

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:17 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ROLL CALL: REV. D. REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; LINDA KIRK, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

P. SHURGOT / S. SMITH TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE DEC. 19, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: several months ago I had mentioned the weight limit on Middle Avenue. We still have trucks coming down and I guess they are supposed to be using the tri-boro but a lot of them use Middle Avenue. There should be an ordinance saying what the weight limit is there. The sign was at the beginning of the 700 block of Middle Avenue.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I think that is down to far, it should be up by Banquets Unlimited so they don't turn onto Middle Avenue.

MRS. E. BARRETT, HERMAN AVE.: I got the newsletter that you sent out and I want to know why you are not billing us for our garbage.

MR. S. SHURGOT: If you pay in advance for the year and take advantage of the discount you do not get any bills.

MRS. E. BARRETT: also, I am glad that you got COG to do the inspections and I am really glad that the County Police are here. Now you people have a job. You need to bring all of our ordinances up to date. You have ordinances that do not even pertain to anything. Each one of you are on a committee and you need to break down those ordinances and clean them up so that they have something to enforce. We do not have an ordinance for movies that was an inconvenience. If you look at those ordinances there is still an ordinance for parking meters. There hasn't been a parking meter in this town for twenty-five years.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: I am impressed with the Building Inspector's report. Also, why didn't Council, as a body, give a presentation at the school board meeting on the sale of the school in Wilmerding?

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MR. S. SHURGOT: on behalf of Council I sent a letter supporting the project.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: there were several of us that were asked to send letters of support.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH: the presentation given at the meeting didn't sound right, it wasn't strong enough.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we received a 59 page letter on the response of all the questions that were raised. If the school district votes that down, they can take their case to the State and the State has never turned down a request for a charter school. I talked to the gentleman who is buying the building after the meeting and he told me that he would not buy the building unless the sale went through.

MS. L. KIRK: I sent a letter to the President of the School Board because I was not happy after the hearing and I expressed my opinion. My letter included everything I would have said if I had the opportunity to speak.

MRS. K. MAXWELL, HERMAN AVE.: I would like to say welcome to the Allegheny County Police and it is nice to see their presence in town. Also, as the Council of Wilmerding, I thought that you were all in agreement that we wanted the school to be sold and we wanted it to be utilized by this charter school. However, Mr. Shurgot, when you got up and spoke you addressed the school board as Steve Shurgot, President of Wilmerding Council, and you retracted your affirmation of that school being sold. You actually stated that you needed more information and you were concerned about other things. My issue is that you stood there representing Wilmerding. If you had a personal conflict with this then you should have stood up and said that you were a resident of Wilmerding and not as the Council President. It seemed to me that as a Council you were all divided that night.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I sent a letter of support and I went to that meeting with an open mind. I don't think I addressed myself as Council President at the beginning but at some point I did. I do have some concerns about that. I know full well that it is going to become a charter school and I want some reassurances as a tax payer in Wilmerding. I think that a full fledge charter school would be bad for Wilmerding and the tax payers I represent. I am not a fan of computerized learning and sixty percent of that is going to be computerized learning. My other concern is that they can charter for this education thing and then come back and say we do not have enough people to fill it. One school director told me that we are paying \$220,000 for people to attend cyber and charter schools out of our budget. I want to see a contract that they are going to do what they say five or six years down the road. They also said that they would not have any sport teams. Lincoln Park has a golf team and a tennis team. They said that they were going to contract out for cafeteria services with the school district. Lincoln Park did that for one year and decided that it was cheaper to do their own services after one year. If you think that I sold out Wilmerding I apologize but that is what my thoughts were.

MRS. K. MAXWELL: Forbes Road may not be a charter school but East Allegheny sends a lot of students over there and they have a huge budget and money is being spent there as well.

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MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I think we are losing the whole significance of this school. Why don't we think about what it is going to do for the children of this community? Sure are taxes may be going up but they will be going up for other reasons too. I think that you need to bring in the good points on what it is going to do for the children of this community. It would be nice to see that building being used for the children instead of the gangs.

