

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Smith at 7:28 pm.

MS. S. SMITH: Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss pending litigation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

M. TRKULA / REV. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEB. 3, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITION & MEMORIALS

MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I would like to complement the street department on a good job they are doing with the streets.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a letter of resignation from Anthony Krisher, public works employee, effective March 6, 2015

S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ANTHONY KRISHER FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Received a revised estimate to codify our ordinance book with the new ordinances. The new cost would not exceed \$2,695.

S. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. Received a letter from Mr. Greg Jakub for consideration in filling the vacancy on the Zoning Board.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO APPOINT MR. GREG JAKUB TO THE ZONING BOARD. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. To confirm a phone vote approving the Mortgage Satisfaction for 316 Station Street.

S. SHURGOT / J. THOMAS TO APPROVE THE MORTGAGE SATISFACTION FOR 316 STATION STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: for the month of February Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 47 calls making 30 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 8.6 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.9 minutes.

OFFICER SLIVKA: for the month of February we responded to 145 calls and made 6 arrests. We had 2 assaults, 2 burglaries, 3 disturbances, 2 dogs running at large, 5 domestics, 2 DUI, 4 drug investigations, 2 missing persons, 1 open burning, 3 parking complaints, 1 PFA violation, 2 suspicious activities, 1 theft from vehicle, 2 traffic accidents and 6 tow tagged vehicles.

MR. J. THOMAS: how many times was the dog used in Wilmerding?

OFFICER SLIVKA: he was used once to do a building search.

MR. W. PRICENER: I would like to thank you for coming in uniform tonight.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: do you keep a separate log for the hi-rise.

OFFICER SLIVKA: no we don't, it is all logged into the general calls.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: I know they have their own police department but do they follow our ordinance of three strikes and they are out. This has to be implemented there.

OFFICER SLIVKA: we put those calls in as 979. I know that the Housing Authority does evict tenants if they are a problem.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: North Versailles is frequently called to that building. We need to utilize corrective action.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the issue is whether the Housing Authority will attempt to enforce our 979 Ordinance. They have resisted in the past claiming that they have their own set of rules and regulations.

MS. S. SMITH: last summer we met with them and we questioned why they are putting people in there under age 62. They told us that they had to fill the vacant apartments.

MS. S. SMITH: I received a phone call from the residents at 420 Caldwell and they told me that their garage is always blocked. By the time the police arrive the car is gone.

OFFICER SLIVKA: they can tell the dispatcher not to put it over the air.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - S. SHURGOT: I know the hi rise is starting to get the apartments inspected when someone new moves in.

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PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: we have been dealing with ice and snow and we are going through salt at an alarming rate. We are still waiting for one more load of salt to come in and we ordered two additional loads.

With the resignation of Tony Krisher we are down one man. Tony was a terrific employee and did an outstanding job.

New tires were purchased for the dump truck from T & D Auto Service at a cost of \$1,111.80.

W. PRICENER / M. TRKULA TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE TIRES AT A COST OF \$1,111.80 FROM T & D AUTO SERVICE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

We need a part time employee for the time being to help Mike on an as needed basis. I would like to hire Anthony Martincic, who has worked here before, as a part time employee.

W. PRICENER / REV. D. REEVES TO HIRE ANTHONY MARTINCIC AS A PART TIME EMPLOYEE ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS AT \$10 PER HOUR PENDING THAT HE PASSES THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

Since Tony is leaving we need people for back up in the event we get a lot of snow or ice. These people would be on call and they are Tom Nee, Rick Mattis, Jeremy Goldstein and Alan Hitchen.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO HIRE TOM NEE, RICK MATTIS, GERMERY GOLDSTEIN AND ALAN HITCHEN AS NEEDED FOR PLOWING AT \$12 AN HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0-1 WITH S. SHURGOT ABSTAINING.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO PAY TONY KRISHER 75% OF HIS VACATION, 30 HOURS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: report given at workshop.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: report given at workshop.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: we are still going to move Louise over to the other room. It will not be this week but hopefully it will be next week.

I was thinking about selling the desks but I decided to donate them to the Veteran's

Twin Rivers COG is working with developers to turn an old school into condos.

S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO HAVE THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE PURCHASE BANNERS FOR THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$500. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: no report.

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PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we have a potential member for the Planning Commission and that is Debbie Pricener.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: the school district passed a resolution adopting the LERTA Tax Ordinance and now the school is officially on board.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: we talked about replacing the door on Station Street with a steel door with side glass blocks. We received two quotes and I would like to award the job to Brunner Construction at a cost of \$4,781.

J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO AWARD THE INSTALLATION OF A STEEL DOOR ON STATION STREET TO BRUNNER CONSTRUCTION AT A COST OF \$4,781. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

The Solicitor is working on the WABTEC appraisal along with the school district.

I received a call from a resident on Caldwell Avenue and she is upset about the parking. She asked me if we could have permit parking in that block just like in the 200 block of Marguerite Ave. She said the problem is that there is an apartment there that has nine vehicles and it is hard for the other homeowners to park. We can discuss this further at the workshop.

The code office is having some computer problems. A new camera was bought for them and they also asked if we could provide some type of identification for them, like a badge, for when they go out and do an inspection.

RECREATION – S. SHURGOT: The Founder's Day Luncheon will be held this Sunday at 1 pm at Banquets Unlimited. Right now we have reservations for 95 people and they can hold 150.

The 125th Anniversary Festival will be held from Ma 30th to June 6th. It will start with an Ecumenical Service on Sunday.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 4th at noon in the park. It is for children under 10.

We are going to try and do Saturday afternoon movies for the kids.

S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATRION COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTER ACTIVITIES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: as a reminder, anyone going to the conference at Seven Springs must be in good standing with the borough. They must pay for the conference up front and then the borough will reimburse them for their expenses.

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NEW BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are looking at a new way to do code violations. Instead of issuing a citation after ten days we would issue a courtesy warning. The violator would pay a \$25 fine and correct the violation within ten days. If they fail to do this then a citation would be issued. On a second violation of the same offense the fine would be \$35 and the violation must be corrected within ten days. If they fail to do this then a citation would be issued. On the third violation for the same offense they would be immediately cited and taken to the Magistrate.

MR. M. TRKULA: what do you do in the meantime?

MS. S. SMITH: nothing, you have to wait ten days.

MR. W. PRICENER: pictures would be taken on a regular basis.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: pictures would have to be taken the day the warning was given and then on a regular basis, as an example, every two days.

MR. M. TRKULA: I think we should stop renting the fireman's room out in the winter. There is no heat down there and the room is cold. Do you think that we could put some type of heater in there? This would certainly help on Election Day especially if it is cold outside.

MR. W. PRICENER: the picture of George Westinghouse has been re-matted.

MS. T. HICKMAN: with the spring rains coming, has anything been done about the Turtle Creek flooding.

MS. K. PETERSON: we have been waiting for years for the creek to be cleaned. I was told that the Army Corps of Engineers would be coming out in April to look at it.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA: we have an ongoing problem in town and that is there is no enforcement in our codes. I called about 114 Card Avenue that there were people moving in. They were issued an occupancy permit after the fact. If they are caught in the building without an occupancy permit then they should be cited along with the owner for letting them move in. We need to start making examples of these people.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.