

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

Meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 p.m.

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; STEPGHEN SHURGOT, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

J. HARTZELL/K. MAXWELL TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2020 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

VICTOR MUHAMMAD 317 WELSH AVENUE: There is a bus stop on the corner of Marguerite and Frank and the parents are parking on both sides of the street and it is becoming a real traffic issue. Secondly, there is a lot of garbage being taken up the hill by us and it is ending up in my back yard. I have tried to speak to the individual but that didn't work. We have pictures that we can present to council of what we are forced to look at all winter long. It has become a real eyesore. Lastly, we have a code in the Borough regarding when you put your trash out and when your cans must be put back but we still have them blowing into the street along with the garbage that is still left in the cans.

S. SHURGOT: our Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Hussey, is in the front row and will work on your complaints. We also have our School Director, Mr. Volpe, present. We will send a letter to the school to voice our opinion but that is something they would control, however we will be your advocate in this matter.

D. LAGORGA AIRBRAKE AVENUE: I have complained before about this but at the steps, where the viaduct used to be, the property there is a mess and needs to be cleaned up.

DEBRA WOLSKI MIDDLE AVENUE/FAMILY CENTER: The wall in the parking lot next to the Family Center is starting to come down and is not very safe.

BRENDA 530 AIRBRAKE AVENUE: I have issues with the abandoned house next door to me. There are animals in there due to broken windows and no matter what I do on my side it will not help.

S. SHURGOT: we had that house on the demolition list a few years ago but we couldn't do anything with it because the roofs were conjoined. We will have the Solicitor look into ownership and see what we are able to do.

L. ROUCH 1004 AIRBRAKE AVENUE: I have a concern about Middle Avenue, behind my house. Keystone Tire has large drainpipes coming down their building going straight into the system and I think it is leaking underground. There is a crack from that pipe across the road to my garage. They patch the hole every year but the other day I was walking behind my garage and parts of it sound hollow. I think there might be a sinkhole developing. The road and my driveway are sinking and I'm very concerned.

S. SHURGOT: we can send our Engineer over to take a look at it.

NANCY RONALLO, PAT MEWS DRIVE: I was just wondering about the Faller Building and the building over 318 Middle Avenue, and now 119 Middle Avenue. There are garbage bags in the back yard of 119 and rats in Lilac Alley.

S. SHURGOT: Al do you have any update, have you been citing those owners?

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A. HUSSEY: so the Faller Building first. We are actively working with partners to purchase it. The Borough did receive a check to release the liens. With the sale, there is an issue with the Duquesne Light poles alongside the fire escape. Today's code says they are too close to the building so they are trying to design an internal set of stairs or some other way to have a second means of egress. When a person buys it they have to look at the financial strains of tearing down the fire escapes, I've gotten quotes ranging from \$10-\$20 thousand and then the interior work for a secondary means of egress is between \$20-\$30 thousand. I can't speak on before I was involved but I can set up a meeting with you to help you with that. Second with 318 Middle Avenue, we had a few brick layers over there giving quotes to the potential buyer. Norene is actively trying to sell all of her properties. You can go to the Borough office and see all of the applications for sale or transfer because she is tired of getting cited. We cite them but she is in Florida and we can't get her extradited her. We are actively working to get her to sell them. I can't force her to sell; all I can do is sell her on why she should sell them. We just got quotes in on the relaying of the brick, the soffit and fascia, and woodwork came to \$28,000. She is trying to sell the building for \$79,000. 119 Middle is the same issue.

P. SHURGOT: Is it bags there?

N. RONALLO: yes, Also, I asked the Borough to fix the sign by 124 Pat Mews. It's leaning and ready to fall.

S. SHURGOT: We will get it taken care of.

STEVE VOLPE: So with Keyser's property, were they ever cited?

A. HUSSEY: Jesse and Kyle had cited her but I don't know what the disposition was.

STEVE VOLPE: there's one at 448 Card Avenue where the wall fell over. I looked up online and they have the guy living in Tennessee, have we gone after him?

C.LANG: I tried that Tennessee address and everything comes back from there too.

S. VOLPE: So what is the Borough going to do, does this fall back on them?

G. EVASHAVIK: It does not fall back on the Borough. We have to find someone who owns it. If the hazard is so bad we can use tax payer dollars to resolve the issue in an emergency situation but that is a last resort.

