the sewer inlets?

D. GILLILAND: I WENT AND LOOKING AT THE STORM INLET ON Airbrake and Third, this is a combined sewer and the stench hood has separated from the wall of the basin and is allowing sewer gas to escape. We will have Satira repair it when they do the upcoming inlets. The other issue on Bridge street, I could not locate an issue I inspected all 5 inlets which are all separate storm sewer systems and is not connected to the sanitary. If it comes up again let me know and I will go back.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: NO REPORT

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: The computer and monitor were purchased for Caroline in the amount of \$1069.00 and will get set up after she returns. I received a quote from the tree service to remove the tree on Westinghouse, it would be \$3200.00 to cut, grind, and remove stump.

P. SHURGOT: does anyone live at that house?

G. JAKUB: no and when the subcontractor for Duquesne light came, they V'd it put and I'm fearful it's going to fall.

P. SHURGOT: once we do the work can we bill the family?

G. EVASHAVIK: I would need to look into it a little further to see what we can do.

K. MAXWELL: I'm going to ask if this is something we have done before. Technically the sidewalk is the homeowner's responsibility and if we start taking out tree's others are going to come and ask us to take theirs down too.

S. SHURGOT: is this an imminent danger?

G. JAKUB: I feel it is.

G. EVASHAVIK: legally even if I identify someone, we can pursue how long will it take to be reimbursed. You do have the authority if it is a danger to move forward with the work. At the very least I can put a lien on the property.

K. BELIN: do we have to grind the stump?

S. SHURGOT: we can cut it down and worry about the stump in the future to save some money.

K. MAXWELL/K. BELIN TO CUT TREE TO GROUND LEVEL AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$3200.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. MAXWELL: I did reach out to Lydia at the connect center and she is on vacation.

UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL: nothing to report.

G. JAKUB: can you contact Verizon and check into the pole on the 400 block of Marguerite that is tied off.

J. HARTZELL: yes.

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SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: nothing to report

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / L. KIRK TO PAY ALL AUTHORIZED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

J. THOMAS: on the income part of the budget everything is running smooth. I have been updating my committee and we will probably start on the new budget in September. I spoke with Steve about the assessment appeals, Park House, Kerf Holdings, and AWR Real Estate, Nick will be attending all the hearings.

K. MAXWELL: nay word on the talks with the police?

S. SHURGOT: my fear is what the police cuts are going to be. I will send an email to Mr. McCain and see if we could extend the contract for a year due to the uncertainty of funding.

J. HARTZELL: can we have Maiello go after these people with delinquent taxes and garbage and put them up for sheriff sale, especially the people who owe over \$3000 in taxes and \$2000 in garbage?

J. THOMAS: they come up with a list and we have taken some to court. No one wants to buy the properties if we sheriff sale them.

J. HARTZELL: this one landlord owns a couple properties and owes over \$2000 in garbage.

J. THOMAS: our best bet with something like that is to go in with the school.

G. EVASHAVIK: if he has tenants and has a rental income, he would be more motivated to keep that flow. The initial threat might be worthwhile. If he breaches the payment plan agreement you are unable to do anything though.

J. HARTZELL: on the taxes we can have the tenant pay us instead of him.

S. SHURGOT: you have to have the constable deliver those letters.

RECREATION/PLANNING – K. BELIN: planning took off this month and I have nothing for recreation yet.

OLD BUSINESS:

P. SHURGOT: can we have an update on the sign?

C. LANG: they have been working on it and have come to the conclusion that because of the age of the sign the modem they had purchased and the IP address that was given from Verizon would not link up. A new modem and SIM card have been received and they should be out while I am on vacation.

J. HARTZELL: what is the bill for Verizon Wireless?

C. LANG: that is for the service and IP, they could not work on the sign without service being added and turned on.

NEW BUSINESS:

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P. SHURGOT: Inspector can you have an officer check the SUV on middle Avenue, it's been up on a jack for 2 weeks and there are no tires on it.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: They have already tagged that and have been in contact with the owner.

S. SHURGOT: Kelly Maxwell, our paper signs at the playground keep disappearing, can we order signs to post that say use at your own risk? Wilmerding is up to 10 cases of COVID. 150 of our residents have taken a COVID test to date.

L. KIRK: a few weeks ago, in Turtle Creek there was a van doing free COVID testing, how did they get that?

S. SHURGOT: that was not UPMC it was probably AHN, they were doing the testing for the nursing homes but that's all I am aware of.

K. BELIN: they were down there for the Senior Citizens.

J. HARTZELL: if a place has plex-glass up does the employee still have to wear a mask?

S. SHURGOT: yes, if you see this not happening just call the number and you can file a complaint.

K. BELIN: last week after garbage pickup there was garbage all over the street across from me, they called me back and said it was like that when the truck got there. It seems that they always have an excuse for why there is garbage left behind. Is there something we can do about this?

S. SHURGOT: I usually call the Mayor or Caroline; both have been able to get a good response from them.

MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I just want to congratulate the new Inspector on his promotion, it's great to have him back in town.

K. BELIN MOTION TO ADJORN AT 8:19 P.M.