

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2021 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; JOE HARTZELL, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB WAS ALSO PRESENT.

K. MAXWELL/L.KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2021 MEETING WITH CHANGE TO DATE ON LAST PAGE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Resolution 2021-2 for the GTRP grant in the amount of \$170,000.00. This is for the Park grant that was submitted last year and denied. The grant will now be resubmitted.

J. HARTZELL/L.KIRK TO PASS RESOLUTION 2021-2 FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE GTRP GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$170,000.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- b. We received a resignation letter from Sandra Smith, she is resigning from the Zoning/Hearing Board effective immediately.

P. SHURGOT/K.MAXWELL TO ACCEPT SANDRA SMITH'S RESIGNATION FROM THE ZONING HERAING BOARD. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- c. We received a letter of interest for the Planning Committee vacancy from Leahmanda Barnes.

K. MAXWELL/J.HARTZELL TO ACCEPT LEAHMANDA BARNES TO FILL THE VACANT SEAT ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- d. We will need to designate members of council to replace John Thomas and Stephen Shurgot on the ACSTCC committee.

S. SHURGOT: do we have to have someone on there?

C. LANG: yes, we do.

K. MAXWELL: I will do it.

P. SHURGOT/L.KIRK TO ACCEPT KELLY MAXWELL AS A BOROUGH DELEGATE ON THE ACSTCC. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

C. LANG: we would just have to determine which one of you she will replace.

J. THOMAS: I think we should wait till after the election to decide.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: For the month of April Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 36 calls and made 23 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 8 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.6 minutes. The fire department responded to 30 calls, 4 in town and 26 out of town. They had 2 work details, 4 trainings and 10 maintenance hours. As far as the tires, the fire department feels that it would be better to stay with Lowery because their price was the tires, labor, and pick up/delivery of the truck.

J. HARTZELL: I checked with costars to try and get a better price. Do you think Lowrey’s would purchase the tires from costar for us?

L. KIRK: I’m not sure if it would be the same tire and the price was for purchase and install.

L.KIRK/K.MAXWELL TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 4 TIRES AND INSTALL FOR 306-2 UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$2729.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: our truck inspectors came down and worked Avenue U and Watkins Avenue for 2 days and they found no violation for overweight truck at that time. Also, we have adopted new uniforms so you will now see the guys wearing blue shirts and pants. As for the month of April we responded to 203 calls that included 2 assault, 4 disturbances, 5 domestics, 1 hazardous condition, 12 local ordinance, 1 motor vehicle crash, 4 PFA’s, 2 property, 1 ex assault, 5 theft, 24 traffic stops, and 1 warrant. There were 6 arrests that included 1 Excessive False Alarm, this was the funeral home. There have been 28 calls this year so last month I had Al Hussey issue a NOV and this month we have just started citing them. To continue, we had 3 arrest for simple assault (domestic) and 2 warrants.

G. JAKUB: I have received a few complaints about a car in front of the church on the 500 block of Westinghouse Avenue, it was towed into that spot and left, can that be looked into?

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: officer Havens looked into that yesterday and it has valid inspection and registration.

L. KIRK: we mentioned about starting the curfew up, has that happened?

K. MAXWELL: I have not heard it.

C. LANG: it was turned on, but I will have Tony check the time on it.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: I will just refer to my report.

G. JAKUB: you show that 530 and 532 Westinghouse Avenue have failed their Occupancy Inspections but there are residents living in 532. How are they in there if the inspection failed?

A. HUSSEY: they were illegally there prior to the inspection. So now we have to wait for her to make the corrections to the properties.

G. JAKUB: I didn’t think they could be living in there when an inspection failed.

A. HUSSEY: they were already there prior to the inspection and there are only minor violations. We will do a follow-up once the issues are corrected.

K. MAXWELL: How do we know the fees that are collected by you?

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C. LANG: they all show up on the profit and loss. Al does not know how much is brought in from things such as court and fines. He would be able to tell you how many Notice of Violations he issued and if there was a payment made on those there would be a spreadsheet in your packet stating that.

K. MAXWELL: Al your report lists that you go to the magistrate, but do we ever find out what the outcome of the hearing is?

A. HUSSEY: I typically don't because the object of that is not to embarrass anyone which is why I don't include names.

K. MAXWELL: could you update that with an address because we don't know who is going.

A. HUSSEY: the hearings that I'm going to are probably from 9 months ago.

K. MAXWELL: we are really looking just to see who is being taken to the magistrate, you don't have to include a name just the address and charges so we can see which ones are being closed out.

A. HUSSEY: I would say that you can look onto that sheet that Caroline had mentioned, she gets the fees that come from the magistrate. All I see is what Eichler says when our hearing is ended and tells me that she will make a determination on it, sometimes it's days later. Let me look it over to see if I can come up with something that I may be able to give you. As with Valley Auto he hired McCutchen to remove the chemicals. The Department of Environmental Protection is involved, and they are working together with the safe disposal of the chemicals. It should take around 10-14 days for the EPA to approve and everything is on track.

P. SHURGOT: have there been any decisions made on either rehabbing it or demolishing it?

A. HUSSEY: I did not have that discussion with him.

G. JAKUB: the guys are doing the wall at Holy Angles, have they presented any type of blueprint because the wall they put up is no where near as high as the parking lot and there is no bearing wall?

A. HUSSEY: The new wall is permitted, and the demolition of the other wall and parking lot being braced will need to have a second permit issued. He just needs to get a plan together for that once the first project is done.

K. MAXWELL: do we have an update on the Castle wall?

A. HUSSEY: I spoke with John about a month ago and they plan to start that project in August.

J. HARTZELL: back to Kelly's question on the magistrate, I know they send us a report, she can probably black out the names of the people, but it would show the amount they were fined.

C. LANG: The report does not give a physical address it is just a name and a case # or citation #.

J. HARTZELL: I was up on Wood Street and it is a mess. There are tires along the road, garbage, and debris. I don't know how an emergency vehicle would ever make it up there.

A. HUSSEY: Mr. Cook just paid for a dumpster permit and will be cleaning that area up.

K. BELIN: I have a question regarding 250 Card Avenue. So, did this property owner just call you and state that he was moving this stuff down, did he tell you why he was moving tires to the sidewalk?

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A. HUSSEY: you would have to refer to my report, but I don't have it inform of me but if you would like to have a conversation, not at a public meeting, I would be happy to entertain that with you.

K. BELIN: okay then I think you should update your report as far as why he called. There were numerous complaints stating that those tires were coming down the hill from the neighbor's property who refused to do anything about it.

A. HUSSEY: unfortunately, I am unable to speak about pending litigation that is coming up at a magistrate hearing.

K. BELIN: I'm just asking for you to update your report because it is missing the reason that he called you.

A. HUSSEY: I understand your position, but I am unable to change anything at this time and will update it once the hearing is complete.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: last month I was asked about the pruner that was purchased and I found that it is an 18' one because they only had a 12' and needed the addition to get some of the other trees. They have been doing a lot of clean up around town, but we are unable to go onto private property and clean garbage, those complaints need to be referred to Al. They have starting cutting grass; I will be discussing the waterweeds with him. The dump truck was inspected and returned. We need to begin hiring for summer help at \$8.00/hour. They also repaired a stop sign on Airbrake Avenue. The full report of work is in your packets for review.

J. HARTZELL: there are a lot of potholes on Caldwell, Marguerite, and the side of the Borough building.

P. SHURGOT: he has done some already, but he will be doing more in the up coming weeks.

L. KIRK: Middle Avenue has been a mess with the WPJWA work and was closed completely the other day. Did we receive warning that this was happening?

S. SHURGOT: they have never given proper notice to the residents that water was going to be off or that the road was going to be closed. They should be done soon because they were milling and paving.

C. LANG: it was a different company, and they did put notices on the resident doors, at the beginning of the project stating that the water would be shut off during certain times.

G. JAKUB: do we have anything in the works for getting the flagpole painted?

P. SHURGOT: there will be a new flag placed.

K. MAXWELL: that is included in the park grant.

J. HARTZELL: can we at least take the flag down, it looks bad.

P. SHURGOT: I will have him take it down tomorrow.

K. MAXWELL: are the arrows still on the list to get done?

P. SHURGOT: yes

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K. MAXWELL: there is more activity at the field now and we had damage to on of the benches there.

P. SHURGOT: Tony notified me that a bench was destroyed at the pavilion, he removed it, called the police, and filed a report, and Pete was going to see if they could see it on the cameras. Kelly was also notified so she will have a more updated report on it.

K. MAXWELL: I do but just to clarify that is not the WCC's field, it is Borough property. I don't want anyone to think that the WCC was complaining that it was broken. Who will be planting the flowers this year?

P. SHURGOT: I haven't spoken to them about it yet.

K. MAXWELL: my mother and I have done it for the past several years but last year I asked for it to be mulched and it was not. I'm not going to spend hours cleaning it and planting for them to just die. I only did it because I was under Recreation and I figured that was part of the committee responsibility, but I don't know if it is. Something needs to be done before Memorial Day.

P. SHURGOT: first we need to decide if we are going to have something for Memorial Day.

S. SHURGOT: I was going to bring it up under new business, but I can do it now. Is anyone available to be the MC because I will be out of town. We can have Caroline reach out to the band and I will contact United Fire Department and we can get Mark and Pasto Reed.

