

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Smith at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

M. TRKULA / S. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. P. LIVERATTI – AIRBRAKE AVE.: last month I asked about 608 Airbrake Avenue and if it was ever inspected. Thirty days later I still have not received an answer.

MS. K. PETERSON: Louise said that she discussed this with you and that there were some issues with the property.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: doesn't it have to be inspected before it can be occupied. No one is enforcing anything.

MS. K. PETERSON: I believe that she sent them a letter.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: what are you doing about the delinquent taxes and garbage?

MS. S. SMITH: we have a collection agency collecting our delinquencies.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: we are celebrating the borough's 125th Anniversary and I am disappointed that the north side of town was ignored in the book.

MR. S. SHURGOT: if you looked through the book there are no pictures from this side of town either. People live in Wilmerding, not the north side or the south side.

MS. A. LOVETT, WELSH AVE.: what is going on with the burnt our houses on Welsh Avenue, are they going to be torn down. Also what is the status of Ice Plant Hill?

MS. S. SMITH: I am not sure what is going on with the houses. We have applied for a \$500,000 grant to fix the problem on Ice Plant Hill. It is going to cost \$350,000 to fix it. We have not heard anything on the grant.

MS. J. TOMASIC, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: the gentleman that owns the Odd Fellows Hall has to be told every year to cut the grass. The grass is high and there is graffiti on the building. He never comes to check on that property. He needs to be cited or the building condemned.

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MS. G. HOMITZ, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: in the anniversary book there is a DVD showing the redevelopment of Wilmerding and most of it is on the north side of town. The DVD shows how it was back during redevelopment and how it looks today.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Resolution No. 2015-3 authorizing the signing of a cooperation agreement for the Borough of Wilmerding to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for a Keystone Communities Planning Grant.

S. SHURGOT / W. PRICENER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-3 PENDING REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

MR. W. PRICENER: we have to take control of our own destiny. We need to bring new businesses to town and residents to own their own home. If we do not take this chance then why do we have a Council?

MR. M. TRKULA: the attorney did not get the agreement to review so why can't we wait a month. We are not sure if everyone is going to join.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: in this resolution there is no financial obligation. It is asking us to take part in submitting an application along with the other government entities.

ROLL CALL: K. PETERSON, yes; M. TRKULA, no; S. SHURGOT, yes; W. PRICENER, yes; J. THOMAS, yes; S. SMITH, yes. MOTION PASSED, 5-1, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-3 PENDING THE APPROVAL FROM THE SOLICITOR.

2. Resolution 2015-4 authorizing the filing of a proposal for \$25,000 with the Department of Community and Economic Development.

MR. J. THOMAS: does Resolution 3 need Resolution 4.

MS. S. SMITH: yes, they are both related.

MR. J. THOMAS: what is the cost of the expenditures that are ineligible?

MR. W. PRICENER: you have to spend the funds as they are designated to the program. If you follow the guidelines there should be no ineligible expenses.

S. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-4 IN CONJUNCTION WITH RESOLUTION 2015-3 PENDING THE APPROVAL OF THE SOLICITOR.

ROLL CALL: K. PETERSON, yes; M. TRKULA, no; S. SHURGOT, yes; W. PRICENER, yes; J. THOMAS, yes; S. SMITH, yes. MOTION PASSED, 5-1, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2015-4 PENDING THE APPROVAL FROM THE SOLICITOR.

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3. Received a request from St. Jude the Apostle Church to hold its annual summer festival on Thursday, Friday and Saturday July 9, 10 and 11. They would like permission to block off Westinghouse Ave. between the Forest Hill's Medical Associate's office and Clara Street starting at 6 pm.

M. TRKULA / S. SHURGOT TO GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO BLOCK OFF WESTINGHOUSE AVE. STARTING AT 6 PM ON JULY 9, 10 AND 11. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 54 calls in May and had 37 transports. Their average response time to emergencies was 7.0 minutes and for non-emergencies 7.7 minutes. I did not receive a report from the fire department.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: the police department answered 198 calls in May and made 7 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 5 assaults, 2 burglaries, 3 criminal mischief, 7 disturbances, 15 domestics, 2 drug investigations, 1 fraud, 4 harassment, 1 hit and run, 15 juvenile complaints, 2 K-9 narcotics search, 2 K-9 search of vehicle, 2 man with a gun, 1 neighbor dispute, 8 parking complaints, 1 PFA violation, 1 public intoxication, 1 robbery, 4 suspicious activity, 5 terroristic threats, 2 theft from vehicle, 3 traffic accidents and 2 landlord ordinances.

MS. S. SMITH: I received a call about a trailer that is parked at the corner of Card and Lydia. Can you have someone check on that?

MR. S. SHURGOT: firefighters are having a lot of problems because they are dealing with carcinogens. The House just passed a bill on what can be done to deal with this. The Borough's Association is asking us to contact our Legislators and tell them to vote no on Act 46.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – W. PRICENER: Mr. Buskirk worked a total of 57 hours in May. He met with Louise to follow up on inspections and citations to be issued. Checked various properties for property maintenance complaints. Attended hearings at the Magistrate, one was found guilty and one was continued. Inspected and issued occupancy permits for the following rental properties: 468 Airbrake Ave., 526 Airbrake Ave., 236 Card Ave., 621 Station Street, several apartments at 324 Commerce Street, 22 Sprague Street, 53 Sprague Street, 61 Sprague Street and 114 Laur-al Square. Issued occupancy permits for the sale at 320 Station Street, 533 Westinghouse Ave. and 401 Caldwell Ave. Issued building permits for 339 Marguerite Ave. and 426 Airbrake Ave. Met with the architect about renovations at the WABTEC plant.

Louise has received \$22,770 in rental licenses and started issuing citations for "failure to pay the late fee". The new court date for Sean Kerrigan is September 29th. Originally it was scheduled for Election Day. Judge Armour instructed him to set up a payment plan but as of today no payments have been made. During the festival many citizens expressed their distress about the condition of the Parkhouse Building from the fire damage. The fire occurred on April 6th and nothing has been done except boarding up the windows. Mr. Buskirk gave him 30 days to repair the windows. I would like to have a pressure sensitive 3 page report form which can be used for a lot of different purposes. The Code Officer can write on the form the purpose of the inspection.

MS. S. SMITH: the owner of the Parkhouse Building does have insurance but since the windows are an odd size he is waiting for them to be manufactured.

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PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: they continue to pick up trash daily and are cutting the grass and weeds. They did an outstanding job around the park for the festival and also putting up the flags on the poles for Memorial Day. They are patching potholes and putting mulch down where it is needed. They also built a jail cell for the festival. They will be cutting the weeds up on Orient Avenue and Sprague Street. Installed a new stop sign at the corner of Westinghouse Ave. and Station Street. Painted a crosswalk for the walking trail on Airbrake Ave. There is still a water issue in the public works garage and concrete is falling from the ceiling and the water is rusting the equipment. They also need a new computer downstairs, the one they are using now is an old one that Joe was using.

MR. M. TRKULA: can we spray the ceiling with concrete.

MR. D. GILLILAND: the water has to go somewhere, it will find another path.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: all the work on the walking trail has been completed with the exception of sealing which cannot be done until after July 31.

The demolition of 223 Third Street is under contract and will be started within 2-3 weeks.

We have not received any word on when the GEDF Grant award will be announced. If the grant is approved we can then award the sole bid received and proceed with the repairs to Ice Plant Hill. If the grant is not approved then we will have to seek funds elsewhere.

Brunner Home Improvements should have the new door fabricated within the next week or two after which it will be installed.

Lawson Excavating is scheduled to begin work in three weeks on the inlet repairs.

MS. S. SMITH: do we have to pay the balance on the walking trail even though it was not done in a timely manner.

MR. D. GILLILAND: you would have to pay the balance in order to receive the grant money. You may have to sue to get the money.

MS. S. SMITH: the estimate you gave us to pave the roads. You said that we had to replace the curb and patch the street with concrete at a cost of \$95,000. The first estimate you gave us was less, can you check on that.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: I couldn't attend the meeting.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: the door is finished downstairs. We had some file cabinets donated to us to use in the code office. We are still working on moving Louise.

MR. S. SHURGOT: in the park where the reunion tent was there is a green marker for the electrical boxes. The hasps were cut off and the broken cover is missing. We need to get them replaced.

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UTILITIES – S. SMITH: Rev. Reeves is not here tonight but we talked about replacing the street lights on Station Street with LED lights. There are ten lights that we are going to replace at a cost of \$109 per light.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Wilkinsburg did this and it seems that the lights are brighter.

S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO CHANGE TEN STREET LIGHTS ON STATION STREET TO LED LIGHTS.

MR. W. PRICENER: make sure the light output is not reduced.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: report given at workshop.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS.

MR. M. TRKULA: who is Jason Weihagen and why is he getting money.

MR. J. THOMAS: he paid it twice. He refinanced and it was already paid and the bank sent another payment.

MR. M. TRKULA: what is the Kiski Valley Uniform bill for?

MR. J. THOMAS: it is for a coat for the Fire Marshal, Al Hussey.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO PAY THE APPROVED BILLS, 6-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: our taxable value has dropped since January due to a lot of appeals, which we are losing.

RECREATION – S. SHURGOT: on June 24th we will be having a movie in the park starting at 8:30 pm. Also, our Night Out will be on Tuesday August 4th. I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the festival and there were no major incidents.

MR. W. PRICENER: Steve and the committee did an exceptional job.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

W. PRICENER / M. TRKULA TO PURCHASE NEW AIR CONDITIONERS, SIZE APPROPRIATE FOR THE ROOM, FOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE AND THE CODE OFFICE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: I think that we should move ahead with the road paving program.

MR. D. GILLILAND: it takes ten months to get the funds.

MS. S. SMITH: at the Festival Mr. Frank Cortazzo from the PA. State Borough's Association and a former Wilmerding resident, presented a plaque to the borough on its 125th Anniversary. Also, I would like to congratulate Joe and Steve on receiving the Carol Sambol Award for 25 or more years of service to the borough.

Steve, I will be out of town for our meeting on July 7th so you will have to chair the meeting.

PLANNING – J. TOMASIC: we heard the presentation on the Keystone Communities Grant and its five year plan. Would the Planning Commission be a part of that?

MS. S. SMITH: I think they should.

S. SHURGOT / W. PRICENER TO HAVE THE ENGINEER GET PROPOSALS TO REPAIR OR REPLACE THE DOOR ON COMMERCE STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I attended the Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting and we are up to date on our requirements.

MS. S. SMITH: since Mr. Deenihan passed away we have a vacancy on the Zoning Board. Does anybody know anyone that would be interested in serving on the Zoning Board? We still have a vacancy on the Planning Commission as well.

MR. M. JAKUB: I will volunteer for the Zoning Board.

MS. S. SMITH: Greg, since his dad is on the Zoning Board and he works for the borough would there be a conflict of interest.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I do not see any conflict.

MR. M. JAKUB: I will withdraw my name.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA: no comments at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm