

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 4, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

Meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

REV. REEVES / L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

P. WALSH, 410 CALDWELL AVENUE: 418 Caldwell recently sold and purchased by Peace of Mind Living Habilitative Service. I want to know if they are putting in a halfway house and if we are zoned for that.

S. SHURGOT: we were made aware of that and I asked Mr. Gilliland and Mr. Evashavik to look at it.

D. GILLILAND: It is zoned R-2, multi-family residential, 3 stories. A halfway house would be a permitted use up to 15 people.

P. WALSH: can we fight that. If it is ruled single family and it is turned into apartments than once that property is sold it reverts back to single family.

D. GILLILAND: if it was a single family zoning district than that would be the case but this is not a single family zoning district. The whole area is zoned for multi families, it is a permitted use.

G. JAKUB: based on the occupancy permit. If they claim single family but they use it for multiple do we have anything to stand on?

G. EVASHAVIK: Yes, they would need to submit an application but it's still a permitted use. They haven't applied for any occupancy permit to my knowledge.

S. SHURGOT: they applied for the occupancy permit for the sale but they haven't filed one for use.

G. EVASHAVIK: so we're speculating at this point although it seems likely they are going to use it for that due to the name. So it is permitted as the engineer stated.

P. WALSH: they are working in there; it looks like they are replacing the kitchen.

G. EVASHAVIK: they are required to apply for a building permit depending on what they are doing. We can make an inquiry to find out what work is being done and make them aware of the requirements.

S. SHURGOT: if they're putting a new kitchen in then they don't need a permit but if they are changing the design of the rooms then they will need the permits.

T. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVENUE: would that be covered under the ordinance that says you're not allowed to have more than 2 families in a house?

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D. GILLILAND: no not in that zoning district. In that zoning district you can have 14 people or less borders living in a room and sharing a common area.

T. FRYDRYCH: would that be something for council to look into to do away with?

G. EVASHAVIK: that can be changed but we're not going to be able to stop this, they're already there. For the future they can look at reevaluating the zoning but that takes month to change. It starts with the planning commission with the desire of Council, they have to have a public hearing and make a recommendation to Council. Council then can consider it and make an ordinance. This needs to be sent to Allegheny County for review and approval. Then the ordinance can be voted on and the zoning can be changed. This would not affect anyone now but would change for the future.

T. FRYDRYCH: in this situation would Council confirm that they have the proper credentials according to the county and the state.

S. SHURGOT: once they get to that point they have to have the proper credential to the state but we haven't seen anything yet. We will go over it with a fine tooth comb.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We received a thank you letter for financial support.
2. ALCOSAN rate increase over 4 years. The increase is effective January 1, 2018. The wastewater treatment charge will increase by 51cents, from \$6.91 to \$7.42 for each thousand gallons used and the customer service charge will increase by \$1.09, from \$14.51 to \$15.60 per bill issued. The rates for effluent surcharges, commercial disposals and auxiliary meters will remain the same.

D. GILLILAND: I just want to clarify that is a sewage rate increase. WPJWA will not be increasing the water rates for 2018.

S. SHURGOT: Mr. Zischkau working on our sewer budget but it does not look like the Borough has to increase our portion

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS – L. KIRK: EMS report for the month shows 41 calls. The average response time for emergencies was 6.7 minutes and non-emergences were 8.3 minutes. They did have 3 narcan administrations. The fire Department had 11 calls, 5 in town and 6 out of town, 2 work details, 2 training classes, 2 equipment maintenance. Our next Council meeting on January 2, 2018 will be 1 year with the County police so we will have cake and coffee.

S. SHURGOT: The fire department couldn't be here tonight because they are doing officer elections but I want to commend the fire department on a great job with the fire on Middle Avenue. They contained it to 2 or 3 buildings but it could have been disastrous once it got into the roof. I also want to thank Al Husey for working to find the cause of the fire. They all did an outstanding job that could have taken out the entire block.

L. KIRK: if anyone ever wants to see excellence at work just watch them. It was a matter of minutes between them getting the call and getting the fire out.

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J. THOMAS: with that fire call the reason that outcome was what it was is because of our mutual aid companies. We all work together to get that done.

G. JAKUB: we also had the Red Cross come and take care of everybody affected.

S. SMITH: 2 of the families have not found residency yet.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: We had 324 events for the month including 7 abandoned vehicles, 2 assaults, 1 child sex assault, 1 death investigation, 4 DUI's, 2 fugitive arrests, 11 local ordinances, 1 Megan's law violation, 4 motor vehicle crashes, 1 motor vehicle theft, 8 narcotics, 2 thefts, 96 traffic stops, and 1 weapons. We made 26 arrests that included 2 fugitives, 6 narcotics charges, 4 DUI's, 1 was part of the roving check point, 2 theft, 1 tampering with Evidence and 1 Absconding Witness.

