

WILMERDING BOROUGH
MINUTES FROM JULY 2, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:08 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

Council met in executive session for a litigation and personnel matter.

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

P. SHURGOT/L.KIRK MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2019 MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

N. RONALLO PAT MEWS DRIVE: What is going on with the Castle?

S. SHURGOT: I drove by the other day and looked at the weeds, maybe the Mayor can add something to this, but we heard that he hoped to start by the end of summer. Council has had no contact from him.

G. JAKUB: the last I talked to him was May when I forced him to board up all the windows on the first floor. He did that and the last thing he told me was the money was on the way. He's been telling us that for months.

N. RONALLO: the mayor always said he talked to Mr. Graff all the time but nothing's happening, all we hear about now is the Community Center.

S. SHURGOT: the Park House is empty; he's not trying to put anyone in the building. The Faller building deed was sold and he is now responsible for all the stuff against it. We found out this guy also bought the Rivertown in North Huntingdon real cheap. He has a bad track history; he buys stuff and doesn't do anything with them. He is probably worse than the previous owner. 318 Middle Avenue, Al is working on it as well as us. She doesn't want to do anything until she gets her insurance settlement which is in court, which can take years. We are trying to push her to make the repairs. The Castle, he had a time table and we cannot force him to move quicker until he gets the money. We are trying to keep everything moving but we have hit a wall.

G. JAKUB: you can't make him do what he doesn't have. He has not gotten the money. The government money is in a stand still.

E. BARRETT HERMAN AVENUE: since we had the power outage the lights at the Memorial have been off. Also, the Borough website has not been updated. The May minutes are not posted, the code enforcement hasn't been updated since March, the Recreation has absolutely nothing on it, and the zoning and planning committees show people who have been gone for years. Nobody is updating the website. Those of us that don't get a garbage bill do not receive a newsletter.

P. SHURGOT: I get a newsletter and I pay my bill at the beginning of the year.

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C. LANG: there are a few streets on this side of town that have not been sent but all of across town have been sent. I will send everything over to the person that takes care of the website and we will get that taken care of and the newsletters will all go out next week when I come back

K. MAXWELL: I have asked Tony 3 times to turn the lights back on.

C. LANG: he was over there the other day.

P. SHURGOT: Tony is off till next Tuesday.

K. MAXWELL: I can swing by on my way home and turn them on.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We received a letter from the Wilmerding Volunteer Fire Department. They added a change to the bylaws, article 2 section 1 subsection B that a member can be the age of 14 upon acceptance. The member would be a Cadet member and will follow a special set of SOG's set up by the officers.

P. SHURGOT: please send a letter of response to them. They need to not follow the SOG's of the fire department; they need to go by the state regulation for adolescents. They are not allowed in a burning building, they have to have working papers, and they can only volunteer during certain hours.

S. SHURGOT: We also need to check with our insurance. I will send the letter telling them to hold off until we check on everything.

2. Signstat sent a new quote for the Lions Club sign to make it remote. It would be through Verizon wireless. The new quote is \$1840.00 for the modem and install then we would need to go purchase a sim card at Verizon wireless.

J. THOMAS: contact Comcast and see if we can get a quote from them. I think that's a lot of money, the technology in that sign is ancient.

COMMITTEE REPORT

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: for the month of June Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 62 calls and had 33 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.9 minutes and for non-emergences it was 8.8 minutes.

For the half year they responded to 303 calls and had 199 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.5 minutes and for non-emergences was 9.5 minutes.

The fire department responded to 51 calls, 20 were in town and 31 were out of town. They had 4 work details, 4 trainings, and 2 classes. There were a few members that were just recertified for fire fighter 1 which will get them more money from the state.

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LT. MCCLELLAN: for the month of June we had 360 events. A brief summary of the calls were as follows: 3 abandoned vehicles, 6 animal complaints, 6 assaults, 2 criminal mischief, 14 disturbances, 19 domestics, 2 DUI, 1 escorts, 1 fugitive arrest, 15 local ordinance, 7 missing persons, 2 motor vehicle crashes, 2 narcotics, 7 PFA's, 1 recover stolen vehicle, 3 thefts, 96 traffic stops, and 3 warrants. There were 21 arrests, 3 for narcotics, 3 DUI, 3 fugitives, 3 simple assaults, 2 harassment, 1 criminal trespass, 1 dog law violation, 1 firearms charge, 1 underage drinking, and 3 aggravated assault.

L.KIRK: July 8th at 6 p.m. is the Crime Watch meeting. Fire inspector Hussey will discuss "Sound the Alarm" which is coming up on July 20th. The Red Cross will be providing smoke detector's to anyone who is in need.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – A. HUSSEY: there were a total of 25 inspections for the month, 18 passed, and 7 failed and 0 were rescheduled. There were 32 complaints for the month, 3 car fires, 1 kitchen fire and 1 electrical fire.

PUBLIC WORKS - P. SHURGOT: They were busy cutting grass and spraying weeds around town. They repaired the park where the old pine trees were removed, and removed the Belgium block and filled in where those trees came down, they fixed the lawn mower and did clean up throughout the town. We were notified on Friday that Chris Risher, the part time laborer, has turned in his 2 week notice.

G. JAKUB: can you have them do up by the Wilmerding sign?

P. SHURGOT: they did, it was done a few days ago.

ENGINEER – A. PRINCE: 413 Welsh/Orient slide, there was an application submitted for the Hazard Mitigation Grant to demolish the 2 houses and regrade the ground. PA Rock and Soil submitted a quote of \$16,466.00 to perform the soil testing and engineering design. If approved we could then get bids to begin the process and utilize the CD 45 grant money. Neither grant will cover the cost of the study. 2018 inlet project is still not completed, we will keep on them. CD 44 Airbrake park was completed, Herman avenue sewer separation which ALCOSAN has approved an 85% grant for will have bids opened in mid-July and should be available for the August meeting. CD 46 pre applications are due in August so Council should be thinking of what projects to apply for. Councilwoman Kirk has suggested to rebuild the handicap ramp into the building on the Commerce Street entrance. Morningside Avenue slide was reviewed and Mr. Glenn said this is not a major slide more of a settlement resulting from poor soil conditions. There has not been a history of soil sliding below but the solution to remedy this would be to reinforce the street subsurface the rough estimate project cost would be \$56,750.00 Sprague Street slide is being handled by PennDOT who has a lot of slides going on but that is at the top of their list to be completed.

G. JAKUB: CD 44 Airbrake Park improvements, I was contacted to go over and look at it and it appears there was a mis- measurement. The surface area was not all the way to the boundaries.

S. SHURGOT: the company who took the material out took the framing out which left a gap. They had no option but to roll it and they are to come back and backfill it but I have concerns with that.

L. KIRK: what initially happened was the company that did the tear down removed the wood and they told Tony they would leave it but when Monday rolled around the wood was gone. When Dave contacted them he was told it was rotted but no one saw that.

G. JAKUB: should we sign of on that if it's not technically completed to standards?

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L. KIRK: the company that did the install said this was their 2nd way of doing it. Dave said they would come back and backfill it with dirt.

COG – K. PETERSON: We discussed demolitions with asbestos and the new person in the Health Department decided this is what needs to be done. However a new person may be coming in so it could be changing. We then started talking about lead paint and they are talking about fees for that too. They are going to have a meeting and I will keep you informed.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: along with the Park completion the area was also top soiled and reseeded. The dirt was filled in the park where the trees were removed but we do not have enough Belgium block to fill in where the trees were.

K. PETERSON: what happened to all of the Belgium block?

L. KIRK: they were bought by R.J. Jim said we would need a lot and we only have half of what we need. I've never liked the block but I think we need to look at other options.

S. SHURGOT: Joe do you remember when we had Dave look into taking that out and what the estimate was.

J. HARTZELL: I remember doing it but I don't remember the cost

S. SHURGOT: maybe it's something we can reexamine? We can do concrete with a decorative planter about 2' high.

L. KIRK: the cleaning and painting day at WCC was a success and a lot of work was completed. Thanks to everyone who volunteered. We are going to have another volunteer day but we are not sure when.

UTILITIES – K. PETERSON: nothing.

SOLICITOR - G EVASHAVIK: we have bid openings for the 2009 Ford pickup and a parcel of land that fronts on St. Joseph Drive, both of which have been advertised at council's request. We received 1 bid for the vacant land 2 bids for the truck. The 1st bid on the truck was from Edward Colosimo in the amount of \$3999.00. The 2nd bid is from Baron Landscaping in the amount of \$4100.00. You have the option to vote to award tonight, you can sit on it for a month or you can reject them. There was 1 bid on the land from Robert J. Comunale in the amount of \$500.00 and has submitted the full amount in a cashier's check.