S. VOLPE: It was posted but nothing has been done since then.

G.EVASHAVIK: It sounds like it is abandoned and unfortunately that is a common problem all through the valley. It's a challenge as you know.

S. VOLPE: What about the Faller Building? I have investors that are interested in that.

S. SHURGOT: the mortgage is held by Bayview financial they would need to contact them.

CORRESPONDENCE

Wilmerding Borough Planning Committee has submitted their final Comprehensive Plan, they are requesting council to permit them continue with this project.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK: The fire Department had 25 calls. 12 were in town, 13 out of town, 2 work details, 3 trainings, and 20 equipment hours. They also turned in their inventory and will be getting us the training information. The EMS had 41 calls. The average emergency response time was 7.6 minutes and the average non-emergency was 10.6 minutes.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: We had 276 events for the month including 3 animal complaint, 3 criminal mischief, 7 domestic disputes, 1 harassment, 5 local ordinance, 1 motor vehicle crashes, 1 neglect, 1 PFA's, 5 thefts, 108 traffic stops, and 2 warrants. There were a total of 16 arrests made, 1 disorderly conduct, 3 Dui's, 1 EWOC, 2 firearms Charges, 1 Habitual Offender(driving without a license), 1 Harassment, 2 narcotics charge, 1 retail theft, 1 simple assaults,1 terroristic threats.

L. KIRK: Crime watch meeting is going to be March 9th at 6 p.m. This is an agenda meeting to set the calendar for the rest of the year.

J. HARTZELL: Back in December I mentioned cars parked in the yellow lines and cars parked on the sidewalk on Marguerite. This has been ongoing, this past Sunday I was driving around and saw an officer drive right passed the 2 cars parked on the sidewalk and the cars on the yellow lines. People can't walk on the sidewalk if cars are parked on them.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: I understand that but there areas that cars need to park on the sidewalks.

J. HARTZELL: But they have all 4 wheels parked on the sidewalk, they are parking on the yellow lines and making it hard for people to get out of their driveways. They just drive around and go right back to the station.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: I will put a memo out but we didn't get any complaints about driveways.

J. HARTZELL: they always complain they can't back out of their driveways at the townhouses on Herman.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: If they have a problem all they have to do is call. .

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: we had 24 Occupancy inspections for the month, 18 passed and 6 failed. We had 5 Temporary Occupancies. With Wood Street, 3 dump truck loads have been removed. Fred is currently attempting to clean up the property so that PA Soil & Rock can get in there.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: Tony turned in the inventory of the equipment, he is performing equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming season, he has chosen the 5 catch basins for this year's Inlet repairs, he rented a machine to clean the stone and dirt from under the ballfield, and he is working the SDS books that are mandatory to complete each year. We have gotten some application for the laborer position.

S. SHURGOT: we had an emergency situation under the ballfield and we authorized State Pipe to come in at a cost of \$1140.00 we need to make the motion to ratify this.

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO RATIFY THE PHONE VOTE AUTHORIZING STATE PIPE TO COME IN AND CLEAN OUT 2 LINES UNDER THE BALLFIED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEERS REPORT – A. PRINCE: We would need a vote on the proposal from PA Soil & Rock in the amount of \$23,275.00.

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J. HARTZELL: did you get any other proposals?

A. PRINCE: No we have only talked to them but if Council would like we can solicit another quote.

G. EVASHAVIK: that is over the limit so we would need the specification advertised for bid.

J.THOMAS/L.KIRK TO ADEVERTISE THE PROJECT FOR DRILLIN ON WELSH AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: There was no meeting but Amanda did give a report. She discussed the glass recycling program which she is getting more information on. Also, Act 152 which is the demo funding act. It has not enacted yet by the county but she suggests that we contact them in support of that act. House bill 1069 which everyone is against is supposed to improve transparency but does not give you enough time to change anything and there are a lot of mandates on websites and such. Al Wagner has a mooring radio station and he is asking for people to push their businesses for a 1 hour show.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL:

K.MAXWELL/P.SHURGOT TO PURCHASE EMPLOYEE TIME CLOCKS, 1 FOR UPSTAIRS AND 1 FOR DOWNSTAIRS, NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J.HARTZELL: are they going to be secure so you can't punch somebody else in?