L. KIRK: crime watch will have its meeting on Monday December 11 at 6p.m. in council chambers. We will have snacks, food and beverages.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: They prepared the building for elections and cleaned up after. There were a couple rain days so they were cleaning up the garage and equipment. They got some large trees cleared that fell and blocked the roadways on Orient and Welsh. They cleaned up litter around town, cleaned up leaves, and put the Christmas Decoration up.

ENGINEERS REPORT – D. GILLILAND: no progress made in the demolition of the 8 houses, the funding was approved but the county has not given us approval for us to advertise for bid. We filed the final source flow reduction report in compliance with the DEP. This contains details regarding the flow project on Wall Street and future flow reduction details. A copy has given to Caroline for the Borough. We sent a request regarding the sign at the YMA. The county said this part of the road is not theirs so we have every right to put the sign up.

J. THOMAS: the stop sign was put up when the road was blocked, before that there was never a sign.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: I would put it up. We have had complaints from people leaving the YMCA and have done some traffic stops there.

S. SHURGOT: the sign is already there.

COG & UTILITIES REPORT – K. PETERSON: there was no COG meeting. There will be a special one this month for the budget and I have nothing for Utilities.

J. THOMAS: have they ever brought up in lieu of a street sweeper to get a brush hog?

K. PETERSON: they have not.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH: I have nothing to report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: On October 30, 2017 Governor Wolfe signed a new law into effect, House Bill 271 PA race horse and gaming act. This creates up to 10 category slot machine licenses; they can be owned and operated by existing casino operators. However category 4 locations cannot be located within 25 miles of an existing casino. We are within

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that limitation of River Casino so we are not eligible anyway but I am telling you this because there is a provision in the law for a municipal option. This provides us the option to prohibit a siting of a category 4 site.

S. SHURGOT: I don't see it as a problem because we are within the 25 miles.

J. THOMAS: the casino has the final say so.

G. EVASHAVIK: unless they would change the law to change the geographic location.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE THE 2018 BUDGET WITH REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES EQUALING \$878,987.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE TO SET THE REAL ESTATE MILAGE AT 10 MIL FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT PURPOSES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO GIVE THE BOROUGH SECRETARY, STREET FOREMAN, STREET LABORER, CODE OFFICE CLERK A 2% HOURLY WAGE INCREASE FOR 2018. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: We spoke about this back in November so I put a list together and I gave everyone a copy, since the county raised the fee for filing liens from \$20 to \$60 a property, it was not in our budget to do everything we would like to do so we have to do it in increments. The list is the top 33 delinquent real estate properties from 2016. I'm going to submit that to Maiello, Brungo & Maiello so they can file the liens, into the New Year we will probably do the rest.

J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT TO SUBMIT 33 DELIQUENT REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES TO MAIELLO, BRUNGO & MAIELLO SO THEY CAN FILE LIENS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/ P. SHURGOT TO SET THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 19TH FROM A WORKSHOP TO A GENERAL MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/ P. SHURGOT TO GIVE THE BOROUGH SECRETARY, STREET FOREMAN, STREET LABORER A \$100, AFTER TAX, CHRISTMAS BONUS AND THE CODE OFFICE CLERK \$50, AFTER TAXES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

P. SHURGOT: 3 of our employees have been here less than 6 month, should we not prorate it?

S. SMITH: I say no, just give them all the same.

J. THOMAS: in my opinion the idea of a bonus is for a job well done and I feel they all do a fantastic job in the months they have been here.

RECREATION – P. SHURGOT: the Christmas party is on Saturday at Holy Angels from 12-2. There will be photos with Santa, pizza, and snacks and a magic show. Registration begins at 11:30.

PLANNING – REV. REEVES: there was not a meeting because there were not enough people in attendance.

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OLD BUSINESS:

P. SHURGOT: we have this letter from Sable Kennels, are we renewing this?

S. SHURGOT: Karen we received a letter from one of our citizens who did research on Sable Kennels so we asked the current utilities commission to start looking for a new catcher. Whoever did the research it was great but we don't know who to thank.

J. THOMAS: when I saw this I went online and looked and Facebook praises them up and down. Is this just one person's opinion, I think that other things need to be considered.

NEW BUSINESS:

P. SHURGOT: This is a non-smoking building but I was told they were smoking in the building. I would like to make a designate area where everyone can go. Also there is no smoking in the fire vehicles and the Borough trucks. My suggestion for the designated area is the stop sign for the fireman and Caroline can go over by her car. We have to write a letter, please send it to the fire department and all the borough employees.

K. MAXWELL: if you're going to designate areas are you going to purchase the receptacles so the butts aren't just thrown all over the ground?

S. SHURGOT: yes

S. SMITH: in the spring the YMCA game me an old Bingo machine that I put on Craigslist. I was able to sell it for \$200.00 and I have given the YMCA half and the fire department the other half.

P. SHURGOT: Sandy are you going to continue doing the sign when you are no longer a council woman?

S. SMITH: I don't know, it doesn't matter to me. The computer has been cleaned up and is working good right now. I did have them make a 25ft cord for it.

REV. REEVES: can you put the girl scouts on the sign? We also need troop leaders.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I have nothing!

Meeting adjourned 7:43 p.m.