P. SHURGOT: so this would go back on the tax rolls correct?

G. EVASHAVIK: correct and I'm going to turn this all over to the Borough Secretary.

K. PETERSON/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE BID ON THE 2009 FORD PICKUP TRUCK FROM BARON LANDSCAPING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4100.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

K. PETERSON/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE BID ON PARCEL 546-B-333 FROM ROBERT J. COMUNALE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

FINANCE – J/ THOMAS:

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J. THOMAS/ P. SHURGOT TO PAY ALL THE AUTHORIZED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 6-0.

J. THOMAS/K. PETERSON TO REPAY THE SEWAGE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00 WHICH WAS USED TO PAY FOR THE DEMOLITION GRANT WHICH THE COUNTY HAS SINCE REIMBURSED US FOR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO REPLACE THE LOGS AT AVENUE U PLAYGROUND WITH NEW RAILROAD TIES NOT TO EXCEED \$2000.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

L. KIRK: Tony had gotten a price together for that.

C. LANG: the quote he gave was for \$1164.00

J. THOMAS: we finally got the information from Duquesne light on the LED light replacement. I spoke a couple months ago about doing Sprague Street to Card Avenue but I since revised my plan and I feel we should do Sprague Street and down Station that way we can meet the new lights we had put on Station, all of Station would then be completed.

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO APPROVE REPLACE 10 STREETLIGHTS FROM SPRAGUE STREET DOWN TO STATION STREET WITH 43 WATT LED LIGHTS, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

G. JAKUB: can you ask them about the inspection of the poles they did? They dug everything up and they did not tamp anything back. I have concerns about that. I asked one of the guys and he informed me that id the pole was not good they would put metal stays on the sides but I have yet to see anything.

L. KIRK: what was the purpose of that?

J. THOMAS: to see if the poles were good.

P. SHURGOT: when are we done paying WABTEC?

J. THOMAS: next year.

P. SHURGOT: so next year can we start thinking about purchasing a brush hog because they came in and did it but we need it done more often.

K. MAXWELL: can we get garbage collection updates.

C. LANG: Maiello just sent them to me but they are very long. I will email them to you all.

J. THOMAS: let me go in and add the address because they are in by account numbers. The real estate is very long but we have accounts on there that go back to the early 1900's. I asked Greg if we could write that off and he said no, the easiest way is for Maiello to take it off of our books so we would not see it on our sheets, it would still be there but it would cut down the pages. With that list we have been looking into who needs to be taken to court or liens for garbage and taxes.

K. MAXWELL: we talked about the liens we wanted to do but have we finalized that?

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J. THOMAS: That's what we have been working on but there were some question so we will talk about it at workshop. The list will be sent to Maiello then they file the liens and bill us.

RECREATION – K. MAXWELL: I have some dates for the remainder of the year. National Night out will be August 6th, there will be a DJ and other activities in the park. It was suggested that I separate Octoberfest and Halloween. If we continue to do and Octoberfest it will be in September possibly the 14th. Halloween kid's parade and party will be October 26th and the Light up Night with Santa will be December 7th. At the Halloween Party I will hand out the forms for the letters.

PLANING – REV. REEVES:

S. SHURGOT: Rev. Reeves is absent but everyone received a copy of the Planning Commission Minutes from the May meeting

OLD BUSINESS

S. SHURGOT: did everyone look at the property use forms? Please have your thoughts for the workshop.

J. THOMAS: do we have a timeframe for the Herman Avenue Sewer project?

A. PRINCE: the bids should be opened in mid-July and we should have the results for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

K. PETERSON: a few people posted about doing a yard sale in the park again if we could put it on the website or something.

K. MAXWELL: crime watch was talking about doing one

K. PETERSON: there was like 5 or 6 people who said they would like to do something I like August.

S. SHURGOT: pick a date and advertise it.

P. SHURGOT: just make sure whatever they bring to the park they remove from the park and we can't supply tables or chairs.

MAYORS REMARKS: last Monday I met with CIAC about a property at 504 Westinghouse. They want to see if they can work something out with the county. We are working together on this and they are looking at a couple of other houses up on Card.

K. PETERSON MOTION TO ADJORN 8.04 P.M.

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