

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2023, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

Meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:04 p.m.

K. MAXWELL: council met in an executive session to discuss employees.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

L. BARNES/J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2023, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

NATHANAL CARTER, NORTH VERSAILLES: I am the Director of This Generation Connect which is affiliated with the connect center in East Pittsburgh. About 3 years ago we purchased and renovated a building there and do a lot of community service projects as it relates to needs in the surrounding communities. We are currently looking at a property in Wilmerding at 325-333 Airbrake, so I wanted to come and introduce myself and share our visions for that building. Also, some of the grants that we would apply for to do the repairs would need the council to be behind us and sign off on. We have a lot of ideas for the space but would love to hear any ideas that the council and residents would have for that area.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We need to ratify 3 resolutions for the LSA grants: \$793,463.00 for Street Reconstruction, \$ 67,232.00 for Sidewalk Reconstruction at Ice Plant Hill, and \$133,044. For repairs to the VFD driveway and retaining wall.

J. HARTZELL/L.KIRK TO RATIFY THE 3 RESOLUTIONS FOR THE LSA GRANTS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. We received 4 resignations from the Planning Committee as follows, Joyce Tomasic, Ben Gusty, Pauline Walsh, and Josh LaFace.
3. We need to ratify an email vote to transfer \$400.00 from our General Fund to the Recreation Fund.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO RATIFY THE TRANSFER OF \$400.00 TO THE RECREATION ACCOUNT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY/BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: The EMS for November was blank. The fire department responded to 39 calls in October and 36 calls in November; 5 calls in town, 31 out of town, 3 work details, 5 trainings, and 8 maintenance hours.

CHIEF FARELLY: We have been doing a lot in town and I have given Caroline a report to pass on to the council. Just to name a few things there were over 100 traffic stops with 14 vehicles towed, a fatal shooting on Patton Street, a school threat, an infant death, a vehicle pursuit, a drug bust in front of Dollar General, and a police officer involved shooting that we assisted on.

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G. JAKUB: just to add to this; Monroeville is willing to work with us and we are going to try to get some cameras along Middle and Airbrake and possibly at the light here at Patton and Station.

CHIEF FARELLY: the cameras will not stop the crime but will make it easier to find the suspects and working with Monroeville on this will be a large attribute since they are the main backup here for us.

L. KIRK: this is my last meeting and I just want to say it has been a pleasure to work with you and your officers, you have kept me up to date on everything that goes on here.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: refer to my report.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. HARTZELL: they worked to set up the decorations in the park, cleaned up leaves, and prepared for Winter. They took out some of the bad salt to prepare for the new salt to arrive.

K. MAXWELL: Did we order the salt?

C. LANG: yes, there was half of it ordered and delivered, North Versailles will be coming down to push that back and then we will order the remaining balance. We needed to take a total of 144 tons by the end of the year.

ENGINEERS REPORT – B. BRANTHOVER:

C. LANG: Brad was unable to attend but his report was in the packet. Under Miscellaneous issues item B, WPJWA determined that this is sewage leaking on the road, so we need to go to the owner and get them to repair this. Brad will be sending a letter stating this so AL you can contact the owner.

J. HARTZELL: Matt mentioned to me that the ceiling in the Public Works garage is falling, can we have Brad come down and look at it?

C. LANG: the last time Dave looked at it he said about putting netting along the ceiling to catch the debris, but I will have Brad look further into it.

COG REPORT– T. SIEBLES: They had a nice Christmas party.

J. HARTZELL: on the GEDTF, Rankin applied for Public Works equipment, why did we not know we could apply for that?

C. LANG: I was unaware of that but will talk to Brad about it.

UTILITIES – L. BARNES: nothing

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: As Caroline reported, we had 4 resignations from the Planning Commission which leaves no planning commission. Historically these positions have been hard to fill. The easiest way to resolve this is to abolish the Wilmerding Borough planning commission and this can be done by an ordinance which I have drafted. In lieu of that the council president can appoint a planning committee which will be apprised of 3 members of council. I prepared the ordinance and ask for permission to advertise so we can make it official next month.

L. BARNES/T. SIEBLES TO ADVERTISE THE ORDINANCE TO ABOLISH THE WILMERDING BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / L. BARNES TO PAY ALL BILLS PRESENTED, \$14,628.98 FROM GENERAL, \$101,062.29 FROM SEWAGE, AND \$104,565.79 FROM PLGIT MOTOR LICENSE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO PASS THE 2024 BUDGET AS ADVERTISED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,164,639.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO KEEP THE MILAGE AT 13 MIL FOR 2024. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

j. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO RETAIN ALL EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THE SOLICITOR AND ENGINEER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO CONTINUE USING KEYSTON COLLECTIONS TO PRINT OUR REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS WITH AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$850.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO CONTINUE THE 2024 GARBAGE DISCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160.00 FOR THE RESIDENTS IF PAID BY FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AND ALSO INVOKE THE 2024 GARBAGE CONTRACT WITH BIG'S SANITATION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO AWARD THE 3 EMPLOYEES A \$100.00 BONUS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: To date we have collected \$363,819.10 in taxes, \$131,734.24 in EIT, \$12,121.30 in LST, and \$129,500.44 in RAD. We have not received the deed transfer or the Delinquent garbage and tax payments to date.

J. HARTZELL: your figures do not match the figures on the profit/loss.

C. LANG: we are aware of the difference in Real Estate and that is because of a payment that was paid to the School District by mistake, we received the check in January. As for the others I am not sure, and we will look it over.

RECREATION – S. VOLPE: We had Light Up Wilmerding on Friday and I want to thank Pitcairn Police, Wilmerding Fire Department and Council, Pastor Reed, Westinghouse Arts, A.J. for being Santa, and Josh and Deb for all they did. We had a little meeting to go over the event and we agreed that we need more lights for the park and wanted to purchase more plywood and have the students paint them. We want to have some additional meting and working with Westinghouse Arts, more than we have in the past. I was hoping that we could put something on our website and Facebook about the toy drive they are doing.

J. HARTZELL: let Caroline know where they are collecting them at, and she can put it on the sign.

S. VOLPE: we are going to have more meetings in the future to get some new members and try to get some businesses involved.

PLANNING – T. SIEBLES: nothing.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. HUSSEY: I installed the new compressor.

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C. LANG: now if we could only get someone to figure out the timer for the whistle.

A. HUSSEY: I will look at it and see if I can figure it out.

J. HARTZELL: have we heard anything from Fastest Labs?

C.LANG: they were supposed to be sending me out information but I haven't received it so I will give them a call back.

K. MAXWELL: I just want to thank Linda for all of her hard work and dedication over the years.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I just want to thank Steve and the school for a great event, everything looked great. I also want to thank the chief for constantly being around and keeping me up to date on events happening.

J. HARTZELL: is there any word on the electrical repairs?

G. JAKUB: not yet but I will be continuing to contact them as well.

K. MAXWELL: I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

J. HARTZELL motion to adjourn 7:47 p.m.