

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE FEB. 3, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

**ROLL CALL: KAREN PETERSON, present; REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; MICHAEL TRKULA, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present; WILLIAM PRICENER, absent; JOHN THOMAS, present; SANDRA SMITH, present. MAYOR HENRY SLACZKA was also present.**

**M. TRKULA / REV. D. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JAN. 13, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Received a notice on the Turtle Creek Valley COG Annual Dinner to be held at Banquets Unlimited on Friday Feb. 27, 2015.

**M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO SEND THE TWO DELEGATES AND IF ANYONE ELSE WANTS TO ATTEND THEN THEY WOULD PAY FOR THEMSELVES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

2. Received an estimate from General Code to codify Ordinances 1023, 1024 and 1026 and revisions to the table of contents. The estimate to do this is between \$3,000 and \$3,705.

**S. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO HAVE THE SECRETARY CHECK ON WHY THE PRICE IS SO HIGH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

3. Resolution for a CITF Grant through the Redevelopment Authority for \$200,000 for the Ice Plant Hill Project.

**S. SHURGOT / J. THOMAS TO PASS THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING A GRANT FOR \$200,000 FOR THE ICE PLANT HILL PROJECT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA:** what are we doing about the icy sidewalks? There are a lot of elderly people who walk.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** I will try and put something together where we can get some volunteer groups to help the elderly.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** if they would take care of it when it snows it would not turn into ice.

**MR. M. JAKUB:** Pitcairn issues a ticket ( something like a parking ticket) to the property owners for not cleaning their sidewalks.

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**MS. S. SMITH:** Karen, can you follow up with Pitcairn and see how they do it.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** there is a number (211) that senior citizens can call if they need help with anything.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** for the month of January Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 66 calls with 38 transports. Their average response time for emergencies is 7.7 minutes and for non-emergencies it is 8.2 minutes.

**M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO DONATE THE DOG MONEY TO THE NORTH VERSAILLES K-9 FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**CHIEF MATRAZZO:** any money that is spent from that fund you will receive a receipt.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** what happens if they do away with the K-9 unit? Does the money come back to the borough?

**MS. S. SMITH:** we can request it.

**CHIEF MATRAZZO:** for the month of January we responded to 192 calls and made 13 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 4 burglary calls, 4 disturbances, 3 dogs running at large, 11 domestics, 3 drug investigations, 2 gunshots, 2 hit and run, 2 juvenile complaints, 3 motor vehicle violations, 2 neighbor disputes, 2 overdose, 8 parking complaints, 1 retail theft, 4 suspicious incident, 4 thefts and 6 landlord ordinances.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** do you think we should have ID and badges for our code enforcement officers. I don't think they should be knocking on any doors without identification.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** they do have the authority to knock on doors but they should have some type of ID.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** also, in Louise's report she says that the camera is not working properly and she is also having some computer issues.

**S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO TAKE THE CAMERA TO BEST BUY TO SEE IF WE CAN GET A BATTERY FOR IT AND ALSO TO PURCHASE 2010 MICROSOFT OFFICE FOR THE CODE OFFICE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**PUBLIC WORKS – M. JAKUB:** we have been doing a lot of snow plowing and salt. All the Christmas decorations have been taken down. We have been picking up a lot of trash and we will cold patch when the weather breaks.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** do we have a price on paint. There was an e-mail sent out that there was no painting done on the North Side last year. Do you think we can look at getting a spray painter, this may save the borough some money? We can do it with the summer workers but they are not getting out of school until the middle of June.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** do you think we can hire some part time summer workers early.

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**BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON:** we are still looking to move Louise over to this room where we have our mail. She is getting fumes in her office from downstairs.

**MR. J. THOMAS:** if she smells any fumes she should call 9-1-1.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** I will discuss this with Bill.

**UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES:** no report.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** I gave my report at the workshop.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / S. SHURGOT TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**MR. J. THOMAS:** we are getting an appraisal for the WABTEC property and the school district is also getting an appraisal. We are waiting to hear from the school district on their findings.

We are getting a reduction in price for salt due to the gasoline prices going down. We have had four reductions since September.

**RECREATION – S. SHURGOT:** we are going to have our Easter Egg Hunt probable the Saturday before Easter.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> we will be having a Founder's Day Luncheon at Banquets Unlimited and also the crowning of the queen.

**PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES:** we have an opening on the Planning Commission and there is also one opening on the Zoning Board. We are going to try and see if anyone is interested in these positions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA THAT ANYONE GOING TO THE CONFERENCE AT SEVEN SPRINGS OR ANY OTHER EVENT THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY UPFRONT AND THEN THE BOROUGH WOULD REIMBURSE THEM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-1 WITH K. PETERSON VOTING NO.**

**MAYOR H. SLACZKA:** the Founder's Day Luncheon is fast approaching. Did anyone think about sending out complimentary tickets to individuals who devote their time or to any officials, example, Allegheny County Chief Executive? I am willing to help anyway that I can.

**MS. S. SMITH:** as President of Council there is nothing in the Borough Code that says that I cannot chair a committee. Council made a motion that the President cannot hold a chairmanship on a committee. Nothing is going to change. We are going to leave it as it is.

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**MR. S. SHURGOT:** it is not in the Borough Code. It is in Robert's Rules of Order which Council adopted and we follow their guidelines.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA:** this year, 2015, marks 125 years since Wilmerding was founded by the renowned inventor George Westinghouse. Also, there used to be a Croatian Fraternal Union called St. Valentine's Lodge, which is appropriate for the month of February. Not everyone can say that they have a St. Valentine's Fraternal Union.

Our code office went to court downtown on hearings against a gentleman who did not apply for occupancy permits or rental licenses and is pleading his case to the court that there is a conspiracy against him. These people downtown need to be enlightened. This guy has a problem and does not follow protocol. Our Code Officer, Dave Buskirk, submits a very detailed report. He did 8 inspections for occupancy permits and all but one is for a rental property. People need to be encouraged to buy and reside in the property they purchase.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO ADJOURN. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:55 PM.