

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2, 2018 REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

PRIOR TO THE MEETING THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS: STEPHEN SHURGOT, COUNCIL; KELLY MAXWELL, COUNCIL; LINDA KIRK, COUNCIL; JOHN THOMAS AND GREGORY JAKUB, MAYOR WERE SWORN IN BY JUDGE SUSAN EVASHAVIK.

The Mayor called the reorganization meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Alliance was led by the Mayor.

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

MAYOR G. JAKUB: can I have a nomination for council president.

MR. J. THOMAS: I would like to nominate Stephen Shurgot for President of Council.

REV. D. REEVES: I will second the nomination.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: are there any other nominations. There being no other nominations members voted approval for Stephen Shurgot as President of Council. Congratulations.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: at this time I will accept nominations for Vice President of Council.

MR. J. THOMAS: I would like to nominate Linda Kirk for Vice President of Council.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I will second the nomination.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: are there any other nominations. There being no other nominations members voted approval for Linda Kirk as Vice President of Council. Congratulations. I will now turn the regular meeting over to President Shurgot.

P. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE DEC. 4, 2017 and THE MINUTES FROM THE DEC. 19, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We received a letter from Bonnie Alexander and Melvin Wojtowicz commending the work of our Fire Marshall Al Hussey during the recent fire on Middle Avenue.
2. Handicap Placard Application for Rachael Throm for a sign to be placed at 119 Middle Avenue. All the paperwork is in order.

K. PETERSON/REV. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE REQUEST FOR THE PLACEMENT OF THE HANDICAP SIGN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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S. SHURGOT: since this is a new council we do not have committees at this time. We will start with Linda Kirk, the former Public Safety Chair, with the reports to end the year.

L. KIRK: Eastern Area responded to 33 calls and had 18 transports. They had an average response time of 8.9 minutes for non-emergency and 7.1 minutes for emergency calls. They administered no Narcan in December.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: we had a total of 369 calls in December. They included 10 animal complaints, 10 assaults, 46 assist police, 7 domestic disputes, 1 escort, 1 fleeing and eluding police, 5 fugitive arrests, 17 local ordinance, 1 motor vehicle crash, 9 narcotics, 6 PFA's, 6 theft, 100 traffic stop, 4 warrant. There was a total of 34 arrests for December, they included, 1 aggravated assault, 1 dog law, 9 narcotics, 1 prohibited weapon, 6 simple assault, 3 theft, and 7 warrants from other agencies. I also have the year ending and for the year of 2017 there were a total of 4667 events with a total of 364 arrests.

L. KIRK: I just received the fire report for the month. There were 34 calls, 15 in town and 19 out of town. They had 1 work detail, 3 trainings, and 5 maintenance hours on equipment.

S. SHURGOT: any of last year's committees have any business to bring before council at this time?

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO PAY APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

D. GILLILAND: 2 items, both the Demolition projects and it's the same as last month. We are still waiting on the County to draw up a grant agreement for the CITF and the COG still has not received the County's grant agreement for the demolition agreement or the 2 houses on the 300 block of Welsh Avenue. Once we get the grant agreements we can advertise for bids.

S. SHURGOT: I got a letter from the Economic Development that is nothing we are waiting on right?

D. GILLILAND: We can apply and the submission period doesn't begin till March.

S. SHURGOT: Mallory is filling in for our Solicitor and she has no report.

NEW BUSINESS

J. THOMAS/ P. SHURGOT TO APPOINT MR. TONY FRYDRYCH TO OUR VACANCY BOARD.

S. SHURGOT: Mr. Frydrych do you accept?

T. FRYDRYCH: I do.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/K.PETERSON TO RETAIN THE CURRENT SOLICITOR AND ENGINEER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

P. SHURGOT/K. PETERSON TO RETAIN THE CURRENT NEWSPAPER FOR LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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S. SHURGOT: after the meeting we are going to recognize the Allegheny County Police Department on their 1 year anniversary and we have some light refreshments and cake. We ask that you all stay for that. I would like to reflect on the year. I think we had 1 of the better years in the history this year and everyone on council needs to be commended. It started with Ice Plant Hill and the county helping us to get the road opened, then the County police came in and the stride it has taken in this community is unbelievable, then we had the school open up and they are looking to redevelop more, the castle is at a standstill but Senator Brewster and Rep. Markosek got him a million dollar grant to get the project going. We have one of our worst landlords in town on the run, unfortunately we had to close a major building down and impose a detour and we apologize for that but there is a major concern with the fire escapes falling. If we rip the fire escapes down there is a liability to the Borough, under emanate domain we have the right to do what we need to do but unfortunately we do not have the funding to demolish the building. It's been at sheriff sale 3 times and been postponed. Then we have the property on Middle Avenue, for 10 months, trying to get a wall resolved. We continue to get rave review on Al Hussey and his fire investigation and education. The code department seems to be doing a really good job and I think we have turned a corner. Wilmerding is getting to be the place where people are coming and we are getting rid of the bad people. I commend the citizens for having faith in us although I know we don't get stuff done as often or as quickly as you would like but there is some legal stuff that we worry about. The laws aren't written for the people who enforce them it seems they are written for the criminals. The engineering firm got us a grant for the Wall Street project that was mandatory to complete. Bob Zischkau at Glenn Engineering was able to get the gas and water company to pave the entire street up there instead of just patching where they dug. I want to thank you all for your patience.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: as you know I have been trying to keep in contact with Mr. Graff, he sent me a letter that he asked me to read. It is an update on the Castle that states he is still in the fundraising stage of development. The project is estimated to cost \$12 million in whole. They have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1 million. He has been working on getting private equity on the project and meeting with private investors. They have addition application for grants submitted. I have spoken with Mr. Graff about repairing the clock and have been told that he is in the process of getting this repaired.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a celebration of Allegheny County Police. We also recognized Officer Joe Risher for his outstanding professionalism and exceptional community activities in Wilmerding. Unfortunately Officer Risher will be leaving us but he has done so much in our community and with our children. Officer Risher was also recognized by the Superintendent of Allegheny County Police for his role in our community.