

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss legal matters.

ROLL CALL: REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; LINDA KIRK, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

REV. D. REEVES / P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Resolution 2017-3 opposing the elimination of the CDBG Program.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2017-3 OPPOSING THE ELIMINATION OF THE CDBG PROGRAM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Resolution 2017-4 in support of the Mon-Fayette Expressway.

K.PETERSON / S. SMITH TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2017-4 IN SUPPORT OF THE MON-FAYETTE EXPRESSWAY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. Proclamation declaring the week of May 21-26 as Emergency Medical Services week in the Borough of Wilmerding.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF MAY 21-26 AS EMS WEEK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. Received a letter from Compass Savings Bank that they are willing to write a grant and do any administrative work that is necessary to replace the trees in the 11 existing tree wells on Station Street and Westinghouse Avenue.

MS. S. SMITH: I am aware of this and I think that we should move forward with this. I will follow this up with Dennis Pittman. I know that the trees they are going to plant would not lift the sidewalk like they have done in the past.

MR. J. THOMAS: when you talk to them see if there is something that is not too expensive that we could put around them to prevent the salt from destroying them.

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S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO ALLOW COMPASS SAVINGS BANK TO PURSUE A GRANT FOR THE TREES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

5. Received a letter from Allegheny County wanting to know if the borough would like to be included in the CDBG and HOME Programs for the next three fiscal years beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2021. To **opt-in** we just need to pass a resolution to participate in the programs and to **opt-out** we need to pass a resolution excluding the borough from the programs and submit a letter to Allegheny County Economic Development and also to HUD that the borough does not want to participate.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION, 2017-5, THAT THE BOROUGH WILL OPT-IN TO THE PROGRAMS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council received a letter from Mr. Hartzell that he plans on retiring on June 1, 2017.

Regretfully Council will accept your letter of retirement and wish you well on your retirement. Thank you very much for your 31 years of service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: for the month of April Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services had a total of 44 calls and made 28 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.6 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.9 minutes. In April the fire department responded to 23 calls, 11 were in town and 12 were out of town. They escorted the Easter Bunny around town and also went to the YMCA for a “show and tell” for the children. Inspector Kearns will give us the police report. I put together a quarterly report comparing the calls between North Versailles and the Allegheny County Police for the first quarter.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: for the month of April there were 396 events. A brief summary of the calls are as follows: there were 10 abandoned vehicles, 10 disturbances, 20 domestic disputes, 6 harassment, 1 Megan’s Law violation, 4 missing persons, 4 motor vehicle crashes, 7 narcotics, 1 overdose, 4 PFA service, 1 public drunkenness, 18 suspicious persons, 6 thefts, 73 traffic stops, 3 vehicle lockouts, 2 weapons and 13 welfare checks. We also made 37 arrests, 10 were for narcotics, 2 retail thefts, 4 simple assaults, 1 DUI and 2 fugitive.

FIRE MARSHAL – A. HUSSEY: the cause of the fire at 235 Marguerite was due to a malfunction fan. The fire department did an excellent job of knocking it down and there was about \$5,000 in damages.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – S. SHURGOT: everyone has a copy of the report. They answered 102 complaints in April. They also did 10 occupancy inspections, 6 failed and 4 passed.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: they were busy cutting grass this month and they are sweeping up the streets. They installed a no parking sign and a one way sign. They cleaned the borough building and painted over the graffiti.

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P. SHURGOT / J. THOMAS TO HIRE SEAN MARCOZ AND MARC EDWARDS AS SUMMER WORKERS AT \$8.00 AN HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. S. SMITH: I thought we were going to try another avenue.

MS. K. PETERSON: we could get some help but it would not be every single day.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Mr. Hartzell attended a meeting down at the Waterfront with the MY Work Initiative. This program is run through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. We asked for three workers, one for clerical help for Louise and two to help outside. This will just be a supplement to the other two workers. There is no cost to the borough for these employees.

MR. J. THOMAS: anyone that drives around the bridge knows if they do anything on the bridge they paint the bridge. The guardrails, the fencing all around the bridge, all the approach ramps hasn't been touched in forty years. Can these people paint those areas that are rusting?

MS. S. SMITH: we have been engaged in a battle with them for a long time over the maintenance of the bridge. The Solicitor and Engineer have reviewed the agreement when the bridge was erected and it shows that the bridge and the approached are the responsibility of the County. Two years ago I spoke with Dr. Martoni and he told me we were in the budget to get it done but they cut us out of the budget. I will contact my contact in Penn Hills who does a lot of the ramp maintenance. He was not in agreement that the County was responsible but I will show him Don's letter. We may have to go over his head to get this done. If you are looking at the just giving us some paint, I don't know if they will do that, that is a whole different issue.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: they also ordered some speed signs, and they are working with the Police Department on this. They also installed some new stop signs, cleaned up the park and boarded up some houses.

P. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SHACOG TO CONTINUE PURCHASING SALT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. S. SMITH: can they trim the shrubbery and trees and pull the weeds around the monument for Memorial Day.

MR. S. SHURGOT: they were also hot patching and did fill in some of the potholes but they are not done yet.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:

1. We will have the floor drains in the public works garage inspected for leaks at no cost to the borough.
2. COG issued contracts for the demolition of 401 and 409 Welsh Avenue. The County Health Department is delaying the project because they are not satisfied with the asbestos report.

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3. We are in the process of getting contracts, bonds and insurance for the Wall Street Porous Pavement Project. Work should commence within the next two weeks and be completed by the end of June.

4. We have prepared and submitted a GEDF Grant Application for the following projects: replace the sidewalk on Station Street, between Herman and the alley; replace the lights in the park with higher wattage; replace the inlet across Bluff Street; install a fire hydrant at the YMCA; remove pine trees from the park and on the bridge approach; repair the walls and steps on Card, George and Sprague and paving of Station Street, Airbrake Avenue, Caldwell Avenue, Patton Street and Middle Avenue. The grant request is for \$500,000 and the grand total of the projects is \$522,225 which would include a local share of \$22,225.

MS. K. PETERSON: the Turtle Creek COG is going to join with the City of Pittsburgh in filing suit against the Health Department on the new rules and regulations of the asbestos removal.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the Growing Green Project on Wall Street, from Marguerite to Welsh should be completed within 45 days.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: I already spoke about some of it. We also approved some other demolitions.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH:

We have finalized the park rules and I gave them to Greg to review.

The ceiling in the stairwell is still not completed.

Arch Masonry was here to look at pointing three different areas and they gave us an estimate to do these. To do the hose tower it would cost \$17,500, the fire department wall is \$14,200 and the front wall where the ramp is would cost \$22,400.

The cameras are installed around the borough building.

UTILITIES – K. PETERSON: the electric providers are contacting everyone again.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: I drafted an ordinance that regulates parking and it amends our current parking regulations. What it does is prohibits parking against the flow of traffic. It is a violation in the motor vehicle code but we decided it would be better to draft an ordinance with our own regulations and give the police an ordinance they can use to enforce.

S. SMITH / P. SHURGOT TO ADVERTISE THE PARKING ORDINANCE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we attended a Sheriff Sale for 900 Middle Avenue but the sale was postponed until June 5, 2017.

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There was some interest last month on increasing the permit fees and fines and how we could change them. What I have done with any new ordinance or amendments to ordinances is that I always include a provision that in the future changes to fee amounts and fine amounts can be done by simple resolution.

S. SMITH / REV. D. REEVES TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR PREPARE AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE FEES AND FINES BY SIMPLE RESOLUTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I was also asked if we have any regulations regulating food trucks and ice cream trucks. I did review your ordinances and there is a section in the Transient Retail Merchant section that they require a license to operate in the borough. The fee is set at a flat \$50 for the license and in addition to that the licensee is required to pay 5% of their gross sales. That could be difficult in tracking that. If you want to change that gross sales regulation you would have to do that by ordinance.

MS. K. PETERSON: would garage sales be included in that since they are selling goods.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I do not think that would be included since it is not transient. You can make changes to the ordinance like not charging non-profits or charitable organizations the fee. Also, in this same section you have a regulation for solicitors and canvassers. It is illegal for anyone to solicit or canvas the borough without a license. What the difference between the two is that the solicitor or canvasser does not have the merchandise on hand to sell.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / REV. D. REEVES TO PAY ALL THE AUTHORIZE BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: the tax bills for the borough are out for 2017. As of yesterday he has collected \$51,509.10, which is 16% of the amount budgeted for real estate taxes. Also, our Earned Income Tax is up about \$5,000 from last year but the Local Service Tax is down about \$2,000.

RECREATION – P. SHURGOT: we had 59 children for the Easter Egg Hunt and I would like to thank Sandy, Linda Steve and Jake for helping out and also to the Fire Department who rode the Easter Bunny around. The ambulance and the police also helped. I am also having problems getting essays from the students for Memorial Day. Memorial Day services will be held on Monday May 29th at 8:00 a.m.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: no report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: the YMCA approached me to see if we could help with repairs to the sidewalk on Ice Plant Hill.

MR. J. THOMAS: as far as I know that property is owned by the school district.

MS. S. SMITH: I ran into one of the representatives from East McKeesport and they are having an open streets day on June 3rd from 11 am – 2 pm.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: I understand it is going to be on Park Street from Route 30 to Fifth Avenue.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH. WELSH AVE.: awhile back Council was supposed to get someone certified to use herbicides, weed killer. Did you ever do it?

MS. S. SMITH: yes, Michael Jakub is certified.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH: can you get him to spray the cobblestones around the monument in the park and coming down Station Street.

MS. S. SMITH: the problem with that is if we are going to plant trees the stuff that he uses will damage the dirt.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH: then can he just do the cobblestones around the monument.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH to make the 200 block of Welsh Avenue two ways during the construction of the porous paving project on Wall Street. Members voted approval, 7-0.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: on Saturday May 6th there is going to be a clean-up project at the Castle. John Graf is asking that if anyone would like to volunteer they could use the help. On May 17th the Castle is hosting a fundraiser through the Pittsburgh Social Network. They were looking at 500 people at the fundraiser, at \$400 a plate they did not get a lot of takers. I think at this point there are only about 45 people who are registered. They wanted to set off fireworks that night and we needed a certificate of insurance.

On May 10th at 11:00 a.m. there will be a groundbreaking ceremony at the Westinghouse School for the Performing Arts. They want to plant six azaleas as part of the ceremony. The best I could do is get them three free if they buy three. I got some cooperation from Plum Line Nursery to help us with that.

I would like to thank Mr. Shurgot and Mr. Hartzell and the three of us spent about three hours trying to process a grant through Harrisburg for \$10,000 to be spent by the end of June for cameras project that we have been working on.

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MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: is there anything on that school property that belongs to the borough, the bell or the monument. What kind of agreement did the borough make with them?

MR. S. SHURGOT: we have a verbal agreement that they will not move anything.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH: is it going to be theirs if anything happens or does it revert back to the borough. There are a few things up there that I hate to lose.

MR. S. SHURGOT: they told us that they have no plans of moving any of that.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.