

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2023, REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; TURNER SEIBLES, present; JOSEPH HARTZELL, present; STEVE VOLPE, present; LEAHMANDA BARNES, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

L. BARNES/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2023, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. We need to ratify a vote to change the employment status of Dominic Barone from full time to part time on call.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO RATIFY THE VOTE TO CHANGE THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF DOMINIC BARONE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-1.

2. We need to ratify a vote to hire Tyler Beresford as a full-time employee at a rate of \$18.00 with single party benefits.

J. THOAMS/L.KIRK TO RATIFY THE VOTE TO HIRE TYLER BERESFORD AS A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE AT \$18.00/HR WITH SINGLE PARTY BENEFITS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. We need to ratify an email vote to purchase 4 tires for the pickup from T & D auto at a cost of \$1,142.76.

J. HARTZELL: did we get pricing anywhere else?

C. LANG: I checked with Cherban, and they were over \$1,500.00.

J. HARTZELL: what about Goodyear?

L. BARNES/J. THOMAS TO RATIFY THE VOTE TO PURCHASE 4 NEW TIRES WITH THE AMENDMENT OF CHECKING GOODYEAR AND GOING WITH THE CHEAPEST PRICE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. We need to ratify a vote to repair the skid loader at an estimated cost of \$2,585.80.

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO RATIFY THE VOTE TO REPAIR THE SKID LOADER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROAVL, 6-1.

5. We received a letter from the CIAC about the planting of more trees along Westinghouse and Herman.

S. VOLPE: what kind of trees are they?

K. MAXWELL: flowering dogwoods.

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J. HARTZELL: who is going to take care of them because they do not take care of anything that they have planted?

L. BARNES/T. SEIBLES TO APPROVE THE PLANTING OF TREES ALONG WESTINGHOUS AND HERMAN WITH THE AGREEMENT THAT THE CIAC WILL MAINTAIN THEM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-1

G. JAKUB: Do we know why they want to put an outlet at the sign?

MS. BARRETT: they want to install some lighting for different holidays.

6. We received our fee for the 2024 solvency relief in the amount of \$263.47.

J. HARTZELL/L. BARNES TO PAY THE SOLVENCY FEE OF \$263.47 TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

7. We need to ratify a vote for two concurring Resolutions for CD 50 projects.
- a. \$80,000 for the repair/replacement of the Municipal Building handicap ramp
 - b. \$168,402 for Street Reconstruction to include Caldwell and the 600 block of Airbrake.

J. HARTZELL/L. BARNES TO APPROVE THE 2 CONCURRING RESOLUTION FOR THE CDBG GRANT PERIOD CD-50. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

8. We received a letter from the Wilmerding Community Center requesting a loan of \$6,982.05 to be used for a retro fit for the lighting in the center. The program is being offered by Duquesne Light and Exact Electrical Solutions and will give \$25,000 in new lighting to the center for the amount of \$6,982.05.

J. HARTZELL: why are we loaning them the money when we own the building?

S. VOLPE: what's in the contract, who is supposed to take care of repairs?

C. LANG: the contract states that they pay for all utilities, insurance, and equipment that they need. We did not add into the contract for an "upfitting" or upgrade to anything.

S. VOLPE: what about major repairs like HVAC?

K. MAXWELL: we have been splitting the cost of any major repair.

J. HARTZELL/L. KIRK TO PAY FOR THE UPGRADE FOR THE LIGHTING INSTEAD OF LOANING THE MONEY TO THEM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY / BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: I did not receive the Fire reports for October the EMS responded to 50 calls and the average emergency response time was 10.7 minutes, the average non-emergency response time was 11.3 minutes.

DETECTIVE CARUSO: The last few weeks have been crazy, traffic enforcement has been increased, there was a narcotic bust in the business district that took a few bundles of Heroin off the street, there were a few more abandoned vehicles moved, we have been working on the bus parking at the school, and we are having a big issue with handicap parking, no

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one is using them and the worst areas are Airbrake, Card and Caldwell. I have written so many tickets for this and it is still continuing so I'm going to just start writing the state citations. I want to thank Caroline for helping with the video footage, she sat with me and another office looking for the car that was involved in a hit and run. We were able to get a time frame and picture of the car which helped us to find the driver. Steve, I want to tell you that the Halloween event was such a great function, and the kids really enjoyed it.

S. VOLPE: the Arts academy really helps a lot with all of the events.

G. JAKUB: I witnessed Detective Caruso at the school trying to deal with the bus drivers, but they are just not responding well. Also there have been a lot of issues with stolen cars being dropped on State Street and Watkins Avenue. There was a chase on Friday night that the officers responded to, and I want to thank them for their efforts in a terrible situation.

L. KIRK: the only other thing I have is about the engine being back in for service, but I do not have any details or cost at this moment.

J. HARTZELL: on Friday evening there were cars blocking the road at Johnny's, there were cars parked on the sidewalks, right under the stop sign, and on the yellow lines.

DETECTIVE CARUSO: I am constantly issuing tickets for people parked on yellow lines and on the sidewalks.

J. HARTZELL: there is nothing for October.

DETECTIVE CARUSO: the problem is they don't pay them, I write them, but I can't make them pay. If they don't pay, I write them for state citations, but you only see if they pay them.

J. HARTZELL: so, you stop and look at the handicap, but you can't stop for people parked on the yellow lines. You have no problem picking on the handicap.

