

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM JULY 7, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

**ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOE HARTZELL, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.**

**K. MAXWELL/L.KIRK MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2020 MEETING WITH CORRECTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**ARLENE WALKER, ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH:** I am the new pastor at the church and we have a small issue. We have a sewer smell at the church, I called ALCOSAN and they come out and checked but found nothing. I saw that there was some sewer issues on Airbrake Avenue and was wondering if that would have anything to do with the issue on Bridge Street.

S. SHURGOT: Adam can you take a look at that the sewer on Middle and Bridge.

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**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK:** I gave you some info about the fire department but I do not have a report for the month. Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 38 calls and had 24 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 8.3 minutes and for non-emergences it was 12.8 minutes.

**LT. MCCLELLAN:** for the month of June we had 263 events. A brief summary of the calls were as follows: 5 abandoned vehicles and we now have a Sergeant that is responsible for those now and he is being very proactive and getting those moved a lot quicker then we have in the past. We also had 7 animal complaints, 1 assault, 4 criminal mischief, 14 disturbances, 8 domestics, 1 DUI, 1 escorts, 9 local ordinance, 6 motor vehicle crashes, 2 PFA's, 3 thefts, 27 traffic stops, and 1 warrant. There were 11 arrests, 2 Disorderly conducts, 1 DUI, 1 EWOC, 2 harassments, 2 Open lewdness, 1 public drunkenness, 1 theft by deception, and 1 simple assault. The open lewdness, which is pretty rare for us, was 1 man who was urinating over the bridge railing in the middle of the night and a homeless man, who has since left town, who decided to strip naked and change his clothes in the park in the middle of the day.

**J. HARTZELL:** on the abandoned vehicles, do you have a car at 425 Card Avenue in the alley on the list?

**LT. MCCLELLAN:** it was tagged earlier this week.

**G. JAKUB:** who is responsible for the abandoned vehicles now?

**LT. MCCLELLAN:** Sgt. Soltrik who works a split shift so you will see him at different times during the week.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT – A. HUSSEY:** everyone received a copy of the report.

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**PUBLIC WORKS - P. SHURGOT:** our new laborer we were going to hire, Mike Kelly, refuses to punch in so he is no longer going to be employed by the Borough.

**G. JAKUB:** Is he going to keep the weed trimmer that was purchased for him?

**C.LANG:** no we have it. Al got it back and it is in the fire department garage.

**A. HUSSEY:** so at the end of each day I would meet Mr. Kelly and get the equipment back so that it did not disappear. It is in the fire department and we will let people use it if needed.

**S. SHURGOT:** there are some pictures that surfaced of this gentleman going on people's porches and going through belongings. He has been putting stuff in garbage cans and wheeling them down the street. He should not be going on anyone's property without jurisdiction correct?

**G. EVASHAVIK:** correct, that is trespassing.

**LT. MCCLELLAN:** we can have an officer talk to him.

**P. SHURGOT/L. KIRK TO RESIND HIS OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT FOR MIKE KELLY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**P. SHURGOT:** we still need to find a laborer, Caroline have you received pricing?

**C. LANG:** yes the information is in your packets. The Tribune Review would post in 5 papers on 7/23 and the cost is \$614.24, if we do just Tribune Review Sunday it would be \$735, and the Post-Gazette for 2 Sundays and 1 Thursday is \$1139.

**L. KIRK:** looking over the ad do you think we should add a salary range?

**S. SHURGOT:** I think it is a good idea.

**P. SHURGOT:** as we discussed I feel we need to up the starting rate.

**P. SHURGOT/K. BELIN TO INCREASE THE STARTING RATE TO \$15.00/HR AND ADVERTISE FOR A LABORER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**P. SHURGOT:** so they have started cleaning up everything starting with Middle and Airbrake. They cut a tree down in the Airbrake Park and at the end of the walkway there are 2 trees that I'm going to see if he can cut them down.

**L. KIRK:** he also cut all those bushes by the fence in the park, they had that fire over there and he cleaned up all of the brush.

**P. SHURGOT:** they also cleaned up at the Community Center and cut a tree down from the side of the building. They have installed the touchless faucet and paper towel dispenser in the handicap bathroom; they uncovered the manholes on Herman that were sealed with asphalt. They are going to begin painting the curbs and crosswalks in the upcoming weeks. They also assisted with State Pipe and found that the manhole is located where there is a vault Adam do you have any information.

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**A. PRINCE:** I do not have information on that.

**J. THOMAS:** I was there with Tony and Teddy, there is a blockage and we will have to see what they recommend.

**P. SHURGOT:** Caroline when the summer helpers go to assist East McKeesport do they pay them or do we.

**C. LANG:** we pay them, it was a trade for the days they came down to help Tony with Avenue U Park and some other things.

**K. MAXWELL:** what about the water weeds?

**P. SHURGOT:** they are still on his list; I will discuss that with him again.

**L. KIRK:** there are still a lot of curb weeds as well.

**G. JAKUB:** if they are going to paint the curb they will probably clean all of those up.

**S. SHURGOT:** they are getting a lot done but there was just so much to catch up on. He is working with Paula on things and we could probably use about 3 more guys right now but we can't find them.

**J. HARTZELL:** can you have Tony pick up the tree branches on Caldwell Avenue.

**P. SHURGOT:** yes I will call him in the morning.

**J. HARTZELL:** also there are 2 tires on Middle Avenue.

**P. SHURGOT:** Lt. McClellan is there anything the police can do about that because they just showed up.

**LT. MCCLELLAN:** we can have guys keep an eye on it more but we cannot do anything with them.

**P. SHURGOT:** Al can you get them and bring them down to EAPS; we can then bill the Borough for that.

**K. MAXWELL:** can we get rid of the ones at the WCC also.

**P. SHURGOT:** yes but I'm not sure of the fee.

**ENGINEER – A. PRINCE:** I have nothing else aside from what was discussed in the workshop aside from a list of properties for the demolition grant.

**S. SHURGOT:** everyone emailed Caroline their list before she was off so she can get that to you. I see we also need to pass this resolution.

**J. HARTZELL:** how many properties can we submit?

**A. PRINCE:** as many as you want under the grant limit of \$300,000.00 with a 10% match. Demolitions run between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for a traditional building.

**J. HARTZELL:** I think we should do ones on flat streets because they should be cheaper.

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**P. SHURGOT:** but some of the worst houses are up on the hills.

**J. HARTZELL:** this is a competitive grant and we are competing against others and COG. There is only \$12 million for the whole state.

**J. THOMAS:** Greg Evashavik can we do all of the hearings on the same night and Adam do you know what the cost would be to have these homes condemned? We can always move forward and even if we don't get this grant we will be ready if another one comes around. Also, I thought COG was out of the running and that's why we were doing our own.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** yes you can hold them all on the same night.

**A. PRINCE:** I'm not sure what the fee would be, it would depend if Dave does it or has it done by an outside firm.

**J. HARTZELL:** COG is bidding for 6 towns.

**P. SHURGOT:** why are we not one of the towns?

**J. HARTZELL:** I'm not sure.

**S. SHURGOT:** we never got information last year and I don't know how COG didn't include us.

**J. HARTZELL:** I remember Caroline saying something about it.

**C. LANG:** we received an email from Amanda saying that COG didn't have enough towns to go through with it and they suggested that we all do it independently.

**J. HARTZELL:** they are doing a multi community grant.

**S. SHURGOT:** so we were misled. They couldn't get communities but now they have 6.

**P. SHURGOT/K. MAXWELL TO PASS THE RESOLUTION 2020-5 FOR BLIGHT REMEDIATION GRANT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**COG – J. HARTZELL:** They voted to buy a new Vactor so they will have 2; I'm not sure what the price is. They are also looking into Glass Recycling. We submitted a letter of support to DCED to locate a dumpster in our area. We talked about the blight problem and she has been going to meetings about the east busway, a group of CMU students are studying public transit in our area. The \$500,000.00 grant for road reconstruction, she said if we get approved we can resubmit for a different street since Westinghouse was half done.

**G. JAKUB:** we only have some of it we still need to finish it.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL:** The tree will come down this weekend and he will take a look at the tree on Westinghouse. Steve had to do payroll while Caroline was out and complained about the computer so I was looking at new equipment. If we replace the tower it will be cheaper.

**C. LANG:** the computer does not have a tower, it is all internal.

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**S. SHURGOT:** we don't need an all in one we can get the separate tower and monitor. It should not take over an hour to get the computer to run, no wonder Caroline can't get anything done.

**K. MAXWELL:** well I didn't get a price on a monitor but getting a 2TB external hard drive is \$70.00 and around \$900.00 for the computer. They do have all in one computers but I feel it is better to separate them.

**S. SHURGOT:** we looked into the Microsoft drive plan, it is \$150.00 per month and you get access to all the Microsoft features plus teams meeting and storage. You would be able to work from home.

**P. SHURGOT/L.KIRK TO PURCHASE A NEW COMPUTER TOWER, MONITOR AND THE MICROSOFT ONE DRIVE PLAN NOT TO EXCEED \$1200.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL:** we are issuing the check for the new LED's.

**L. KIRK:** when is Duquesne Light is getting ready on Airbrake because the water company is also preparing to dig up the road.

**SOLICITOR - G EVASHAVIK:** you will need to vote on the guidance for returning employees whether you want to adopt a policy or take no action at this time.

**P. SHURGOT/J. HARTZELL TO FOLLOW THE AHN POLICY ON RETURNING EMPLOYEES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS/ K. BELIN TO PAY ALL THE AUTHORIZED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** I had updated you on the finances and as stated we really do not know for sure what will happen at this time.

**J. HARTZELL:** can we get a list of what was purchased with the debit card?

C. LANG: I can send you either the check log monthly or a copy of the receipt. Usually it is just used at the post office.

**RECREATION – K. BELIN:** nothing to report

**PLANING – K. BELIN:** they had a planning meeting and are just trying to refine their comprehensive plan and looking for grants to apply for.

**S. SHURGOT:** have you given any thoughts to Nation Night Out which usually happens in August?

**C. LANG:** National Night Out has been postponed till October.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**P. SHURGOT:** any update on the sign?

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**C. LANG:** they came out while I was out of the office. Tony and John were able to get the SIM card but I was unaware that we needed an IP address. I worked on that from home and got that taken care of and now we are waiting for them to come back out to see if we can get it working.

**P. SHURGOT:** are all of the Rental Agreements turned in?

**C. LANG:** no, Al has the information and was to begin issuing the citations in June when the courts reopened. I am not sure if he has begun to do this so I do not know the exact status.

**P. SHURGOT:** I will discuss this with AL tomorrow.

**S. SHURGOT:** this was all due in before the pandemic correct?

**C. LANG:** the due date was March 31th. The letters are sent the beginning of January, late letters were sent out the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April telling the owners that due to the pandemic we were not requiring tenant signatures. It did help with a few but we still have several outstanding.

**J. HARTZELL:** when do we charge the tenants and collect.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** we can issue a distraint letter for taxes only. This would mandate that the tenants pay their rent to the borough.

**S. SHURGOT:** we have been taking people to the magistrate for garbage.

**C. LANG:** we have gone to the magistrate for both taxes and garbage. MBM has had a very good success rate with the delinquent garbage and most people have been to pay current as well.

**K. MAXWELL:** how many storm inlets are we doing and where are they being done at?

**C. LANG:** there were 6 of them but I cannot remember the locations of all of them.

**A. PRINCE:** I will pull the list and take off the ones that were completed with the Herman Avenue project.

**G. JAKUB:** we never discussed who is trimming the bushes and trees on Westinghouse Avenue.

**E. BARRETT:** this came up at the CIAC meeting and it was decided that they would maintain them. Pastor Reed will be working on them.

**P. SHURGOT:** can we also have the Pastor check the ones on Station Street.

**K. MAXWELL:** we are getting killed on all these fireworks. The police have not been responding quickly enough to these calls, what can we do?

**G. JAKUB:** I spoke with the inspector regarding this.

LT. MCCLELLAN: by the time you call and they get the call and respond the individuals are gone. We are trying to keep up on it and hopefully now that the week is over it will slow down

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

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**MAYORS REMARKS:** none

LT. MCLELLAN: Mr. Hartzell I just checked into the blue Saturn and that is on private property so we have to have the property owner sign off to have it towed. We have been trying to get in touch with the owners.

**L. KIRK MOTION TO ADJORN 8:20 P.M.**