

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM MARCH 5, 2024, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

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: JOHN MARCOZ, 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.

S. VOLPE/L. BARNES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2024, MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

KEITH GIMITER – AIRBRAKE AVENUE: I see garbage cans all down Airbrake Avenue and no one ever takes them off of the curb, residents just put bags in it all week. There are trailers parked on the street, broken down cars, and garbage all over the place. Also, I have seen so many cars and PAT buses running all of the stop signs but no police around. I think that you all do a great job, but I think there are some small things that we can work on together to make this community a little better.

G. JAKUB: last year there was a group of us that would get together on Saturdays and do a clean up walk.

K. GIMITER: I would be willing to help if I'm available. This is not all the garbage companies' fault; the residents just overfill the cans and do not clean up if anything falls.

S. VOLPE: it's like that all over this side of town as well. The main drag gets taken care of, but you may get the street department up on my street once or twice a year. Big's just throws the cans around, things fall out, they leave it, and it just accumulates.

K. MAXWELL: I will have Caroline put a reminder in the newsletter.

K. GIMITER: other people's perception is different; we are not all bad people over there.

G. JAKUB: unfortunately, the percentage of rental properties has grown and sometimes we cannot find owners to discuss the problem with.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. We received a letter from Pete McGinty regarding an upgrade to the fence in the lower lot of the WCC. He would like to remove the 10' the chain link fence and replace it with a 10' double gate. The cost is approximately \$1,300.00 and will be paid by the WCC.

J. HARTZELL/J. THOMAS TO APPROVE THE WCC FENCE REQUEST THAT WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE WCC. MEMBERS VOTTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY – T. SIEBLES: The EMS had 55 calls. The average emergency response time was 9.4 minutes, and the average non-emergency was 9.1 minutes. The Fire report for February shows 40 calls, 7 in town and 33 out of town, 3 work details, 4 trainings, and 21 maintenance hours. There is no police report for the month.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – A. HUSSEY: report is in packet.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. MARCOZ: everyone has a copy of the report.

J. MARCOZ/J. THOMAS TO PURCHASE A CONCRETE SAW AT A COST OF \$1289.99.

J. HARTZELL: Why do they need that?

J. MARCOZ: to be able to square off holes when they are patching them as well as to repair some sidewalks.

J. THOMAS: he would also like to repair the fire department driveway.

J. HARTZELL: I thought we have that in a grant?

C. LANG: We have been adding it to a CD grant for years and it keeps getting denied so this year we added it into the LSA and we will not hear on grant awards until the end of the year.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-1.

ENGINEERS REPORT – B. BRANTHOVER: paving on Commerce should start soon, COG is waiting on the contract and bonding documents. Chapter 94 reports for ALCOSAN have been submitted. CD 49 park improvement grant was a COG wide grant and there was only 1 other recipient, so we are going to be awarded \$70,046.00. We will have to decide how we want to spend this money, but we did find out that we have been putting in to replace the lights around the park and we don't own those. If we replace them, we will have to pay to remove them and then out in new electrical and we would become responsible for all of that. Luckily, when Dave did the CD-49 grant he was very vague so we should be able to get the center ones replaced as well as the concrete in the center and possibly the electrical as well. There are 3 new grants opened right now that will be closing soon. I asked Caroline to send the requirements over to you.

J. HARTZELL: Can we replace the lights in the business district and possibly cut the sidewalk out to make the street wider?

C.LANG: Tose lights are owned by Duquesne Light as well.

B. BRANTHOVER: I can look into the cost of that but I'm not sure if the GTRP would be the best for that. The ARPA grant is a DCED grant that is due in April.

C.LANG: I looked into that, and I don't see anything that the Borough could use that for. The WCC is working on a plan to apply for that grant.

B. BRANTHOVER: the last is WalkWorks and I'm not sure that it would even suit us as it is for planning the development of active transportation. I have not found anywhere we have been able to use this.

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C.LANG: another suggestion I got was about replacing fencing at Airbrake Park and adding fence to the WCC field in the open area.

B. BRANTHOOVER: I can definitely look into both of those suggestions and get some pricing. Ice Plant repairs are moving forward, they began in the WCC parking lot and replaced some pipes and cleared some clogs. They moved up to the apartment area and have a large hole up there where they are working.

J. THOMAS: have you seen any grants for vehicles?

B. BRANTHOOVER: the best would probably be the LSA but I can keep my eyes open.

J. THOMAS: I see that you changed the format of billing, can you still add the initials like in the past?

B. BRANTHOOVER: I will talk with them in the office and find out.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: There's really not much for Wilmerding, they are having a meeting on the connector at the WCC, they did not get approved for the reconnect program and that's about all.

BOROUGH PROPERTY/UTILITIES – S. VOLPE: I was approached about doing some repairs in the bathroom in the Rec room, just some paint, flooring, and updated dispensers.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO UPGRADE THE RECREATION ROOM BATHROOM AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1000.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

S. VOLPE: The electronic sign needs repaired; Caroline is waiting for them to look at it and we will have a quote soon. There is a light at the end of Card Avenue that does not belong to the Borough according to everyone. That used to be a Borough Road but now it's not.

G. EVASHAVIK: that is a paper street that was never accepted by the Borough.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: I have nothing to report.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / S. VOLPE TO PAY ALL BILLS FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,042.96, MOTOR LICENSE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$263.94, AND PLGIT SEWAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,156.16. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: There has been no real estate tax received yet, the bills go out in April. We have collected to date \$2,143.00 in delinquent real estate, \$1,282.00 in delinquent garbage, \$22,803.00 in RAD, \$6,836.00 for deed transfer, \$26,196.00 in EIT and \$3,295.00 in LST.

J. HARTZELL: what is Misc. General Expense?

C.LANG: I would have to go through the actual report, but it is generally items that do not have an exact account to go into.

J. HARTZELL: what is uniforms for the street department? They were not on the bills to be approved.

C.LANG: That would be their shirts and the allotment that they get each year.

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J. HARTZELL: We do not get a report of the bills that you pay after this meeting.

C.LANG: would you like a list of all the payments for the month, you know that I do one for Mr. Thomas?

J. HARTZELL: WHAT IS THE VEHICLE LOAN PAYBACK?

C.LANG: that is the payment for the pickup truck, we are done paying in May.

RECREATION – L. BARNES:

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

We are planning on having an Easter Egg Hunt in the park on March 23 from noon -2 and giving all the children a chocolate easter bunny. We will have 1 special egg in each group that will have something special in it and those will give the children a chance at winning a larger basket. We will have the Easter Bunny there and he will ride around town.

K. MAXWELL: so, you will need public works to come in and help?

L. BARNES: yes, we will need them, and we have to find a way to section the park off. We will need tables, chairs, and canopies and also Public Works to be available.

OLD BUSINESS:

S. VOLPE: do we hold rental license if they owe us money?

C.LANG: Yes, I go through and check to see what is owed. If they owe us money, they do not get a Rental License.

S. VOLPE: so, if they do not have a Rental Lincens and they have a tenant in do you take them to court?

C.LANG: I do not do the court part, but I do forward a list to Al.

J. THOAMS: We need to sit down and discuss who we would like to file liens against.

S. VOLPE: why can't we just send a letter to these people?

J. THOMAS: That is what Maiello does, and they do well at it.

NEW BUSINESS: none

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I was going to award a certificate of Recognition to the officer that jumped into the Creek, but he was unable to attend so we will be going to the Pitcairn meeting.

J. THOAMS/S. VOLPE TO ADJORN MEETING AT 8:05 P.M.