A. HUSSEY: I will do it if no one else is available.

K. MAXWELL: so, who is responsible for planting the flowers?

S. SHURGOT: we will pass that onto Ms. Shurgot and have them clean out the beds and plant.

P. SHURGOT/ K. BELIN TO HAVE THE DUMP TRUCK TAKEN TO FORD TO GET THE COMPUTER RESET. THE COST IS \$119.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER – L. HEMPHILL: On the Welsh/Orient project we are just waiting on the okay from the County to bid the project. Herman avenue asphalt cracks should be repaired the first wee of May. GTRP application will be re-submitted as the project was not approved last year. CD 47, for Station Street sidewalks, plans and specifications are complete and we are waiting on the grant agreement so we can proceed with bidding. ACT 152 Demo grant was submitted for 8 properties. Airbrake and 5th Street paving has been completed. Middle Avenue waterline repairs, WPJWA's contractor will be paving the trench where the new main was installed, and this will complete the project for the time being.

P. SHURGOT: Do you know if anyone looked at the issues at the corner of Morningside and Western?

L. HEMPHILL: I think that is where Dave and I went but I will check on this.

C. LANG: Just to add a little bit to what LaFranz mentioned, I have been working with Allegheny County regarding our CITF funding for Orient. The condemnation hearing was done because the demolition of those 2 structures is included in that grant, we have also pushed the grant expiration out to 2022, they approved the new scope and now we are just waiting for the grant itself to be approved.

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S. SHURGOT: the Mayor will reach out to Mr. Graff about the gazebo.

COG – J. HARTZELL: the demo applications have been submitted, they are looking for more towns to use the Vactor program, they have new code enforcement software they are working on, and Wilkins Township will be celebrating their 200th anniversary this year in September.

UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL:

J. HARTZELL/L.KIRK TO INSTALL THE 22 LED CONVERSION LIGHTS ON CALDWELL, WESTINGHOUSE, JOHN, GLENN, AND FLORENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2398.00 TO BE PAID OUT OF THE PLIGIT GENERAL FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: We talked about Memorial Day, the flagpole painting is in the grant, the picnic table was broken at the field. We have been having large groups of skateboarders conjugating and coming down Westinghouse Avenue and also in the park. They are playing chicken with the cars and still causing problems. We looked at the cameras at the WCC but were unable to see who it did so the WCC will be adding another camera facing that area. There has been a lot of trash and dogs up in the park not picking up after their animal. I was hoping we could put a receptacle and a sign up there as well so they will clean up.

J. HARTZELL: can we just put a sign up saying no dogs aloud?

K. MAXWELL: we've talked about that for this park as well, but it is a matter of enforcing it and no one will sit up there all day to do that. Tony sent me a message also regarding East McKeesport. Lea's Floral is working out of their senior center and using all of their table and chairs and they wanted to borrow some of ours for election day.

P.SHURGOT/J.HARTZELL TO ALLOW EAST MCKEESPORT TO BORROW TABLES FOR ELECTION DAY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: I have nothing else to report.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS

J. THOMAS/K.MAXWELL TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS FOR MAY.

J. HARTZELL: what is the bill from Advanced Turf Solutions?

C. LANG: chemicals to spraying.

J. HARTZELL: why do we spray?

S. SHURGOT: we spray the curb weeds and Borough maintained sidewalks.

J. HARTZELL: we have always just cut those.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. MAXWELL: sorry to go back but what is this property assessment appeal, is he renting the building to the new owner?

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C. LANG: Mr. Filia still owns the building, and he does rent the space although the usage of it has not changed.

S. SHURGOT: It is my understanding that we may see a lot of this in the upcoming months because of the pandemic.

G. EVASHAVIK: yes, that is true for rental units and commercial spaces. This has been happening across all of our communities.

K. MAXWELL: so, does that have to go through a rental inspection?

G. EVASHAVIK: the rental inspection we do is for residential properties, but we do inspect all properties, including commercial, at time of sale. Although they are still subject to the same code compliance

A. HUSSEY: if he is renting it, he would have to fill out the paperwork and have a fire inspection completed.

C. LANG: for commercial buildings we do not have a change of tenant inspection only for the change of sale.

G. EVASHAVIK: let me review the ordinance and I will send you my findings.

RECREATION – K. BELIN: nothing

PLANNING – K. BELIN: Joyce would like to reach out to her contact in the County regarding police coverage.

S. SHURGOT: I also have Dennis Pittman sending them a letter and he was going to try to get some other business to also do letters.

OLD BUSINESS:

J. THOMAS: everyone is aware of the issues with the handicap ramp at the building. Larry Urban took a look at it and gave us a quote of \$1800.00.

C.LANG: yes, that was the price to replace brick missing with brick and blocks and patch the loose areas and the space that the bricks will be replaced.

J. THOMAS/K.BELIN TO AWARD URBAN CONSTRUCTION THE HANDICAP RAMP PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1800.00 TO FILL HOLE WITH BRICK AND CEMENT AND PATCH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

S. SHURGOT: The Governor is reducing all restriction, except the mask mandate, on May 31st. I would like to open the Borough Building doors effective June 1st and to resume all in person meetings.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I have nothing.

J. HARTZELL MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:19 P.M