

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:07 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

**S. SHURGOT:** members of council met in an executive session to discuss employee and contract matters.

**ROLL CALL: REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was absent.**

**REV. D. REEVES / K. MAXWELL TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEB. 6, 2019 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS**

**S. VOLPE, CARD AVENUE:** We received the list of delinquent taxes for the school district that I was going to email to Caroline; I just wanted to know if the Borough had a list that I could get a copy of.

**S. SHURGOT:** yes Caroline can email it to you.

**S. VOLPE:** for Residential Rental License do you match it to the list of delinquent taxes and still take them to court even though they have paid the license fee?

**C. LANG:** Yes. They receive a letter stating the reason they have not received their license and instruction on how to pay. If they set up a payment plan for payment then we do not file citations but they do not receive the license until the taxes are paid.

**S. VOLPE:** There are so many properties in town that are abandoned or in disrepair, what is going on with them.

**S. SHURGOT:** The house next to yours on Card is an absentee landlord and letter have been sent but we can't locate him. We are going to be making a change in the way the Borough does some stuff.

**E. BARRETT, HERMAN AVENUE:** The January minutes have not been posted yet.

**C. LANG:** That was completely my fault; I forgot to email them to Jeremy.

**L. SMITH:** my name is Lavette Smith and I have the daycare on Station Street, Dreamers & Achievers. I was interested in getting information on the new Community Center. I have school aged children interested in summer camp and I was wondering if there was somewhere they can use.

**S. SHURGOT:** there is a group that is working on Wilmerding Community Center but they are not chartered as a nonprofit yet so the opening date has been pushed back. We will probably not be able to have a day care opened this year but possibly in the future. The ball field is owned by the Borough so you would be able to use it. Just get in touch with Kelly Maxwell to set up a schedule.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

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1. We received a donation letter from East Allegheny Competition Cheer. They are returning after a season off and are asking for donation to assist in the cost of pom-poms, uniforms, competition t-shirts and to help pay registration fees for the various competition they attend. .

**J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT TO DONATE \$50.00 TO EAST ALLEGHENY COMPETITION CHEERLEADING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0**

2. We received donation letter from Westinghouse Arts Academy for a program ad at their upcoming musical Footloose which will be April 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

**P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO DO A HALF PAGE AD IN THE PROGRAM FOR \$70.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK:** Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 54 calls and made 34 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.8 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.9 minutes. The fire department had 38 calls. 11 were in town, 27 out of town, 1 work detail, 6 trainings, and 10 maintenance hours.

**INSPECTOR KEARNS:** for the month of March we responded to 283 events and made 23 arrests. There were 5 abandoned vehicles, 2 assaults, 1 criminal mischief, 3 Domestic Disputes, 1 DUI, 1 fleeing officer, 2 fugitive arrests, 3 hazardous conditions, 9 local ordinance, 2 motor vehicle crashes, 1 motor vehicle theft, 4 narcotics, 1 sex assault, 2 thefts, 67 traffic stops and 3 warrants. There were 23 arrests including 6 narcotics, 3 DUI's, 5 fugitives, 2 simple assault, 3 public drunkenness, 1 receiving stolen property, 1 firearm, and 1 habitual offender. Wabtec had some concerns today because of a labor dispute. They had a busload of protestors from Erie today but they were all gentlemen and caused us no problem.

**P. SHURGOT:** can you have them check Maple Alley. There has been a trailer sitting there for the last 2 weeks.

**L. KIRK:** do you know more about the crime watch this month; it's supposed to be on Tasers and stun guns.

**C.LANG:** Regina said it will be March 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Jude's hall and it will be posted on the electronic sign.

**PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT:** We need to ratify a phone vote that was made for a generator. This was discussed at a previous meeting and would cost \$750.00.

**P. SHURGOT/K. PETERSON TO RATIFY THE PURCHASE OF A GENERATOR FOR \$750.00 THAT WAS DISCUSSED AT A PREVIOUS MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**S. SHURGOT:** during the power outages, we needed to purchase the generator so we could power the traffic lights. I will also be helpful when we install signs so we did a phone vote because it was an emergency item.

**P. SHURGOT:** there was some snow removal, they checked on the Orient slide, patched some pot holes, changed some lights around the building and did some minor maintenance on the trucks. I did have 1 employee quit this month. At this time I don't think we're going to hire full time, just possibly part time but I need to discuss that with Linda and John.

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**S. SHURGOT:** we talked about that in executive session and maybe we can hire some part timers, we also talked about a shared service. Years ago we had an idea to approach neighboring municipalities and say once a week all three departments come together to get all your grass cutting done then you still have 2 days to get the specialty projects done. We would like to revisit that idea.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT – D. GILLILAND:**

We have 2 more slides on Orient Avenue in addition to the active one. We submitted a grant application to PEMA to apply for some assistance, there will be a meeting that I will attend. Caldwell paving will be done when the weather warms up. There is nothing new on the ALCOSAN project or the inlet project. The subdivision for St. Joseph Drive was recorded and I am working with the Solicitor for the deed and ordinance dedicating it is a street. Herman Avenue sewer separation bids will be opening in May. The Airbrake Avenue Park project, the low bid was \$56807.00 and the bid was \$20013.00. We discussed this last month and council agreed to just do the safety surface and pads under the swings, swings and chains. The county didn't like that idea, they wanted to see the whole project done so they came up with an addition \$22559.00 to contribute but the borough would need to fund the rest of the project. I spoke with them on Monday and they are willing to let us take out the fence part at this time if the Borough writes another agreement into take care of this at a later date. They will give us a total of \$42572.00 and the Borough would be responsible for \$4225.00 in funds which would include the installment of a whirl.

**L. KIRK:** is there a deadline for this project?

**D. GILLILAND:** The County would like to have all the CD money spent by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Cog will award the contract and invoice the COG.

**J. THOMAS:** Linda did you speak with Tony about the other tree guy?

**L. KIRK:** I'm meeting with Steve on Saturday and then I will look into that.

**D. GILLILAND:** If this is agreeable then the motion would be to authorize the COG to award the project for \$46797.00, deleting the fence, with a local commitment of \$4225.00 and a promise that the Borough will replace the fence around the basketball court.

**K. PETERSON/REV. REEVES TO AWARD THE PROJECT OF AIRBRAKE PARK AS THE ENGINEER HAVE EXPLAINED IT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**D. GILLILAND:** The sewer that goes down Westinghouse Avenue is a borough sewer but there's an agreement from 1970's when the apartments were built that states North Versailles will maintain that sewer and that is one of the sewers that ALCOSAN will be taking over. North Versailles Sanitary Authority is requesting a commitment in writing that we will transfer that over to ALCOSAN after they do all the repairs.

**K. PETERSON/REV. REEVES TO COMMIT TO TURN OVER OWNERSHIP OF THE WESTINGHOUSE AVENUE INTERCEPTOR SEWER TO ALCOSAN SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF THE NECESSARY REPAIRS AT THE EXPENSE OF NORTH VERSAILLES TOWNSHIP SANITARY AUTHORITY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** no report.

**UTILITIES – K. PETERSON:**

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**S. SHURGOT:** the water line work has started. Do we have any idea how long it will be?

**C.LANG:** It is scheduled for 6 weeks.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK:** I'm meeting with J&S tree service for the Airbrake park trees. I want to schedule the trees before May 1<sup>st</sup>. I have quotes from RJ Construction to replace the fence at the park. The regular fence is \$7996.00 and the black is \$8996.00. This is for 365ft. of 6ft. high fence.

**S. SHURGOT:** how long is the quote good for?

**L. KIRK:** it doesn't say on the quote but I will contact him.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** we have already discussed my items.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

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

**J. THOMAS:** I talked to the solicitor about 318 Middle Avenue, he did not get a chance to talk to Nick, but do you want to go forward with that appeal?

**S. SHURGOT:** 318 is where the wall fell down and she wants to try to reduce the taxes. Personal feeling is since she hasn't done anything in over a year and a half we should try to keep the taxes the way they are. The building is in disrepair and she should make the repairs, its' not our responsibility to wait on the insurance company. Now she wants to lower her taxes so I feel we should go forward and appeal.

**J. THOMAS:** in 2017 she filed an appeal so in 2018 she had it reduced from \$105,000.00 to \$54,000.00. Now she is trying to reduce it again.

**RECREATION – K. MAXWELL:**

**K. MAXWELL/P. SHURGOT TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTER ACTIVITIES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**KELLY MAXWELL:** we will have the Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 for children 10 and under. We will be holding it at the ballfield at the Wilmerding Community Center. On May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> we will be doing the hanging basket sale again and in June we are planning a car cruise.

**PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES:** there was a meeting on Wednesday and John Marcoz was interested in attending classes. We checked on the deed transfer and the lady that received all that property.

**K. PETERSON:** I talked to Joyce about that facade program and she will start looking into it.

**OLD BUSINESS -** none

**NEW BUSINESS**

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**K. MAXWELL/L. KIRK EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2019 WE SEVER TIES WITH TCVCOG CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AND END OUR CONTRACT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6- 1.**

**K. MAXWELL/L. KIRK EFFECTIVE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2019 WE HIRE AL HUSSEY TO DO OUR CODE ENFORCEMENT AT A RATE OF \$18.00/ HR. WITH NO BENEFITS AND 20 HOURS A WEEK, PENDING REVIEW OF ALL CERTIFICATIONS.**

**P. SHURGOT:** I thought we were going to talk to Mr. Hussey and interview him before we just put him in this position.

**K. PETERSON:** I agree

**P. SHURGOT REQUESTE A ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**L.KIRK – YES, K. PETERSON – NO, REV. REEVES – NO, K. MAXWELL – YES, P. SHURGOT – NO, J. THOMAS – YES, S. SHURGOT – YES.**

**MOTION CARRIED 4-3.**

**K. MAXWELL/L. KIRK TO PROCEED AND APPLY FOR CREDIT FROM LENDER TO BUY THE FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR WILMERDING COMMUNITY CENTER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**S. SHURGOT:** I was notified that our auditor has not completed our 2017 audit and this might hold up our credit application. I feel we may want to start looking for a new auditor.

**K. PETERSON/P. SHURGOT TO START LOOKING FOR A NEW BOROUGH AUDITOR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**S. SHURGOT:** The mayor is absent. He is attending a meeting about restarting the East Boroughs association.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm