

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 10. 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Smith at 7:20 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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.

M. TRKULA / REV. D. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCT. 6, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A plaque was presented to Mr. Shurgot for completing the basic certification training requirements in the PA. Emergency Management Services Code, Section 7502 and the PA. Emergency Management Directive 2011-2. Mr. Shurgot is now certified as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Wilmerding Borough.
2. Request for a handicap sign at 147 Watkins Avenue. All the necessary paperwork was submitted. **K. PETERSON / M. TRKULA TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 147 WATKINS AVE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**
3. Received a Consent Order from the D.E.P.

MR. D. GLENN: this Consent Order states that ALCOSAN cannot affordably convey, store and treat all flows as envisioned in the Wet Weather Plan. The D.E.P. has been working with ALCOSAN to amend the 2008 Consent Decree to allow for submittal of a revised Wet Weather Plan and for ALCOSAN to develop flow targets for all of its contributing municipalities that will allow ALCOSAN to comply with the CSO Control Policy and to eliminate all SSO's. This Consent Order is mandatory and requires that all municipalities sign the agreement. If you do not sign this then the D.E.P. will not allow any new tap-ins. There will probably be some changes to this and there may be items that we may not have to do.

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: there are two deadlines, by Dec. 1. 2017 the borough must submit to the D.E.P. a Source Reduction Study and by August 1, 2017 submit a demonstration project.

S. SHURGOT / J. THOMAS TO SIGN THE CONSENT ORDER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

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There is also a resolution that goes along with the Consent Order. The resolution just authorizes the signing of the Consent Order.

S. SHURGOT / W. PRICENER TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE CONSENT ORDER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. Received an application for the P.I.B. Loan to pave streets.

S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO START THE PROCESS FOR THE P.I.B. LOAN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. Received a notice of the Allegheny County Borough's Association General Membership meeting to be held on Thursday Dec. 10th at Heinz Field-North Club Lounge. There is no cost for the delegates to attend but there is a fee of \$25 for anyone else. They are also asking for a toy donation which will go to Angel's Place and a small door prize.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO SEND THE DELEGATES TO THE MEETING AND TO PROVIDE A GIFT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. Received a Memorandum of Understanding from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to provide a once a week Green Grocer market stop. The stop will be on Herman Avenue, in front of the school, on Fridays from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. The first date will be Friday Dec. 4th. The items are not free but will be sold at a discount.

MR. J. THOMAS: is this strictly cash or will they take a credit card.

MR. W. PRICENER: I know they will take access cards but I will check to see if they take credit cards.

7. Received a letter from Joyce Tomasic requesting that she be reappointed to the Planning Commission. Her term expires on Dec. 31, 2015.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO REAPPOINT JOYCE TOMASIC TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 44 calls in October and make 30 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.2 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.7 minutes. For the month of October the fire department responded to 10 calls, of which 8 were in town and 2 were out of town. They also had pump training and did a walk through of a handicap house to discuss a preplan. They also held a boot drive during the month.

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CHIEF J. MATRAZZO: the police responded to 171 calls for October and made 7 arrests. A breakdown of the calls are: 1 assault, 2 burglaries, 4 criminal mischief, 15 domestics, 2 drug investigations, 5 harassment, 2 hit and run, 3 juvenile complaints, 2 loud music, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 open burning, 3 parking complaints, 2 public intoxication, 5 suspicious activities, 1 suspicious incident, 3 suspicious persons, 3 thefts, 2 traffic accidents, 3 warrants, 3 landlord ordinance and 4 tow tagged vehicles.

MR. W. PRICENER: the Y.M.C.A. held their annual Gomer Davis Pumpkin Chase race and the police are always there directing traffic. Rumor has it that the police refused to help out.

CHIEF J. MATRAZZO: I know that we always help out but we were never notified about the race. If I knew I would have sent someone down.

MR. W. PRICENER: John, the fire department held a boot drive, do you know how much money they collected and how often do they do this.

MR. J. THOMAS: they collected \$540 this year. They try to do it every three or four months. The next fundraiser they are going to have is collecting money for Toys for Tots. Last year they took the toys up to the Monroeville Mall to fill the bus.

MR. S. SHURGOT: for the borough to be eligible for federal funds all employees must complete an on line course in NIMS. The deadline for this to be completed is March 31st. Also, we need to have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place to receive funding but we can piggyback on the County's.