K. MAXWELL: yes they are secure and will not be able to punch one another in.

K. MAXWELL/L. KIRK TO UPGRADE THE ELECTRONIC SIGN TO MAKE IT WIRELESS WITH A ROUTER AND SIM CARD NOT TO EXCEED \$2000.00. THE WI-FI PORTION OF THE BILL WILL NOT EXCEED \$100.00 PER MONTH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

S. SHURGOT: The money for the initial purchase will come from the Community Days Fund but the monthly service will be the responsibility of the Borough.

K. MAXWELL/P. SHURGOT TO PURCHASE 11 NEW CHAIRS FOR COUNCIL CHAMMBERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2500.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. MAXWELL: I have a meeting scheduled with BC Electric for March 23 to go through the electrical panel so we can upgrade the electrical. I would also like to get rid of the Belgian block in the center, and if you have anything else you would like to add.

L. KIRK: what were you thinking of putting in there?

K. MAXWELL: I was thinking paver stones or something like that.

S. SHURGOT: years ago Dave Gilliland and I looked into putting pavers down where and doing Memorial block where people could purchase something for their loved ones.

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UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL:

J. HARTZELL/P. SHURGOT TO FINISH THE LED CONVERSION FOR AIRBRAKE AVENUE, THERE ARE ABOUT 17 LIGHTS, NOT TO EXCEED \$2000.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. HARTZELL: We can do up to 100 a year and we go with the lowest wattage which is 45.

P. SHURGOT: In my report Tony said he had come in early and found like 29 lights that were out or flashing. .

C. LANG: Joe and I talked about that, most of them have been fixed but we did not have correct pole numbers for some so Tony is going to come in another morning and get the ones that are left.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: I want to revisit the advertising for PA Soil & Rock. The way it was described I thought it was a drilling company coming in to drill. If these are Engineers they would be a professional service which is exempt. When they come out are they giving you a report as an Engineer and is that all part of this quote.

A. PRINCE: yes a more qualified geo-technical engineering opinion.

G. EVASHAVIK: So that is exempt from the rules so you can award that without advertising. I suggest you make a motion to rescind the motion to bid this process and then you can take further action if you would like.

J. THOMAS/K. BELIN TO RECIND THE MOTION TO ADVERTISE FOR THE DRILLING ON WELSH AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/K. MAXWELL TO AWARD THE PA SOIL & ROCK THE CONTRACT TO FURTHER DRILL ON WELSH AVENUE AT A COST OF \$23,275.00.

J. HARTZELL: is the CITF grant going to cover the whole thing?

J. THOMAS: It will cover what they did and this but there won't be much left after that.

J. HAR4TZELL: So how are we going to get money to fix it once we find out the problem?

J. THOMAS: that's half the battle; we can't go for a grant to fix it until we find out what we need. We would have to apply for another grant once we determine what needs done.

J. HARTZELL: I think we should get more information and bids and see if we can get this for less and have some money left to fix it.

J. THOMAS: PA Soil & Rock has been working on this since the first slide happened so they have all the information.

K. MAXWELL: would someone have to start over from step one?

A. PRINCE: yes, they would have copies of what PA Soil & Rock has done but they would want to take their own samples and come to their own conclusion on this.

S. SHURGOT: there is a motion from Mr. Thomas/K. Maxwell to award the project to PA Soil & Rock in the amount of \$23,275.00 all those in favor. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-1.

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FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

RECREATION – K. BELIN: The Easter event is set for April 4th from 11:30 to 1:30. I have someone to don the Bunny costume and would like to hold it at the Community Center in the field. Caroline has put it into the newsletter and onto Savvy Citizen

K. BELIN/P. SHURGOT TO RELEASE THE \$400.00 FOR THE EASTER PARTY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PLANNING – K. BELIN: They submitted the 3 year plan for your review. We are looking more to partner with other grants like the WCC to the walls and get some money for the recreation areas. If you have any suggestions let us know.

S. SHURGOT: since we just got it let us look it over and we will talk about it at the workshop. .

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: nothing

J. THOMAS TO ADJORN MEETING AT 7:54 P.M.