

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 6, 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:02 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; LINDA KIRK, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

REV. REEVES / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2016 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. J. CERESA, SPRAGUE ST. : there are two lots on Sprague Street adjacent to my property, 14 & 18 Sprague Street, that were torn down are overgrown with weeds. I was informed that those lots would be cut at least two times a year. Right now there is high grass and weeds covering the sidewalk that the mailman can't walk down the steps. What I am asking Council is that it be addressed as soon as possible and in the future that it be taken care of in a timely manner.

MRS. K. MAXWELL, HERMAN AVE.: who authorized the film being shot here and why do they have to block in all the residents. Also, we were only notified less than 24 hours that this was going to take place and that all of our vehicles had to be off the street. I can barely get into my driveway when the letter said that you would have access to your home. Who is benefitting from this? All of their cars are at the lower end of the circle while the equipment trucks are in front of the houses.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I had talked to the Solicitor a couple of months ago about coming up with an ordinance to deal with shooting a movie or having a concert in town, similar of what they did in Swissvale. He checked the ordinances and said that it was unnecessary because we have in our ordinances different provisions. The borough is not getting any money out of this but they are paying the police, the fire department, John Graff and the school district. We were notified months ago that they would be filming and I assumed that they would notify the residents that were affected by this.

MRS. K. MAXWELL: there was nothing mentioned about this at last month's meeting.

MRS. E. BARRETT, HERMAN AVE.: we were notified by a letter in our mailbox yesterday morning that there was going to be equipment trucks parking in front of our homes for this film. I asked them if they are going to keep the trucks there because we cannot back out of our driveway and they said yes, if you don't like it go to Council. It doesn't make any sense. At the bottom end, where no one lives, are all these cars and the big trailers are parked right in front of our houses. It doesn't make any sense, park the trailers at the other end and we could put up with the cars. If there is an emergency a fire truck or an ambulance cannot get through.

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MR. S. VOLPE, CARD AVE.: the school board is meeting on Monday Dec. 12th at 6 pm on the sale of the school to an organization who then would lease the building to a performing arts academy. I am asking for the borough's support. We are in the process and they had 15 days to submit an application to the school district for a charter school for the performing arts. Right now there are three people for it, three people against it and three people who have not made a decision. Since they closed the school down eight or nine years ago it has cost us about a million dollars to maintain it. It costs us about \$60,000 to \$70,000 to maintain it. This organization wants to put eight to 12 million dollars into it. As of this moment the teachers are against it. I will let Tom Barnishin talk about what their plans are.

MR. T. BARNISHIN: I am one of the founding members of the Westinghouse Charter School for the Performing Arts. The school would be purchased by a for-profit entity and then would lease it to a non-profit entity. The for-profit entity would be paying real estate taxes on the building. On the 12th the charter school will be attending the public hearing. People from inside and outside the district will give their comments as to whether they are for or against the charter school. You will be receiving more information at the meeting than I can give you here tonight. This project has been in development for 4 years. You have to make a distinction that this is a performing arts school. Right now roughly 173 children from East Allegheny attend some type of school outside of the district. There is only 1 student from East Allegheny who attends a charter arts school and that is in Ambridge. This school is not created for the student who wants a change in environment, it is not created for the student who is not getting along with his peers or does not like his teacher. We are expecting to have a waiting list and we are expecting that the student population would be coming from over forty districts. We expect to employ about twenty-five full time teachers and about thirty part time teachers. This is not a typical charter school. Not everyone who applies will be admitted.

MS. S. SMITH: can a student cross the county lines. Can a student from Westmoreland County come to the school here?

MR. T. BARNISHIN: yes they can.

MS. S. SMITH: what would be the closet school like this in Westmoreland County?

MR. T. BARNISHIN: I don't believe there is a school there.

MS. L. KIRK: what grades are you talking about?

MR. T. BARNISHIN: grades nine through twelve. In our first year we are looking to fill grades nine and ten and for every year after we will add a grade.

MS. L. KIRK: if the school board okays it what would be your time frame in getting it started.

MR. T. BARNISHIN: we are looking to open in September 2017.

MR. S. SHURGOT: how many students do you anticipate going to this school?

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MR. T. BARNISHIN: we are looking for a total of 750 students. In our first year our benchmark is 350.

MS. L. KIRK: my concern is the parking for the teachers and the busing of the students.

MR. T. BARNISHIN: there is a lot next to the school and we are looking at maybe purchasing some lots on Marguerite. We are also looking at the basketball court that is there. Our school will not have team sports, so we will not have a basketball or football team. We will make the school available to the community and to the school district. We also proposed purchasing cafeteria and maintenance services from the school district.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: how much of the school will be used.

MR. T. BARNISHIN: hopefully with the 750 students we will be utilizing most of the school.

MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: did you happen to delve into tearing down the building and building a new one.

MR. T. BARNISHIN: yes, and the cost would be astronomical. It is actually a very well built solid structure. We do have some water issues to tackle, no big deal, and the locker rooms are a little to be desired. We also did a study on the lead and asbestos in the school and we were quite pleased with the results. There is very little that we would have to do.

MR. J. CERESA: what is the time frame on my issue with the weeds and grass?

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will take care of the brush on the sidewalk.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: Allegheny County has a vacant property program where you can obtain that property at a minimal cost. The county will clear all the liens and taxes so you will get it free and clear of any liens.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a letter from Mr. Frank Ace from Welsh Avenue showing an interest in joining the Planning Commission.

P. SHURGOT / REV. D. REEVES TO APPOINT FRANK ACE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Received a letter from COG seeking sponsorships for their initiatives that strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for residents. To be a gold sponsor, \$1,000, includes sponsorship recognition at their annual dinner plus two tickets to the event, our logo displayed on their e-mail blasts and recognition at the hospitality suite at Seven Springs. The silver

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sponsorship, \$500, includes recognition at the annual dinner and at the hospitality suite. The bronze sponsorship, \$200, includes recognition at the hospitality suite.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO GET THE BRONZE SPONSORSHIP. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. An ordinance regarding residential permit parking. The solicitor will now hold a public hearing on this proposed ordinance.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: this has been advertised for Council's consideration tonight. The borough already has an ordinance which provides for permit parking. The ordinance was restricted by designating certain areas and there was no way to change that. What this does is provide more flexibility for the ordinance and Council can do that by simple resolution. If they do designate an area for permit parking the public would have to be notified and given ample opportunity to be aware of that. This ordinance simply means that Council can designate areas for permit parking in the future. Are there any comments from the public at this time?

MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I don't understand what you are doing.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we are not establishing any street now; we are just establishing a tool so that in the future, if this Council decides it is necessary to control parking in a certain area they have it available now.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE ON PERMIT PARKING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. An ordinance amending the chapter regarding sidewalks. This ordinance provides for the maintenance and the responsibility of the landowner to safely maintain their sidewalks.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we already have an ordinance that regulates sidewalk construction. We noticed a problem with the maintenance of the sidewalks and keeping the sidewalks clear. This will strengthen the requirement and adds a maintenance provision to the sidewalk ordinance requiring residents and owners and businesses to maintain their sidewalk in a good and safe condition and to keep them free from obstructions.

MR. S. VOLPE: does that include parking on the sidewalk. I have a neighbor who parks on my sidewalk and he says that he is allowed to park on the sidewalk on Card Avenue.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: this ordinance does not address this. What you are talking about is addressed in the Motor Vehicle Code.

MRS. E. BARRETT: who is going to enforce this ordinance?

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MR. G. EVASHAVIK: typically it is the Code Enforcement Officer or whoever we designate. In this case it would be COG who would do it.

MR. J. PARRISH, AIRBRAKE AVE.: is this going to help with the snow removal ordinance.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we already have that in place.

MR. J. PARRISH: I have seen it go weeks without anyone removing the snow.

MRS. K. MAXWELL: will the school district get fined when they do not clean their sidewalk.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: they are subject to the ordinance as well.

**P. SHURGOT / L. KIRK TO ADOPT THE SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE.
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: for the month of November Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 37 calls and had 34 transports. Their average response time for emergencies is 7.6 minutes and for non-emergencies it is 9.6 minutes. They did not have to administer Narcan in November.

For the month of November the fire department responded to 34 calls with 8 in town and 26 out of town.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we also would like to commend the fire department on their quick response to the garage fire. They did an excellent job.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: for the month of November we responded to 149 calls and made 2 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 6 criminal mischief, 6 domestics, 1 gunshot, 3 hit and run, 11 juvenile complaints, 1 K-9 narcotic search, 1 missing person, 4 parking complaints, 1 public intoxication, 2 retail theft, 1 robbery, 3 suspicious incident, 3 suspicious persons, 2 theft from vehicle, 4 traffic accidents and 2 tow tagged vehicles.

MS. L. KIRK: the Police Academy will hold an open house and an employment fair on Dec. 14th at Holy Angels from 6 – 9 pm. On December 21st there will be a graduation ceremony for all the Police Academy students and an open house at the substation. Graduation will be from 6 – 7:30 pm at Holy Angels and the open house for the substation will be from 7:30 – 9 pm.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: we would like to thank the North Versailles Police Department for their services over the years.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT – S. SHURGOT: everyone has received the report from our Code Enforcement Officer.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: the guys patched some pot holes, leaf cleaning and got the trucks serviced for winter. There was a sewer leak on Middle Avenue. They put up the Christmas decorations around town and we had one Rudolph stolen from the park on the other side of town. They had to fix the fence on Airbrake Avenue by the basketball area. I would like to have a motion made to hire Christopher Russo, who is a part time road person in East McKeesport, we would like to hire him casual/part time as needed.

K. PETERSON / P. SHURGOT TO HIRE CHRISTPHER RUSSO AS A CASUAL/PART TIME ROAD EMPLOYEES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS AT A RATE OF \$10.50 PER HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER

S. SMITH / P. SHURGOT TO INVOKE THE DAILY PENALTY OF \$350 PER DAY AGAINST A. LIBERONI BEGINNING DEC. 8th FOR EVERY DAY SUMMIT STREET FAILS TO BE COMPLETED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – REV. D. REEVES: there was a gentleman at the meeting who has some land and he said that he would take old tires at a cost of \$2.50 per tire. Discussed the brownfields and also that Wilmerding is not using their code enforcement.

UTILITIES – K. PETERSON: no report.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH: the electrical work is completed in the stairwell and the hallway.

MR. J. THOMAS: the air compressor hasn't worked since the power went out. They fixed the power in the building but the compressor still hasn't come on.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: I have reviewed the sewer budget and they are recommending keeping the \$3.00 user fee.

MR. J. THOMAS: just for the public's information, ALCOSAN is raising the sewage fees for next year.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO KEEP THE USER FEE AT \$3.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE THE PROPOSED BALANCED BUDGET OF \$859,433 FOR 2017 AND TO KEEP THE MILLAGE AT 10 MILLS FOR 2017. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE THE DEC. 19TH MEETING AS A GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING STARTING AT 7 PM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

RECREATION – P. SHURGOT: the children’s Christmas party will be on Dec. 10th at Holy Angels Church. Registration will begin at 12:30 pm and the party will be from 1 – 3 pm.

PLANNING COMMISSION – REV. D. REEVES: the Planning Commission would like to thank you for appointing the new member, Frank Ace. Some of the committee met him at the Veteran’s Day services. We are working on the five year plan.

MS. S. SMITH: I would like to thank the Planning Commission for inviting me to the grant workshop.

OLD BUSINESS

MRS. P. SHURGOT: do we need to make a motion to amend the Employee Handbook to add the description for the Secretary and the duties for the code office.

P. SHURGOT / L. KIRK TO AMEND THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK TO INCLUDE THE SECRETARY TO FOLLOW THE SECRETARY CODE FOR PA. GOVERNMENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I e-mailed everyone a job description for the Code Office Secretary, which we never had before.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: you put in there that they would maintain records here. I thought that COG was going to maintain all of the records. Why are they doing it here and also at COG.

MR. S. SHURGOT: just as a backup because sometimes computers crash.

MR. J. THOMAS: she has all of the rental licenses here.

MS. L. KIRK: are we going to do yearly evaluations on the employees.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: if you are going to do employee evaluations you have to do it in executive session.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: Mr. Hartzell and Mr. Thomas met with several copier companies to replace our two copiers. The bid they would like to go with is RTR Business Products Plan B. It would be a sixty month lease at \$230.72 for both copiers.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO GO WITH PLAN B FROM RTR BUSINESS PRODUCTS AT A COST OF \$230.72 FOR BOTH COPIERS.

MS. S. SMITH: we are getting two pieces of equipment and we are renting them for a total cost of \$13,843.20. How much would it cost to purchase two copiers?

MR. S. SHURGOT: when you buy a copier you do not get any of the services like toner and maintenance. Toner is very expensive and there is no limit on the number of service calls.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO WITHDRAW MY MOTION.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: Mr. Graf wants to meet with Council and I sent out three dates, Jan 10th, Jan 17th and Jan 24th.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the 17th is the workshop, we can do it then. Just have him come before the workshop around 6:30 pm.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: if we are serious about forming an economical committee I would gladly volunteer to be on it.

K. PETERSON: I would also I like to be on it.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: I would like to be on it also.

ECONOMICAL PROGRESS COMMITTEE

MRS. P. SHURGOT: I was very disappointed in the Democratic Committee this past election. There were no signs for the person running for President.

MS. S. SMITH: Hillary Clinton wanted \$5.00 a sign. The committee has zero dollars.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I don't think this is the place to discuss that. You should talk to the committee people.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH: why was nothing mentioned about the windfall the borough received with the collection fines.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: we received nearly \$6,000 in fines from Mr. Kerrigan.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: that dates back to some significant time ago but he still has some outstanding citations. These were old citations that were down if front of Common Pleas Court.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: some members of Council have written letters of support in favor of the Performing Arts School. I think with the development of the castle the school needs to be the next development in this town. Not only would it bring jobs but it would bring growth in the economy. As many people as we can get to that meeting it would be beneficial to this town. I am one hundred percent in favor of the school.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm