

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:11 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 issues.

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.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2014 MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. P. LIVERATTI – AIRBRAKE AVE.: several months ago I asked about the alley behind Airbrake Avenue and not being open. We went and talked to someone downtown and they told us that Council has to enforce the ten foot easement that is in our deed.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: whoever told you that is wrong. That is private property and the borough does not get involved in that sort of dispute. You would have to file a complaint against your neighbor. The borough has no legal authority to address this problem.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: that is the same way on Welsh Avenue. The property between Welsh and Wood is in every deed and you have to provide so much space.

MS. C. SONNIE, PAT MEWS DRIVE: an update on the Avenue U playground. There have been numerous times that I had to call the police because there were kids at the playground after dusk. Also, you need to put a sign up over there that no one over the age of 12 should be on the playground equipment. They are smoking marijuana over there and there is a young couple that is there every day that go back there. Is there a way that an officer can come down at dusk without us calling? In Turtle Creek they took down the basketball hoops and now no one is ever there. Can you find out why they took them down? The park is very isolated and it should be moved, if not closed, to someplace more visible. When the kids see the police car coming they run under the bridge and onto the side of the creek.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO REMOVE THE BASKETBALL STANDS AT THE AVENUE U PLAYGROUND.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: another suggestion would be to put a six to eight foot fence around it with a lock on it and we could lock it every night.

MR. M. TRKULA: the people on Airbrake Avenue will be starting to complain about the basketball hoops down there. Are we going to take down all of the basketball hoops?

MR. W. PRICENER: no, the one on Avenue U is right up against the houses.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO REMOVE THE BASKETBALL HOOPS FROM AVENUE U, 7-0.

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MR. J. BARRETT, HERMAN AVENUE: two things, the first one is that we are all looking forward to the community days, but last year all the townhouses along Herman Avenue were all strewn with garbage. Have you made arrangements to have someone pick up the garbage this year?

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will make sure they get it.

MR. J. BARRETT: the second thing is that the borough workers did an outstanding job in the park for Memorial Day. Over the weekend there were gangs of kids terrorizing the park, throwing bottles and pulling out the flags. I called the police but the kids were gone before the police got there. They are destroying the park and the monument. Also, there is a sign there that no dogs are allowed in the park but dogs are walked through there every day and some of the owners do not even clean up after their dog. It needs to be enforced or take down the sign.

MR. D. PARISI, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: the Memorial Day services in the park were very nice. The only problem is the cobblestones around the monument. It is very difficult to walk or stand on them. Do you have anything planned in the near future to do something with them.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I agree with you, it is very hard to walk on them. We have to do something there.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a request from St. Jude the Apostle Church for permission to block of Westinghouse Avenue, from Clara Street to Florence, for their annual summer festival scheduled for July 10-12.

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

2. Received a letter from Mayor James Wright submitting his resignation as Mayor effective August 1, 2014 due to health problems in his wife's family and moving from the area to be closer to them.

S. SMITH / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT THE MAYOR'S RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE AUG. 1, 2014. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: for the month of May Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 49 calls. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.1 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.6 minutes.

The fire department did not submit a report for the month of May.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: for the month of May the police department responded to 224 calls and made 6 arrests. A breakdown of some of the calls are: 5 burglaries, 5 criminal mischief complaints, 14 domestics, 4 drug investigations, 6 harrasment, 12 juvenile complaints, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 public intoxication, 6 suspicious activities, 5 suspicious persons, 5 thefts, 7 landlord ordinance and 6 tow tags.

MR. W. PRICENER: I would like to comment Officer O'Donnell on a job well done. My neighbor had two bikes stolen and Officer O'Donnell got the two young ladies who took them and made them walk the bikes back to the owners.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT – S. SHURGOT: everyone received the report for our Code Officer. Also, Mike Jakub is doing a good job going around town checking on high grass and weeds. Mr. Buskirk was successful at the Magistrate in getting favorable results from the citations that he issued.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: there is a lot of loitering going on at King's Way and it is a trouble area. We need to look at a loitering ordinance with a \$300 fine.

MR. J. THOMAS: King's Way is not our property.

MR. W. PRICENER: the guys are filling in the pot holes and cutting the grass and weeds. We are waiting on the brush hog either from Wall or North Versailles. Wall may want some type of donation.

W. PRICENER / S. SMITH TO RESCIND THE OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO JUSTIN FORD FOR FAILURE TO DO THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

W. PRICENER / S. SMITH TO HIRE ALI STEWART, WHO WORKED FOR US LAST YEAR, PROVIDED THAT HE PASSES THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING, AT \$8.00 AN HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. W. PRICENER: as you know Ken Long submitted his resignation last money and Tony Krisher has been filling in for him.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO HIRE TONY KRISHER AS A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE ON THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AT \$12.00 AN HOUR WITH SINGLE BENEFITS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: report was given at the workshop.

MR. S. SHURGOT: WPJWA is preparing to do restoration work on Airbrake Avenue from Line Way to Fifth Street. They will only pave the half of the road that they dug up unless we want them to do the other half at a cost of \$5,194.53.

S. SMITH / W. PRICENER TO HAVE WPJWA PAVE THE OTHER HALF OF AIRBRAKE AVENUE FROM LINE WAY TO FIFTH STREET AT A COST OF \$5,194.53. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: the skid steer came in and it is in use in our public works department.

UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: WPJWA called all the residents about the quality of water and they said it was okay to use.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we are looking at some classes that we would like to attend.

A comment on the playground issue. You need to contact the parents that their children are destroying property. The parents need to know what is going on.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: we are still in litigation with Thomas Altman. There are still two appeals pending before Commonwealth Court. One was scheduled for argument in Harrisburg but I filed a motion to stop this and the Judge granted my request. Therefore, we do not have to go to Harrisburg to argue the appeal

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FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: so far we have collected 85% of the budgeted amount for real estate taxes. The earned income tax is up from last year. We are talking with our delinquent collector to take some individuals to court.

RECREATION – S. SMITH: no report.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: there are some catch basins that need repaired and as soon as our summer workers start Mike will start repairing them.

NEW BUSINESS

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO HIRE AL HUSSEY AS THE FIRE MARSHALL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

M. TRKULA / W. PRICENER TO BUY A GENERATOR FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT, NOT TO EXCEED \$500. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the Airbrake Avenue Walking Trail Phase 2 has been awarded and the contracts have been signed. They should start the project within 2 – 3 weeks.

There has been no action taken to remove the poles that Verizon owns at First and Maple.

Ice Plant Hill is still closed and we have filed papers with Congressman Doyle's office to get the National Guard to help with the slide. Before they can begin they would need a soil sample. There is only one grant per year given out for the use of the National Guard and we are on the list for 2015.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we are looking at a new project to take care of the houses on Airbrake Ave. to see what improvements can be done.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – J. WRIGHT: I had to resign due to health problems in my wife's family who lives out of town and we are moving closer to them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm