

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINTUES OF THE MAY 5, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Smith at 7:15 pm

**MS. S. SMITH:** Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**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.**

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

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** do you have a Building Inspector and if so when does he work. People moved in at 608 Airbrake on April 29<sup>th</sup> and he was told about it on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Today is May 5<sup>th</sup> and it still was not inspected. How many days a week does he work.

**MS. S. SMITH:** there is no set time that he is here. We will check with Louise to see if they requested an inspection for an occupancy permit.

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**MR. T. LOCKE, WELSH AVE.:** 304 Welsh Avenue is vacant and there is debris all over the yard. I would like to know if the borough can clean that lot. They cleaned the lot across from the Filia Funeral Home for the last three years.

**MR. M. JAKUB:** Louise refuses to cite the owner, it is an ongoing problem. There are a lot of legal issues with that property.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** from time to time the borough does clean up some vacant property.

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**MS. A. TUCKER, LYDIA STREET:** Steve, did you talk to the Chief.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** not to the Chief but it is being handled.

**MS. A. TUCKER:** up on Card Avenue the kids play in the street and there bikes hit the cars. There is no supervision. They are out in the street playing and cars are flying up the hill onto Card and sometimes they can't see them. They also leave their bikes in the parking spots. Also, when the fireman are washing their cars in the driveway you have to go out onto Station Street to see if there are any cars are coming.

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**MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.:** is there anything you can do about loitering. There are about 10 -12 kids blocking the sidewalk across from the park. In front of the Faller Building there is trash all over. You have to walk in the street to get by them.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** unfortunately loitering is legal. They have the right to stand on the sidewalk but they cannot block the sidewalk or traffic.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Submitted a resolution to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County through the COG for a \$500,000 grant for the Ice Plant Hill slide repair.

**S. SHURGOT / W. PRICENER TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT TO DO THE ICE PLANT HILL SLIDE REPAIRS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

2. Received a request from the E.A. TOUCHDOWN CLUB for a donation to help with the needs of the Wildcats Football program.

**S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

3. Received a notice from Duquesne Light announcing the 2015 LED Cobrahead Street Lighting Conversion Pilot Program. This program would allow municipalities to convert a minimum of ten contiguously installed 70 watt or 150 watt high pressure sodium fixtures to the equivalent 43 watt and 106 watt LED Cobrahead fixtures. There will be a \$109 charge associated with the removal of the lights.

**MR. J. THOMAS:** the ten that I would like to do is on Station Street, from the borough building down to the post office. There are six on one side and four on the other side. I would like to reduce them to the 43 watt fixture.

**S. SHURGOT / J. THOMAS TO DO THE TEN STREET LIGHTS ON STATION STREET, SIX ON ONE SIDE AND FOUR ON THE OTHER SIDE.**

**MS. K. PETERSON:** what about the ones around the park, can we do those.

**MR. J. THOMAS:** those are a different type of light.

**MR. W. PRICENER:** do you know how bright the 43 watt lights are. I don't think we should put out the money to get them changed if they are not as bright as the ones that are out there now.

**S. SHURGOT / J. THOMAS TO RESCIND THE MOTION.**

**S. SMITH:** we will have the utility committee look into this to see how bright these lights are.

4. A Proclamation of Council and the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee proclaiming that it shall be unlawful for any male person capable of growing a beard to run at large within the limits of the borough without having in his possession and under his control either a shaving permit and/or facial hair attached to his face. Said shaving permit shall be on sale at the borough building and Compass Federal Savings Bank at a cost of \$5.00

**S. SHURGOT / REV. D. REEVES TO ADOPT THE PROCLAMATION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA:** Eastern Area Prehospital Services responded to 56 calls in April making 35 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.8 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.35 minutes. Office Slivka will give the police report.

**OFFICER SLIVKA:** for the month of April we responded to 176 calls and making one arrest. A summary of the calls are: 1 assault, 2 burglaries, 2 criminal mischief, 2 dogs running at large, 9 domestics, 2 driving under the influence, 1 drug investigation, 1 gunshot, 4 juvenile complaints, 4 loud music, 7 parking complaints, 2 property damage, 1 public intoxication, 1 road rage, 1 robbery, 3 suspicious activities, 2 suspicious persons, 4 suspicious vehicles, 3 terroristic threats, 5 thefts, 4 traffic accidents and 4 tow tagged vehicles.

**MR. M. TRKULA:** we had a discussion about parking with the flow of traffic and on the sidewalk. The Chief said that you should park with the flow of traffic and not on the sidewalk but there are certain streets where you can park on the sidewalk.

**MS. S. SMITH:** there are only two streets that you can park on the sidewalk; they are Patton Street and Watkins Avenue. The Chief said that it is not illegal to put two wheels on the sidewalk as long as it does not block the sidewalk.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** I would like to recognize Mike Jakub for going above and beyond his duties and quick action when he noticed someone passed out behind the wheel and notified emergency personnel.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** the Mayor has been talking about making Card Avenue a one way street. I am for making it one way just during the summer months.

**S. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO MAKE CARD AVENUE ONE WAY FROM BROWN STREET TO STATION STREET FROM MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY ON APPROVAL OF THE ENGINEER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT – W. PRICENER:** for the month of April Dave Buskirk worked a total of 41 hours which included the following. He met with Louise concerning citations to be issued, follow up inspections and code enforcement duties in the borough. Checked various properties for property maintenance complaints. Attended hearings at the Magistrate's office and there was one found guilty and the rest were continued. Inspected and issued occupancy permits for the following rental properties; 208 St. Joseph Drive, 401 Card Avenue, 450 Card Avenue, 236 Card Avenue, 621 Station Street and 207 Locust Way. Inspected and issued an occupancy permit for 205 Marguerite Avenue for a resale. Spoke to the workers at 339 Marguerite about getting a permit for construction work. Visited and had phone calls over a period of several days for the property at 324 Commerce Street after a water break. Also there is a report from Louise and she is starting to issue citations for the 2015 delinquent rental licenses. She is preparing for court on May 19<sup>th</sup> and Sandy Smith has agreed to come in and help me get organized and update my files for court. She hopes to be moved into her new office before the hot weather hits. Louise will be out of the office Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day.

**PUBLIC WORKS- W. PRICENER:** we will be painting curbs in May and they painted a crosswalk on Airbrake Avenue for the walking trail. They are continuing grass cutting and picking up trash.

As you know we lost our full time employee and we are looking to replace him. We received three applications for the position.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINTUES OF THE MAY 5, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO HIRE PATRICK BUTLER AS A FULL TIME PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE AT \$12 AN HOUR PENDING THAT HE PASSES THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 6-0-1 WITH M. TRKULA ABSTAINED DUE TO BEING RELATED TO THE INDIVIDUAL.**

We received two applications for summer employment from the workers who were here last year, Dominic Colwell and Sean Marcoz.

**W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO HIRE DOMINIC COLWELL AND SEAN MARCOZ AS SUMMER EMPLOYEES AT \$8 AN HOUR PENDING PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING. THEY WILL WORK VARIOUS HOURS UP TO THE BUDGETED AMOUNT OF \$7,000. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:** report given at workshop.

**K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO AWARD THE CD40 DEMOLITION OF 223 THIRD STREET TO EVEREADY CONTRACTING FOR \$6,400. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** there was a discussion about the Land Bank and there are four communities that have joined and they are going to be sending a letter to East Allegheny.

Wells Fargo has a program where they would donate property to municipalities and groups for rehab for resale.

Discussed regionalization of police departments.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON:** the electrician was downstairs to fix the electrical problem but there is another problem down there. There is a lot of trash at the Park Building and also at the Faller Building. People are throwing trash out the window at the Park Building.

**UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES:** we will follow up with Duquesne Light on the street lights.

**PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES:** there are 17 vacant houses in the borough.

**MS. S. SMITH:** is the Planning Committee going to go for training.

**REV. D. REEVES:** no, it was too far to travel. We are going to wait for it to get closer.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** the cable franchise agreement with Verizon expires on Dec. 4, 2017 and I requested a meeting with them and also to have them send me a copy of the agreement for review.

The property at 349-353 Welsh has been sold by the bank. The new owner needs to raze the structure.

**RECREATION – S. SHURGOT:** we had 68 children for the Easter Egg Hunt and 17 for the movies. I would like to have more movies this summer. We also purchased a new bunny costume.

Memorial Day services will be held in the park at 8 am on Monday May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINTUES OF THE MAY 5, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:** we received notices of assessment appeals. I would like the Solicitor to attend these hearings and represent our interest.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MS. S. SMITH:** we did not have any dumpsters here for Earth Day but I would like to bring one in the week before Memorial Day to be placed around the park.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** is there going to be a dumpster on the other side.

**MS. S. SMITH:** the last time we had them under the bridge they were full the first day with tires and tv's and building materials.

**MS. K. PETERSON / TO GET ONE DUMPSTER TO BE PUT AROUND THE PARK.**

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we are going to have to have someone watch that, and we do not have the resources.

**NO SECOND ON THE MOTION, MOTION DIED.**

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**MS. S. SMITH:** Mike, have you gotten the security cameras for Orient Avenue?

**MR. M. TRKULA:** not yet.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been raising money for the past couple of years for the festival. The Founder's Day Luncheon did not cost the borough any money. The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival is not you annual festival, it is something special. The committee is barely above water to finance this festival. I would like to thank the borough for letting us use the park for the festival. There was no line item in the budget for the festival and the committee cut some expenses to hold this festival which is going to cost about \$20,000-\$21,000.

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**MS. S. SMITH:** I would just like to remind everyone that the meeting in June will be the second Tuesday instead of the first Tuesday because of the festival.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA:** I know we have a difference of opinion, like it should be, but if there is no useful purpose to debate the issue then it should be closed.

As I promised at the last meeting I have a personal check here for \$500 for the festival. The festival is not tax exempt because it does not have a 501 ( c )3 exemption. I would like to know who should I make this check out to.

**MR. J. THOMAS:** Wilmerding Community Days.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING**  
**MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**MR. H. SLACZKA:** is this organization authorized by the I.R.S. as a 501 (c )3.

Wells Fargo donates properties they own. You have to know where the houses are that they own. The C.I.A.C. is willing to do this is they are worth rehabbing.

We also need to back the police department and give them 100% of our support. They need to start tagging cars even if they are going into a store for five minutes. If the sign reads no parking anytime then that should be enforced. If we are not going to enforce the no parking signs then take them down. We need to let the people know that we mean business in enforcing our parking regulations.

There were blossoms that fell all over the sidewalk from my neighbor's tree and no one cleaned them up. My tenant fell on them and needed medical help and he was afraid to file a complaint.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.