MRS. J. TOMASIC, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: when is Ice Plant Hill going to open?

MR. S. SHURGOT: tomorrow morning.

MRS. J. TOMASIC: nobody understood why there was no sign saying that road was closed when they started.

MR. S. SHURGOT: there was a sign at the bottom of Ice Plant Hill.

MRS. J. TOMASIC: it needed to be down further.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a notice of the annual COG Dinner to be held on January 27th at the Holiday Inn in Monroeville. Cost of the dinner is \$50.00.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO SEND THE TWO REPRESENTATIVES AND IF ANYONE ELSE WANTS TO GO THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR OWN DINNER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

2. Received a notice from the Allegheny League of Municipalities on their annual Bi-Annual Legislative Reception to be held on January 19th at the Sheraton in Station Square. Cost of the dinner is \$55.00

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. Received a letter from Geraldine Homitz requesting to stay on the Planning Commission since her term expired on Dec. 31, 2016.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO RE-APPOINT GERALDINE HOMITZ TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

4. Received a notice from the Allegheny County Borough's Association on their annual banquet to be held on Feb. 14th at the Rivers Casino. Tickets cost \$65.00 per person.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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5. Receive a request for a handicap sign at 3 Miller Street. They have submitted all of the paperwork.

K. PETERSON / P. SHURGOT TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 3 MILLER ST. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. Received a letter from Sable Kennels who took over for Camo Kennels and they will start in Wilmerding on January 1, 2017.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO SET UP A MEETING WITH SABLE KENNELS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

7. Received a notice from the Allegheny League of Municipalities on their annual Spring Educational Conference to be held at Seven Springs from April 6 -9.

K. PETERSON / L. KIRK TO RECEIVE AND FILE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT OUR WORKSHOP. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

8. Received an affidavit from Mrs. Marjorie Donovan stating that her properties at 456 – 652 and 654 Airbrake Avenue are no longer for rent because they were vandalized and all the utilities were shut off. She is asking that the garbage fee for these properties be waived.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: in your ordinance under Section 255.1 states that if the owner states that the property is no longer for rent and is not going to be habitable and used as a rental, then that is an exemption from paying the fees.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO WAIVE THE GARBAGE FEE FOR THE DONOVAN PROPERTIES LISTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: for the month of December Eastern Area responded to 36 calls and made 24 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.4 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 10.4 minutes. There was no NARCAN administered. For the year they responded to 621 calls and had 412 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.2 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.6 minutes. They administered 2 NARCAN shots for the year.

The fire department responded to 30 calls in December, 9 were in town and 21 were out of town. One of the fire trucks is out of service and it is going to cost \$197 for repairs. They have a Turtle Creek truck on loan. They also need 2 front tires at a cost of \$1,000.

P. SHURGOT / S. SMITH TO HAVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE THE TIRES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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MS. L. KIRK: they also would like to meet with Council about some other issues involving some of the radios. They also have some funding ideas.

MR. S. SHURGOT: see what dates are good for them and get back to us.

MS. L. KIRK: for the month of December North Versailles responded to 181 calls and 7 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 3 criminal mischief, 2 disorderly conduct, 11 domestics, 1 drug investigation, 1 gunshot, 4 harassment, 4 juvenile complaints, 2 parking complaints, 1 protection from abuse, 5 retail thefts, 4 stolen vehicles, 5 suspicious activities, 8 thefts, 10 thefts from vehicles, 4 traffic accidents and 3 unwanted persons. In January the Allegheny County Police took over. In December the County Police took presents to the Family Center. There was an open house on December 2^{1st} at the new sub-station in the hi-rise. They also want to start another Police Academy. If anyone is interested it starts March 29th and lasts for ten weeks. Inspector Kearns is here tonight and he will talk about the County Police.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: I will give a report for the 3 days that we have been here. We had 4 domestics, 1 DUI, 2 burglary reports, 1 criminal mischief, 1 vehicle crash and 1 theft from a vehicle. There were two arrests, 1 for DUI and 1 for a small amount of marijuana. We had a theft from a vehicle in the 500 block of Commerce Street, someone stole a gun. Please make sure your vehicle is locked. We also had some copper pipes taken from two vacant houses on Morningside Avenue. If you see something suspicious do not be afraid to call 9-1-1.

MS. P. SHURGOT: can you have your officers check the 800 block of Middle Avenue. We have a parking area for residents and there is a box truck that has been there for over three months. Also, on Maple Avenue there is a white box truck up there and the trucks from Door's Moving have expired inspections.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: a new hot water tank was installed; they have been plowing and salting streets. I think we need to put a street light back at the corner of Commerce and the alley behind Compass.

P. SHURGOT / S. SMITH TO INSTALL A STREET LIGHT AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMERCE STREET AND THE ALLEY BEHIND COMPASS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: they greased the fittings on the dump truck, winterized all the equipment and the compressor is still not working. We have a part time worker filling in for our regular employee who has been off.

MR. J. THOMAS: I talked to the engineer from WABTEC about the compressor and he came over and looked at it. He told me that they do not manufacture any of that stuff anymore.

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ENGINEER'S REPORT:

P. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO SUBMIT 401 AND 409 WELSH AVENUE FOR DEMOLITION AND 349 WELSH AS AN ALTERNATE IS MONEY IS AVAILABLE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH:

S. SMITH / P. SHURGOT TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE REPAIR OF THE HOSE TOWER TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, LIKAR ROOFING, FOR \$5,500. WORK WILL BEGIN WHEN THE WEATHER IS WARMER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: no report.

UTILITIES – K. PETERSON: no report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – G. EVASHAVIK: last month there was discussion about a letter we received from the Allegheny County Adult Probation Office offering services to the borough. I contacted the supervisor and talked to him about this program. The individuals through this program will provide community service and are assigned through Common Pleas Court, which is a good thing. They are also covered by the Allegheny County Worker's Compensation Insurance while they are working here. They would be volunteers for us and one thing we would need to do is notify our insurance carrier as a volunteer that we would be covered in the event something would happen. We would tell the county the type of work that we would like to be performed and they would screen the applicants to make sure they are suitable to us and tell the county the type of convictions that we will not accept. If you are interested in this you should contact the supervisor and ask him what the next step would be.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: in the past three or four years Keystone Collections did our tax bill printing. I would still like to utilize them to do this.

J. THOMAS / REV. D. REEVES TO HAVE KEYSTONE COLLECTIONS PRINT THE 2017 TAX BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: Big's and Waste Management both ran on the same premise that if there is a holiday that week garbage will be picked up the following day. If the holiday is on the weekend, like Christmas and New Year's was this year, it does not affect pick up.

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RECREATION – P. SHURGOT: I will turn it over to Linda and Sandy to give the report on the children's Christmas party.

MS. S. SMITH: we only had 26 children attend. We had a magician there, photos with Santa and crafts. Everyone that was there had a good time.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we have a new member on the Planning Commission and his name is Frank Ace. He gave us a report on solar energy. We are still working on updating our five year plan.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MRS. P. SHURGOT: about two months ago we got a job description for our Code Office Secretary.

P. SHURGOT / S. SMITH TO INCLUDE THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE CODE OFFICE SECRETARY IN THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

L. KIRK / J. THOMAS TO TERMINATE PAT BUTLER AS A PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE. ROLL CALL: REV. D. REEVES, yes; K. PETERSON, yes; L. KIRK, yes; S. SMITH, yes; P. SHURGOT, no; J. THOMAS, yes; S. SHURGOT, yes. MOTION PASSED TO TERMINATE PAT BUTLER, 6-1.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I would like to thank the County. I have seen them around town at all hours and in all places. It is good to see their presence on the streets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.