DETECTIVE CARUSO: I'm not picking on anyone; I'm doing my job. I am only 1 officer and cannot be everywhere. I ticket everything I can and when they don't pay, I issue the state citation. I can't force a person to pay or force them to not do it again.

K. MAXWELL: I get it, but they have other things going on as well. In the situation of lines, we have to do our part as well and the curbs were not painted over the summer.

J. HARTZELL: I'm not wasting yellow paint when they don't enforce them. You can see the yellow and the people and police should know where they are.

K. MAXWELL: people don't care anymore.

L. KIRK: of all the things going on these days parking is the least of our problems. There is a triage list and parking is low on that list. She is talking about drugs, stolen cars, people shooting police and were arguing over yellow lines and patrons of Johnny's.

J. HARTZELL: that's how you think but that's revenue we're losing.

L. KIRK: you're creating the problem you're yelling at her for.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT – A. HUSSEY: I will refer to my report and just add that the fire escapes are going in on the Fuller building and CEA will be involved for the interior work. The demolition should be happening soon on Marguerite. The park house has all been restored and the water is completely out of the basement. The truck that we have been talking about is being moved to the rear parking lot.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. HARTZELL: they have been cleaning up leaves and putting up the Christmas decorations. I was not informed about the skid steer needing repaired or the pick-up truck needing tires. Also, Matt had Robbie come out and when I asked, he told me that council said he could come out as needed.

K. MAXWELL: I do not see a problem with him working when he is off school as long as there is something to do. In the future they will just need to approve that with you.

ENGINEER B. BRANTHOOVER: Just a recap on the GEDTF grant, we are still waiting on COG so that paving will probably be happening next spring. The CD-49 grant for the park improvements is in the same waiting process. The 2022 LSA paving has been completed, the CD 50 grant pre-applications were submitted and reviewed. They came back with a few items that were ineligible, so we submitted the full applications for the remaining items which were paving the remainder of Caldwell and the 600 block of Airbrake, the municipal building handicap ramp, and the Act 152 Demolition that are automatically added. The application period for the LSA grants has also opened and we will be applying for the same Street reconstruction as the CD-50, the VFD driveway and retaining wall, and Ice Plant Hill sidewalk Replacement.

K. MAXWELL: is there any update on the East McKeesport information?

B. BRANTHOOVER: we are putting this out in phases and there were 2 bidders. One is trying to pull his bid because he did not know exactly what he was getting into. This is being done through COG, so we do not have all the information yet.

COG REPORT/ PLANNING – T. SIBLES: There really wasn't a meeting because there was not enough people for a quorum. They have requested the Duquesne Light bills again.

C. LANG: I sent those over to Josh already.

T. SIBLES: according to Joyce some residents have expressed concerns regarding the evacuation plan, but she has spoken to Greg, and it seems that is all handled. They were asking if there is a rule that a landlord needs to be within a certain distance?

C. LANG: according to our ordinance they must live within 15 miles of their rental or have a rental management company listed for emergencies.

T. SIBLES: They would like to add pickleball courts since we took down all of the basketball nets.

K. MAXWELL: the community center just received their grant to add courts to the field portion.

UTILITIES – L. BARNES: nothing

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: absent

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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J. THOMAS /J. HARTZELL TO PAY ALL APPROVED BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,214.97 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, \$5,892.60 FROM PLIGIT MOTOR LICENSE AND \$5,245.00 FROM THE PLIGIT SEWAGE FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO ADVERTISE THE 2024 BUDGET, LEAVING THE MILAGE AT 13, FOR TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSES AT \$1,164,639.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: we had a deed transfer for Banquets Unlimited and there is a discrepancy that Nick will be looking into. The selling price is \$347,700.00 but the county website says \$40,000.00. This is something about the sheriff sale so we will see what Nick comes up with. We received the Section 8 report and there are 2 landlords on there, 1 has a payment arrangement with MBM but there is nothing on the second. Other figures I would like to give for the year are RAD \$117,885.16, Deed transfer \$18,020.29, EIT \$116,464.32, LST \$10,235.32, Real Estate \$359,307.45, delinquent Real estate \$35,622.92, and delinquent garbage \$17,518.40. I'm worried about WABTEC as they have not paid and there is the split in the parcel with Allegheny Petroleum.

J. HARTZELL: did you do anything on this Section 8 property? We can notify the county and have them removed from the list, so they are not getting funding. I can talk with Michelle.

J. THOMAS: do you remember what the contract from the school was because I have heard that they are filing for tax exemption.

G. JAKUB: it was either 3 or 5 years that they were going to stay tax exempt.

RECREATION– S. VOLPE: Halloween went well, Aleah from the school had the haunted gym and hallways, Joyce from planning was there with some candy, the Pitcairn police had a table set up, Deb from the AIU and Josh did a good job setting everything up. We will be having the light up in the park on December 1st at 6:30.

K. MAXWELL: is there going to be Santa or gifts for the kids?

S. VOLPE: we are planning on having another meeting so we will work out the details.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I have the letter of intent for the fire consolidation. I attended the meeting with several of our firemen and this letter is just to be involved in the survey and hearing the proposal.

S. VOLPE/L. KIRK TO COMPLETE THE LETTER OF INTENT FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE PRLIMINARY STUDY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

L. BARNES: at some point we need to discuss the plans that they have for the Heritage trail.

J. THOMAS: I don't think we have much say on it.

L. BARNES: they have 3 plans and none of them sound safe to me.

L. KIRK MOTION TO ADJORN 8:11 P.M.