

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

Council met in an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:17 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOE HARTZELL, present; STEVE VOLPE, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

P. SHURGOT/ L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2022 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

STELLA SLACZKA; 121 PAT MEWS: My concern is the bridge, there are several trucks going over at the same time. I heard that there may be a new bridge next year and they have been marking the lines in our yard.

C. LANG: there is a reconstruction of the bridge and I do not have all of the details as it is in the design phase at this point.

STELLA SLACZKA: why do we let all those heavy trucks go over it at the same time, isn't that over the weight limit?

C. LANG: I am not sure as that is maintained by Allegheny County. I can place a call into them though and let them know your concerns.

SHERRI MARSALAK; 409 HERMAN: We had talked about a clean up project last summer and I have recently talked with Keep PA Beautiful and the Mayor of Turtle Creek. They have a clean-up day planned on April 23 so we thought we may be able to do a joint venture. Keep PA Beautiful partners with PennDOT so we can get free supplies so we would just need the committee to discuss the details.

G. JAKUB: the Borough usually picks it up and then we just have to figure out how to dispose of it.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We have an invitation from TCVCOG for their annual dinner at Edgewood County Club on February 25 at 5:30 if anyone is interested, please let me know so I can RSVP.
2. We need to ratify a vote for the Inlet at Wood and Frank. The low bidder was Naccarrati Contracting at \$6800.00.

P. SHURGOT/S. VOLPE TO RATIFY THE VOTE AND AWARD NACCARRATI CONTRACTING WITH THE INLET PROJECT AT FRANK AND WOOD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6800.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. CD 47 project bids were opened by TCVCOG for the Station Street sidewalk project. The lowest bidder saw Satira Construction at \$31,622.50. The CD 47 grant awarded was \$28,018.00 so this would leave a local share to be paid by the Borough in the amount of \$3,604.50.

J. HARTZELL/P. SHURGOT TO AWARD THE CD 47 PROJECT TO SATIRA CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,622.50 WITH \$28,018 BEING PAID BY THE GRANT AND \$3,604.50 TO BE PAID BY THE BOROUGH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK: The fire department had 22 calls for the month. 13 in town, 9 out of town, 3 work details, 4 trainings, 1 special meeting, and 21 maintenance hours. The EMS report shows 46 calls with the average emergency response time was 8.55 minutes and the average non-emergency response time was 11.25 minutes.

CHIEF FARALLY: We had 81 calls during the month. I have given copies of the report that show the date, location, and description of events. This way we can document the homes that we keep responding to and possible use the 979 ordinances to it's potential.

L. KIRK: We will need to purchase parking tickets and the quote is 1000 tickets for \$770.00.

G. JAKUB: would we be able to use the Pitcairn tickets?

CHIEF FARALLY: you could but the fees would go back to Pitcairn Police Department, and it would make it harder to separate them and get you the money due.

J. HARTZELL: are we going to raise our fees to the same as Pitcairn's?

L. KIRK: we didn't really discuss that.

G. EVASHAVIK: we would need to pass an ordinance so I would hold off if that's the way you want to go.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: All I had was the sidewalk grant.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: I will just refer to my report.

J. HARTZELL: how many Quality-of-Life Tickets have you issued for snow on the sidewalks.

A. HUSSEY: Zero as I have never been asked to do that before.

G. JAKUB: the problem is we do not have our own sidewalk cleaned.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. HARTZELL: Everything is cleaned up from the storm and Steve needs a new snow blower. I think he is doing the best he can as one person.

J. HARTZELL/P. SHURGOT TO PURCHASE A SNOWBLOWER NOT TO EXCEED \$1000.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. MAXWELL: do we have anyone to help with the snow?

G. JAKUB: we always get help from RJ and Jeremy is generally available.

S. VOLPE: what happens if RJ gets into an accident as he rides around in his personal truck?

G. JAKUB: that would fall on his insurance because we didn't contract him.

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G. EVASHAVIK: he is not insured by us, and accidents would fall on his personal insurance and if something severe happens then the Borough could be sued because he is acting as our agent. It's hard for us to ask him to list us on his coverage as he is not getting paid.

K. MAXWELL: do we have the other gentleman that helped the last time.

C. LANG: not during regular working hours as he is employed.

P. SHURGOT: are you looking into hiring?

J. HARTZELL: it's posted on the sign and Facebook.

C. LANG: the last time we advertised was for the Foreman position, a few months ago, and we got absolutely no response and spent almost \$1000.00

T. HICKMAN: I think it's a shame we only have 1 man to take care of our town and we need to hire some help.

K. MAXWELL: we have been trying to hire but we are not receiving any applications.

ENGINEERS REPORT – D. GILLILAND:

K. MAXWELL: Dave gave his report at Workshop.

COG– K. BELIN: They discuss the upcoming dinner, they are applying to become a 501C3, they talked about the Vector program, and the police training meeting.

