

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

Meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:15 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

**S. SHURGOT:** Council met in an Executive session for a personnel contract matter.

**ROLL CALL:** REV. DOROTY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPGHEN SHURGOT, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

**REV.REEVES / P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2019 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:**

**P. CLAYTON 345 MARGUERITE AVENUE:** Our next door neighbor at 349 Marguerite has a garbage dump, it's been a mess for months and nothing has been done. There is trash all over the yard, their dog is in the rear yard which is a mud puddle, and there is still a rundown vehicle with broken windows in the alley.

**C. LANG:** we have received numerous complaints about that address; the latest complaint was given to Jesse on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The original complaints started in December; Kyle issued a door hanger before he left.

**S. SHURGOT:** I have no excuse for our code department not doing their job but I know for a fact that storing tires and garbage is a health code violation. Keeping your dog outside in terrible conditions is animal cruelty, fortunately we are meeting with our code department in 2 weeks and we will address all of these complaints with them. We are looking to move to another code enforcer due to problems like these.

**K. MAXWELL:** are they not issuing the quality of life tickets?

**C.LANG:** no, as far I know they are not. The tires are a fire violation

**S. SHURGOT:** yes they are so our fire marshal will get more information from you and will be up there first thing tomorrow morning.

**C. LANG:** I do have the Quality of Life tickets in my office, Jesse has taken two books but I cannot verify if he has issued any because I have not received any copies or any payments.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** we have code enforcement officers that work for the borough and handle these complaints but it takes time. Once a notice is issued we have to give the homeowner time to comply. Then we go back and issue a citation and go in front of the magistrate. Just so you know this is a process that is very elongated due to the law.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. We received notification that ALCOSAN cycle 4 is opening up and if interested we will need a letter of intent sent by March 29, 2019.

2. I have an ordinance that was sent from our Municipal Retirement Plan. I was contacted because our plan was drafted in 1967 and we needed to update the terms.

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**K. PETERSON/REV. REEVES TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR REVIEW AND ADVERTISE ONCE APPROVED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

3. Steve had asked me to look into the Savvy Citizen. This is an app that residents can sign up for to be notified of important happenings in the town. I contacted them and got some prices. If we sign up on a monthly basis it would be \$69.00 per month but if we sign up for a 1 year contract it would be \$690.00 for the year. They also charge a \$200.00 set up fee for marketing.

**J. THOMAS:** there is no cost for the resident correct?

**C. LANG:** no there is no cost to our residents. When you sign up for the year contract you get 2 months free.

**P. SHURGOT:** is the \$200.00 fee a onetime charge or do they charge that every year?

**C. LANG:** no that is a onetime fee just to advertise in the community and on Facebook.

**J. THOMAS/K. PETERSON TO SIGN UP FOR A ONE (1) YEAR CONTACT WITH SAVVY CITIZENS AT \$690.00 PLUS A \$200.00 SET UP FEE FOR A TOTAL OF \$890.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0**

4. We have a resolution to pass for the Redevelopment grant in the amount of \$224,900.00. This is for the Orient Slide so Dave can get the grant paperwork started.

**G. JAKUB:** Dave have you been able to check Orient?

**D. GILLILAND:** no I have not.

**P. SHURGOT/K. PETERSON TO PASS THE CONCURRING RESOLUTION FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$224,900.00 FOR REPAIRS TO ORIENT AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** I spoke to Dave about the ALCOSAN cycle 4 work. We already got 85% of the funds to direct the water coming from King's Way to Westinghouse, This letter is for cycle 19 but if we have to put something in we spoke about using it for the Ice Plant Hill area. Redevelopment grant money from the county has not come in yet.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK:** The fire Department had 38 calls. 12 were in town, 26 out of town, 2 work details, 5 trainings, and 8 equipment hours. The EMS had 57 calls. The average emergency response time was 7.4 minutes and the average non-emergency was 9.7 minutes.

**S. SHURGOT:** One of the Board of Directors from the ambulance approached me about what citizens and council persons understood from the report and the difference between the response times. In the report we have added extra information to explain what the differences are and I think that will help everyone understand the difference in response times.

**INSPECTOR KEARNS:** We had 302 events for the month including 10 abandoned vehicles, 3 assaults, 1 burglary, 6 domestic disputes, 2 DUI's, 1 fugitive arrests, 4 motor vehicle crashes, 1 motor vehicle theft, 4 narcotics, 1 thefts, 74 traffic stops, and 7 warrants. There were a total of 25 arrests made. 1 aggravated assault, 3 criminal trespass, 1

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counterfeiting, 1 DUI, 2 escape, 1 firearms charge, 4 fugitive arrests, 7 narcotics charges, 1 resist arrest, 3 simple assaults, 1 strangulation.

**P. SHURGOT:** the last 2 weeks there has been a car on the 600 block of Middle Avenue that has no bumper and no plate and also there was a car on Lydia that was involved in an accident.

**INSPECTOR KEARNS:** that was hit by one of the drunk drivers and I will check the other one. They were both parked cars and in both cases the people who owned the cars said they would have them removed. We gave them a little slack because it was at no fault of their own.

**L. KIRK:** crime watch meeting will be February 11<sup>th</sup> at Holy Angels Church. The American Red Cross will be doing a hands only CPR class. You will not be certified but you will learn how to administer the new form of CPR>.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

**S. SHURGOT:** everyone received a copy of the code report and extras have been placed in the hall.

**PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT:** We had a nice winter and they have been keeping the roads clear. They had some maintenance done on the trucks and that's about it.

**ENGINEERS REPORT – D. GILLILAND:** a lot of this is repetitive from last month but the paving on Caldwell from Station to Lydia will be done in the spring. ALCOSAN has expressed a strong interest in funding 85% of the cost of improvement of the Ice plant Hill project in 2020. The 2018 Inlet project is complete but they will come back in spring to complete the asphalt. The St. Joseph subdivision is at county planning for review. They have to have a public hearing here at the Borough. It was scheduled for last Friday but they cancelled due to the weather. It has been rescheduled for Wednesday February 20 at 10a.m. Once they approve it they will send it to the Courthouse to be recorded and then we can get a deed prepared. On February 29<sup>th</sup> TCVCOG opened the Airbrake Avenue park improvement bids. We have a grant for \$2013.00 and the low bid came in at \$56807.00. What was included was the rubber surface, the fence, replacing the whirl, swings, chains, and a rubber mat under the swings. We don't have enough money to do all those things but I feel that the rubber surface under the swings needs to be addressed. The surface under the play area is warped but still functioning if you would fall. If you do just the rubber under the swings it would be \$21344.00 plus I recommend the mats for the swings as well.

**L. KIRK:** we are looking to take those trees down along the creek, could we mulch those and use them?

**D. GILLILAND:** I don't recommend you use that for the swings for one it is not handicap accessible and the other thing is when you do something like that you get the seeds and then you have growth.

**G. JAKUB:** I spoke to a lady awhile back who said we could put patches in.

**D. GILLILAND:** You could but they only last about a year and it's hard to bond the rubber together.

**G. JACKUB:** does the \$21,344.00 include the mats?

**D. GILLILAND:** no the mats would be another \$800.00. So it would be \$22,144.00 if you wanted to include that.

**S. SHURGOT:** if we did the mats, the rubber, new swings, and chain what would the price be?

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**D. GILLILAND:** that would be \$22369.00 and we got approved for \$20,013.00.

**J. THOMAS:** When would this be done?

**D. GILLILAND:** It has to be over 50 degrees so probably May.

**L. KIRK:** then I would want to do the trees before then

**D. GILLILAND:** If you do the trees you may need a fence, Caroline and I were discussing this and we can't remember if there is a fence there. Now remember this cost is prevailing rate so it's more expensive, you could get a better price if you bid it out yourself.

**K. PETERSON/P. SHURGOT TO AWARD THE PROJECT TO SPORTS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION FOR \$22369.00. THIS WILL INCLUDE THE RUBBER UNDER THE SWINGS, MATS, SWINGS & CHAINS, AND BABY SWINGS WITH CHAINS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**D. GILLILAND:** ALCOSAN has approved the 85% grant (\$125,000.00) for the Herman Avenue Sewer Separation project. We request that council authorize us to proceed with the design specifications.

**S. SHURGOT:** just to get everyone up to speed on this it is a sewer interceptor at Kings Way.

**J. THOMAS:** the inceptor comes down Kings Way to Herman Avenue then to the sanitary. We are going to separate them and the sanitary is going to stay on Herman and the storm will go to Westinghouse.

**G. JAKUB:** is this still going to a Green Project? I have been getting calls from the principal at the school about moving the buses to Herman.

**K. MAXWELL:** I think we need to get rid of the PAT buses first.

**D. GILLILAND:** I will submit a letter to Port Authority to have the bus route moved.

**K. PETERSON/ K. MAXWELL TO ACCEPT THE 85% FUNDING GRANT FROM ALCOSAN LEAVING US TO PAY FOR 15% OF THE PROJECT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**G. JAKUB:** also the school has asked if they can put signs on our metal poles showing direction to their parking lot.

**S. SHURGOT:** I got something under Emergency Management and asked Dave to fill it out to try and get some extra funding to help with some of the cost from Orient Avenue.

**D. GILLILAND:** East McKeesport has asked if Wilmerding will participate in a CITF grant to cut the trees along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue which is a county road. It would be a \$100,000.00 with no cost to the borough and they are asking that we pass a resolution in support.

**P. SHURGOT:** would we lose any of the funding for our own projects.

**D. GILLILAND:** I'm not sure but I can say your application will be in competition with your Orient Avenue slide application. I don't know if they look at it like if you have 1 thing approved we won't give you a second. I have never

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seen a town get two (2) CITF's in a year though. The owners are deceased and the county's response is "we will take care of it as it happens."

**S. SHURGOT:** so we want to hold off to see if it would affect our chances.

**COG & UTILITIES REPORT – K. PETERSON:** Nothing.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK:** We replaced 2 light ballasts in the fire department garage. Konova electric did the work for \$190.00. We had an accident that damaged a hand rail on Lydia & Caldwell, which will be turned over to insurance. There was a broken pipe found at the Wilmerding Community Center which is being looked at. J& S called about the trees in the Airbrake playground so we can chose a timeframe and they will also regrind the roots in the park.

**SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK:** I covered everything in the executive session.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PAY APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** we received our delinquent real estate notices from our tax collector and I had some question, just waiting for his reply then we can send it over to our delinquent collector and hopefully recoup some of the funds.

**RECREATION – K. MAXWELL:** I am finalizing all the dates for the upcoming events and will get those to Caroline to put into the newsletter.

**PLANNING – REV. REEVES:** the meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**K. MAXWELL/K. PETERSON TO CHANGE WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> TO A REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB:** NOTHING

Meeting adjourned 8:12 p.m.