

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:05 pm.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss pending litigation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

M. TRKULA / REV. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

MS. A. LOVETT, WELSH AVE.: I have pictures here of vacant homes where the grass and weeds have not been cut. It is starting to attract rodents. You need to find these owners and tell them to cut it down.

MR. M. JAKUB: all of them have gotten warning letters. You have to send them a notice and so many days to get it cut. There is a process that we have to follow if we want to take any course of action.

MS. A. LOVETT: how long do you give them.

MR. M. JAKUB: I believe it is 30 days.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the house at 349 -3534 is in bankruptcy court. The borough did not cause these problems, the owner did. We are trying to get funding to tear some of these houses down.

MS. A. LOVETT: don't you have an ordinance on how grass is supposed to be. You need to follow up on these. Can I have the paperwork on the houses that I gave to you so I can see what was done?

MR. S. SHURGOT: you can stop in the code office and see Louise.

MR. R. REAGAN, MIDDLE AVE.: I was here last year about the black locust tree that is growing on the property adjacent to mine and sooner or later it is going to come down and hit the house that has small children in it and someone is going to get hurt.

MR. S. SHURGOT: as we told you before, that is a civil matter between you and the homeowner. The tree is not on borough property. We do not have any ordinances on trees.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the borough cannot go on private property.

MR. R. REAGAN: is there a way you can get some legislation on trees.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: what kind of legislation do you want? You have the right to go to the Magistrate. You can get an estimate on cutting the tree down and pass the cost on to the property owner.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

MS. C. SONNIE, PAT MEWS DR.: the residents from 108 to 115 Pat Mews Drive would like to thank you for taking the basketball hoops down. You don't know what an amazing transformation that was.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a request from Agape Fellowship Christian Community Center to block off Caldwell Avenue from Herman Avenue to Clara Street on August 2nd from 11 am to 8 pm for their annual block party.

K. PETERSON / M. TRKULA TO GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO BLOCK OFF THE STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Received a notice on the annual joint conference of Townships and Boroughs to be held from Sept. 25 -28 at Seven Springs.

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

MR. S. SHURGOT: I just received a call as Emergency Management Coordinator that there is a major water break in Wall by the bus garage.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: for the month of June Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 51 calls with an average response time for emergencies of 7.4 minutes and for non-emergencies 7.7 minutes. Totals for the second quarter were 137 calls with an average response time for emergencies of 6.9 minutes and for non-emergencies 8.6 minutes. So far for the six months of 2014 they have responded to 283 calls with an average of 6.95 minutes for emergencies and 8.05 minutes for non-emergencies.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: the person we hired for summer help, Ali Stewart, got another part time job. We did have an additional application of file from Dominic Colwell who lives on Marguerite Ave. He was interviewed by the committee and we would like to hire him.

W. PRICENER / J. THOMAS TO HIRE DOMINIC COLWELL AS A PART TIME SUMMER EMPLOYEE AT \$8.00 AN HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. W. PRICENER: we now have a full contingent of workers for the summer. They are out weed whacking and cutting the grass. They did go up on Orient Avenue and cut back the weeds. They have bought paint for the curbs and cross walks and they will be starting on that. They will also be out hot patching early next week.

MR. S. SHURGOT: did you get the brush hog from Wall.

MR. M. JAKUB: no, we are going to be working with North Versailles.

MAYOR J. WRIGHT: once the lines are painted we need the police to start enforcing the parking ordinances.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – S. GLENN: report was given at the workshop.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

MR. J. THOMAS: how often do they televise the sewers.

MS. S. GLENN: it is done in phases and also it is determined by how bad the sewer lines are.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO HAVE THE ENGINEER ADVERTISE FOR THE TELEVISIONING OF THE SEWERS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITIES, WITH THE FUNDS COMING OUT OF THE SEWER FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

MS. K. PETERSON: I forgot to mention this to the public works. There is a pile of debris on Card Avenue at the top of Lydia that needs to be picked up.

Are we taking down the signs at the end of the bridge like we decided to do so that area is not so cluttered?

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: no report.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: at our meeting we were discussing on improving the building codes, Ordinance 996. We are looking at ways to make our town safer and the housing unsightly.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Wilmerding has been accepted into the Allegheny County Vacant Property Program. This is a good way for people to buy houses or empty lots next to them. They only award money to get two houses done a year. If anyone is interested in this program we have the applications here or you can contact Allegheny County. The deadline for applications is August 30, 2014.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – G. EVASHAVIK: we conducted two title searches for condemnation. One is at 349-353 Welsh Avenue. That one is in bankruptcy court. This ties our hands and we will put that on the back burner. The other one is at 223 Maple Avenue (Third Street), and we can proceed with the condemnation hearing on that property. We can do the hearing at our next meeting, August 5th. This would need to be advertised in the newspaper and notices to be sent out to the owners and anyone else who has any interest in that property.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE FOR THE CONDEMNATION HEARING FOR 223 MAPLE AVE. (THIRD STREET) ON TUESDAY AUGUST 5, 2014 BEGINNING AT 6 PM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS

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

MR. J. THOMAS: when we purchased the skid steer I thought that we were going to make payments over 60 months. I would like the Solicitor to review the agreement to make sure it is not a lease and that we own the equipment after five years.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Also, the bills for the street lights have come down since 2008. In 2008 we were paying \$6,000 a month for the street lights and in June of 2014 we paid \$5,083 for them.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I know the Finance Committee met with Maiello and talked about the delinquents. I would like to file judgments against the people who owe the most and also start sending out distrant letters again.

MR. J. THOMAS: how much do you want to spend? We are still waiting on the Airbrake appeal.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we can send out the distrant letters, it doesn't cost us anything.

MR. W. PRICENER: they set up agreements to make payments, there is nothing we can do as long as they are making the payments.

RECREATION – S. SMITH: the recreation committee worked the bingo at the festival.

National Night Out will be on Tuesday August 5th at 7:30 pm in the park. We will be having a DJ this year and it is Jimmy Bacco.

OLD BUSINESS

MAYOR J. WRIGHT: the water company dug up a water line on Welsh Avenue and didn't find anything. It was filled in within an hour.

J. BARRETT, HERMAN AVE.: I would like to thank the borough for cleaning up around the townhouses during the festival. Also, the minutes for the May meeting are not posted.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we had to renew the website and everything should be on there within a week.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. G. HOMITZ, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: the Historical Society would like to help put the 125th Anniversary book together. Also, the CIAC put together a DVD called My Hometown. It talks about how Wilmerding has progressed through the years.

REV. D. REEVES: someone asked me if we could have a Farmer's Market in town. I will try to get more information on this.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the Crime Watch meeting will be on July 16th at 6 pm, there will be a meeting of the 125th Anniversary for anyone that is interested on July 22nd at 6:30 pm and National Night Out will be on August 5th at 7:30 pm in the park. We are also going to set up a meeting with the new Fire Marshall and the Building Inspector.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

MAYOR'S REMARKS – J. WRIGHT: this will be my last meeting since I am resigning on August 1st. We will be moving two days before that. It has been a pleasure working with you.

MR. S. SHURGOT: so far we have received two letters of interest for the Mayor's position. All letters of interest should be received by July 15th so we can discuss them at our workshop. We will meet with the candidates on July 22nd after the anniversary meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.