CHIEF FARALLY: we attend every month.

K. BELIN: they are discussing their code enforcement software, exploring air quality, and eliminating blight. The Forbes Foundation is funding the study. They talked about a site development fund grant that we are not able to apply for. The other grant is the LSA gambling money, those are project improvement grants and there is local share required.

PLANNING – K. BELIN: We spoke about the LSA grant and they are looking for some other grants to eliminating the blight.

J. HARTZELL: It says here about Ice Plant Hill slides and houses on Westinghouse.

K. BELIN: that was just some things discussed at the dinner with the CIAC. They are concerned about the water coming down past the WCC and just discussing different projects.

UTILITIES – P. SHURGOT: nothing to report

J. THOMAS: I spoke with the gentleman from Duquesne Light, and they are not doing the LED program anymore. They are looking into another program, but they did not give me any details. I contacted him because I have an issue with the amount we are getting charged and the number that show on our bill.

L. KIRK: have they been here to replace the lights we turned into them?

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C. LANG: no

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: I need a motion to ratify the vote to continue with the demolition of 448 Card Avenue.

P. SHURGOT/L. KIRK TO CONTINUE THE SCHEDULED DEMOLITION OF 448 CARD AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS/K. BELIN TO PUSH BACK THE PAYMENT OT ALLEGHENY COUNTY AND PAY THE REST OF THE BILLS FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$102,692.68 AND BILLS FROM THE PLGIT SEWAGE ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,297.50.

P. SHURGOT: have we considered giving them a portion of this and also will we be charged interest?

G. JAKUB: There is nothing in the contract regarding late payments or interest.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

RECREATION – S. VOLPE: I am going to contact Courtney Verner, our school board representative, and I am looking for volunteers to start planning things.

C. LANG: I may have 2 ladies that would be interested in volunteering.

OLD BUSINESS:

S. VOLPE: I was looking over the budget and the lease for the Community Center. We paid upfront for the equipment, and they are paying us back are they behind on payments. Also, how do we have members of council on their board? I think we need to get a copy of their profit and loss to see where they are spending their money.

K. MAXWELL: we are not losing any money but there is a balance. The Borough owns the building and the WCC was formed as a 501C3. They went to lease the equipment and they did not have any financial background, so the Borough signed the lease and makes the payment then the WCC pays that amount back each month. When the building was closed

S. VOLPE: did they get any money from the COVID relief?

K. MAXWELL: yes, they paid their salaries and utilities.

S. VOLPE: what are we getting in for rent?

K. MAXWELL: Nothing, the lease is designed just like the lease in the past.

S. VOLPE: but we never had to pay for anything like HVAC or utilities.

G. JAKUB: the Borough split the cost of that with the WCC, but they are constantly putting money into the building through repairs and upgrades. They are responsible for all capital improvements.

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K. BELIN: what is the expectation with the balloon payment that is coming due?

K. MAXWELL: they have contacted Precore about extending this lease because the equipment has not been used like expected due to the closure during COVID.

K. BELIN: But if that doesn't happen then the Borough would be on the hook for this balloon payment.

P. SHURGOT: no, it states in the contract that the borough is not responsible the WCC has to make that payment.

K. BELIN: but the balloon payment is billed to the Borough.

C. LANG: so, to clarify a little, yes, the Borough does make the payments to KS State Bank for the equipment, the WCC issues the Borough a check for that amount, which we then deposit, so it is a wash. The balloon payment would be initially paid by a Borough check, but the WCC would issue the Borough a check in that amount so that to would be a wash and nothing would be paid by the Borough. Their payments since they have re-opened have been here before I even send out our payment.

K. MAXWELL: any word on the tax collector? Has he started to use the office?

C. LANG: No.

J. THOMAS: I have spoke with the solicitor and Keystone and explained our position. There is not much we as a Borough can do, he is an elected official. The citizens can file suit in federal court over the ADA law but we as a Borough cannot force him to do anything.

G. EVASHAVIK: correct, he is not an employee of the Borough, so we have not ground. If citizens are dissatisfied, then they would have to file against him.

NEW BUSINESS:

K. BELIN: I had a meeting with Westinghouse about their Art in the Park. They want to do a large family friendly thing and use the power in the park.

K. MAXWELL: they will need to submit a formal request.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: Westinghouse arts has hired a transportation manager and they are going to put a plan in place for the buses. I am also in contact with the individual regarding the cameras in the park.

S. VOLPE: for Emergency Management, is the mayor permitted on the committee?

G. JAKUB: I've been on it for years.

L. KIRK/S. VOLPE MOTION TO ADJOURN 8:10 P.M.