We have put green lights in the windows to honor our veterans. Green is the color of hope, renewal and well-being. The simple action of changing one light to green is intended to recognize veterans and to move them forward as valued members of our community.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – W. PRICENER: for the month of October our Building Inspector, Dave Buskirk, worked a total of 30 hours which included the following: met with Louise concerning citations to be issued, follow up inspections and code enforcement. Checked various properties for property maintenance complaints, prepared and delivered citations to the Magistrate's office several times, attended the Magistrate hearing for the citations issued, inspected and issued occupancy permits for the following rental properties; 427-2 Card Ave., 518 Middle Ave., 142 Watkins Ave. apartment 2, and 432 Airbrake Ave. Issued a roofing permit for 221 Card Ave. Inspected and found deficiencies for property at 130 State St. and 167-2 State St.

The report from Louise for October is as follows: there is still a balance of \$315 due for 2015 rental licenses and will start preparing letters for the 2016 rental licenses. The office telephones are still not connected properly. We have several cases at the Magistrate's office on Nov. 18th to be heard before Judge Brletic. We have another court date for the Kerrigan/Wise appeals downtown before Judge Gallo. He suggested that the attorneys get together to try and settle as many of these as possible. Would like to acknowledge the work Al Hussey is doing to help code enforcement with occupancy and fire code violations. He goes out at night and catches people moving into properties and follows up on police calls. We have problems with the banks foreclosing on properties and leaving the names of the former

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owners on the tax rolls so they do not have to be responsible for maintenance. I had an inquiry if the borough adopted an ordinance that requires banks and mortgage companies to register vacant, defaulted or foreclosed properties with the borough. We do not have an ordinance like that and I would ask Council to consider adopting one. In order to provide better enforcement I came upon Ordinance 986 which required that all refuse/trash bills be paid as a condition of obtaining an occupancy permit. This ordinance was repealed in 2009. I am requesting that another amendment to Ordinance 1007 be adopted to include the payment of garbage fees as a condition of obtaining an occupancy permit.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: I would like to thank Rev. Reeves, John Thomas, Sandy Smith and Mike and Pat for their help on clean up day. We had 40 students from Pitt help us to pick up trash around the borough. Lunch was provided by the C.I.A.C. and myself to all the volunteers.

Our guys continue with the daily trash pick up around the business district and the park, the new dumpster dog was installed on the truck, built a leaf box, helped with the Halloween activities, installed two handicap signs, did some street sweeping and filled in the pot holes, and picked up the tires on Orient Avenue. They are preparing for the winter season and have ordered salt. They cleaned the building for election day and they also cleaned around the catch basins.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO PURCHASE A PALLET OF CALCIUM CHLORIDE AT THE SHACOG PRICE, \$580.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – D. GLENN:

1. Submitted an application to COG for CD 42 demolition of four sites, 345, 349, 401 and 409 Welsh Avenue.
2. WPJWA determined that there are no leaks in their lines on Commerce Street which would cause water to leak into the public works garage. We did locate a storm sewer on the other side of Commerce Street, near the castle, and we would like to televise it to check for leaks.

S. SHURGOT/ K. PETERSON TO HAVE NORTH VERSAILLES SANITARY AUTHORITY TELEWISE THE STORM SEWER ON COMMERCE STREET TO CHECK FOR LEAKS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$500.

MR. M. TRKULA: I don't think that you should put a cap on it.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. On October 28th bids were opened for the 2015 sewer cleaning and internal evaluation project-CCTV. The low bidder was Insight Pipe at a quote of \$28,125.
J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INSIGHT PIPE TO DO THE CCTV PROJECT AT A COST OF \$28,125. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.
4. In order to comply with requirements contained in the N.P.D.E.S. General Permit for Combined Sewer Overflows we have initially monitored flows at numerous locations to establish guidelines. A flow monitor in one location has been maintained in order to provide the necessary monitoring

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and to provide all overflow data necessary. The current monitoring device provides all the necessary data for recording but provides no means of notification of an overflow event. Based upon the foregoing, I submit a proposal from Drnach Environmental to furnish, install and operate the Telog/Enterprise System. The equipment would be owned, operated and maintained by Drnach Environmental. Drnach is currently the borough's monitoring consultant. The monthly cost is the same as the current monitoring (which would be removed) and a onetime installation charge of \$1,500 is required. I am recommending that authorization be granted to install these units by Dec. 1, 2015 in order to allow for some settling in period.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO HAVE DRNACH ENVIRONMENTAL INSTALL THE EQUIPMENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. If you recall I sent a letter to Allegheny County requesting funding to support the \$317,500 bid received to remedy the hillside slope with netting on Ice Plant Hill. The borough did receive a grant in the amount of \$100,000 which leaves a shortfall of \$217,500. The county may be willing to provide the aforementioned shortfall subject to a yes response to the following questions.
 1. WILL THE BOROUGH OF WILMERDING OWN WHATEVER IS CONSTRUCTED.
 2. WILL THE BOROUGH OF WILMERDING TAKE OVER FULL OWNERSHIP OF THE PARCEL WHICH MEANS THE COUNTY SHALL HAVE NO FUTURE LIABILITY.

If Council agrees to these terms then I will notify the county.

M. TRKULA / REV. D. REEVES TO APPROVE THE COUNTY'S REQUEST THAT THE BOROUGH WILL OWN WHATEVER IS CONSTRUCTED AND TAKE OVER FULL OWNERSHIP OF THE PARCEL WITH THE COUNTY HAVING NO FUTURE LIABILITY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: they are looking for more participation in their Code Enforcement Program.

MS. S. SMITH: I believe that when we met with them there was an issue related to costs. I would like them to come back and discuss this further.

Also, we had a gentleman here who designed his own program for code enforcement but it was cost prohibited.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: we will look into the telephone issue in the code office. I received a call about raccoons and skunks at the end of Westinghouse.

MS. S. SMITH: I went up to look at the property that she complained about and there was just a small crack in the foundation. There is no way that the raccoons are coming from that property. I also talked to the people who complained and told them that the raccoons are getting into their property through a hole in the foundation and that they also need to pick up the garbage.

MS. K. PETERSON: we are still working on getting a "G". The door project on Commerce Street into the building is completed.

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UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: I received a call about a street light that is out on Caldwell Ave. We will take care of that.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we are working on a five year plan for the borough.

Mr. Greg Jakub talked about emergency management and also the newsletter went out to the residents telling them what to do in an emergency.

The castle will be going up for Sheriff Sale on January 5th.

SOLICITOR – N. EVASHAVIK: we already talked the Consent Order and Three Rivers Wet Weather.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS: I would like to have a workshop in November to discuss the budget.

J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: there is a line item that says Compass Rehab Investment. What is this for?

MR. J. THOMAS: back in the 70's the county gave out loans to the residents to fix up there houses. When they were paid back it went into this savings account. The name on the account is misleading. There are no longer any loans out there and we use that account for tax money.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: there was money withdrawn from that account.

MR. J. THOMAS: when the tax money comes in we deposit it into that account and we usually withdraw money later in the year to meet our expenses.

RECREATION – S. SHURGOT: we had 68 children for our Halloween activities. We will be having the children's Christmas Party on Dec. 12th at 1 pm at Holy Angels Church Hall. We will be trying to show some movies in November and December.

W. PRICENER / REV. D. REEVES TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. M. TRKULA: what is going on with 501 Westinghouse Avenue.

MS. S. SMITH: they have requested a zoning hearing.

MS. K. PETERSON: I haven't spoken to anybody but I understand that Mr. Urban received a letter that he was in violation of the zoning.

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MR. W. PRICENER: the question is, has the place been vacant for more than six months. Also, he has another business there, he rents U-Hauls.

MR. G. JAKUB: he actually has three businesses there, a repair garage, a recovery station and a U-Haul rental.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. W. PRICENER: since the cost of our health care coverage for our employees has gone up, the consensus is that the employees should pay a small percentage of the cost.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON STARTING ON JAN. 1, 2016 THAT THE EMPLOYEES PAY 5% OF THE MONTHLY COST FOR HEALTH INSURANCE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-1 WITH S. SHURGOT VOTING NO.

MR. M. TRKULA: when they do the leaves at the building across the street they dump them close to the parking spaces and they get blown all over the place and we have to clean them up.

MS. S. SMITH: we will send them a letter telling them to dispose of their leaves elsewhere.

MAYOR'S REPORT – H. SLACZKA: in Louise's report she suggested that we adopt ordinances that deals with vacant property and payment in full of monies owed. I believe this might solve some of the problems.

MS. S. SMITH: we can have Nick look into this.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: I believe that Al Hussey is a positive influence in our community. He comes out at all hours of the day to help with code enforcement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm