

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOSEPH HARTZELL, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

J. HARTZELL/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2020 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. ALCOSAN is issuing a 4 year rate structure. It goes into effect January 1, 2021 and the increase will be \$.60 from \$8.50-\$9.10 for each thousand gallons used. Customer service will also increase by \$1.25 from \$17.86 to \$19.11 per bill issued.

S. SHURGOT: do we need to do anything with this in our budget.

J. THOMAS: this is just a pass through.

J. HARTZELL: we just have to notify the water company that the ALCOSAN rate has increased and we want to pass that on to the customers.

C. LANG: yes, we have to do that every year.

2. PA Department of Labor & Industry 2021 Solvency Fee. Pursuant to Section 213 of the PA Unemployment law you may pay a solvency fee of \$226.81 which could be a relief from charges.

S. SHURGOT: larger companies throughout the state do this. You pay into like a "kitty" and instead of doing this you pay the solvency fee, and they use what you have in your "kitty" so you don't have to pay per month.

C. LANG: it could cover claims for employees that would quit or discharged for misconduct, but it will not cover an employee that would be laid off.

J. THOMAS/K. BELIN TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. 2021 Banner Community is offering a Recertification. With the onset of COVID, ALOM has decided to automatically offer all standing Banner Communities a chance to sign a re-certification pledge for the 2021 year since we were unable to fulfill the requirements with the shutdown.

P. SHURGOT/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT AND SIGN THE 2021 BANNER COMMUNITIES RE-CERTIFICATION PLEDGE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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3. We have five (5) concurring resolutions. The first (1) would be for the Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of \$72,765.00 with Borough funding of 30% to equal \$31,185.00 for Street Sign replacements.

P. SHURGOT: will that include the install?

A. PRINCE: we had to get the estimate above \$100,000.00. They will be a standard street sign upgrade.

C. LANG: Resolution two (2) is for CDBG Funding in the amount of \$80,000.00 to repair the handicap ramp at the entrance to the Borough Offices. Resolution three (3) is another CDBG in the amount of \$600,000.00 to repair the walls and step on Card Avenue and Sprague Street. Resolution four (4) is another CDBG in the amount of \$44,000.00 to repair the sidewalks on Station Street. Finally, Resolution five (5) is another CDBG in the amount of \$70,000.00 to repair the wall at the Fire Department garage entrance. All four (4) of these grants will be administered through TCVCOG.

P. SHURGOT/J. HARTZELL TO ADOPT ALL FIVE (5) OF THE CONCURRING RESOLUTIONS NEEDED TO APPLY FOR THE FIVE (5) GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. We received a letter regarding our GEDTF grant application for the Street Reconstruction and unfortunately, we have been denied funding at this time.
5. I also have 2 applications for free handicap parking signs. The first is at 410 Airbrake Avenue and the second is at 412 Caldwell Avenue.

J. HARTZELL: 410 Caldwell does she show proof that she lives there because it is in care of Pauline Walsh.

C. LANG: if she just moved in her handicap information will not show that address. I believe that the information that was provided is Pauline's as she will be driving the individual back and forth. The placard belongs to Rose.

K. BELIN/P. SHURGOT TO APPROVE THE HANDICAP PARKING SIGN AT 410 AIRBRAKE AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: according to our traffic officer you must provide proof of residency to get a handicap parking space. I will check into this if Caroline can send me the information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: the fire report for the month shows 25 calls, 5 in town and 20 out of town, 2 work details, 6 trainings, 3 social events, and 24 maintenance hours. They had an issue come up on the older truck with the transmission and it has been repaired. The new squad was going to Ford to have the computer reset and have the decals put on. The EMS report for November shows there were 42 calls with 23 transports. The average emergency response time was 7.9 minutes and noon-emergency response time was 11.8 minutes.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: There were 228 events for the month. They included 3 abandoned vehicles, 5 alarm activations all at Alfieri's, they have been issued a notice of violation which gives them 30 days to get the alarm corrected. There were also 3 burglary, 3 disturbances, 6 domestic disputes, 2 motor vehicle crashes, 1 motor vehicle theft, 4 PFA's, 34 traffic stops, and 2 weapons. There were 10 arrests for the month, 1 cruelty to animals, 1 DUI, 1 harassment, 1 identity theft, 1 simple assault, 1 for strangulation, and 4 warrant arrests.

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J. HARTZELL: there is still parking on the yellow lines and on the sidewalks. On Friday there was a truck parked on the sidewalk, it's there all the time, and in front of that there was a police car parked on the sidewalk.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: they may have been there responding to a call.

J. HARTZELL: He didn't have to park on the sidewalk, there was a spot in front of the truck. It looks like they were in there having dinner.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: I will look into it.

J. HARTZELL: also, back in January I brought up a motion to have Al Hussey issue parking tickets and it was denied by council, but I noticed on his report that he is issuing parking tickets. Can I have some clarification on this.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: I have no jurisdiction on who issues them, my officers do issue Borough citations as well as state citations.

J. HARTZELL: but at the January meeting council didn't want him to do it and now he's doing it. I just want to know if he is going to continue and want clarification, so I know who to contact when I see a violation.

G. JAKUB: I suggest that we leave all the tickets to the police.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: I did find out that Friday night the officers were there on a call for an individual that had a stroke.

L. KIRK: can Al tell us what his tickets were for?

A. HUSSEY: the tickets that I do issue are under the Borough ordinance and they relate to fire lane parking. I work with Caroline and the police on these to ensure they get paid and if they do not then the police issue the state citations.

J. HARTZELL: so, the question is will he continue to do this.

S. SHURGOT: I think he should continue to do anything relating to the fire lanes, but he should not be issuing other parking tickets.

P. SHURGOT: there is an offender on Friday morning at the church. Can you send the church a letter letting their parishioners know they cannot park on the yellow lines?

C. LANG: yes, I will have to send it to the main office because there is nobody in our parish office, but I will get that to her.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – A. HUSSEY: I will refer to my report that everyone has received.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: Our laborer will return soon from his 2-week deployment. Meanwhile they have been busy cleaning up leaves around town, work on the sewer line on Westinghouse Avenue that is clogged but nothing else major has happened.

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J. HARTZELL: on election day I was stopped by a resident in the Caldwell Station apartments, she complained about the stones that washed down from the chipping of the county road. She is afraid that with the large trucks coming down that a stone may break a window in her vehicle. Can we have the state come back out and clean up the stones?

C. LANG: I will contact them, but I do not think that they will clean the lower part of Caldwell because it is our road even though the stones washed down from their work.

A. HUSSEY: I have had several complaints from resident on Airbrake about a sewer drain that has a strong smell of sewer gas. What should I tell the residents about a timeframe of when that will be repaired?

C. LANG: that has been completed, it was done with the 2019 storm inlet repairs that were just completed.

ENGINEER – A. PRINCE: Welsh/Orient slide, we had a virtual meeting with the County, Cog, Dave, Caroline, and myself, the county is of the opinion that since the scope of the project has changed that we will need to file a new application for funding. Meanwhile, we have requested that the county award the CITF grant scope of services so the Borough can get reimbursed for the money already spent. Dave is working with the COG on that. The storm inlet project is complete, we submitted 4 CD 47 pre applications which the Resolutions were passed earlier in the meeting. We also applied for the PennDOT grant and that resolution was passed as well.

P. SHURGOT: there is a large crack forming on Morningside Avenue at Western Avenue. Can you have that looked at?

A. PRINCE: yes, we will come take a look at that.

S. SHURGOT: do we have any updates on the park grant?

A. PRINCE: we have not heard anything back from them. I will have Dave reach out and see if he can find out.

COG REPORT/ UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL: All the CDBG grants have been completed and the 2019 CITF grant for the WCC was approved and the project should start in 4-5 weeks. For utilities do we want to do the LED change again for next year?

P. SHURGOT: It would be this side of town so would we continue on Westinghouse?

J. HARTZELL: I was looking at Caldwell, Westinghouse, John, and Glenn.

G. JAKUB: would that include the 1st light on Ice Plant?

J. HARTZELL: I will add it on and see if we can include that.

K. BELIN: Caroline, I emailed you about the pole maintenance and the mess they left, have you heard anything about that?

C. LANG: they are still working in town and said they would be up to clean up the area.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: Caroline has Tony made any plans on the sink repairs?

C. LANG: not yet, he has been consumed with cleaning up leaves, but it is on his list to take care of when the weather is poor.

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K. MAXWELL: the other thing is park decorating, since we probably will be unable to do anything can we still get it decorated after Thanksgiving?

P. SHURGOT: yes, we can have them work on it.

J. THOMAS: on top of that Tony was going to purchase 3 CO detectors.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: We had some property assessment appeals that Nick has handled it has been quiet.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS /P. SHURGOT TO PAY ALL APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

J. HARTZELL: what are the parking permits for?

K. MAXWELL: They are hanging tags that were discussed when we talked about permit parking around the park.

J. HARTZELL: I didn't think we were going to do anything with that.

K. MAXWELL: we are not doing anything with them, but the order was already placed.

J. THOMAS/K. MAXWELL TO ADVERTISE BUDGET FOR 2021 WITH AN INCOME AND EXPENSE OF \$989,514.00, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL,7-0.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO KEEP THE 2021 MILAGE AT 11 MIL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

P. SHURGOT: is that going to cover the police contract?

J. THOMAS: We have no idea what the cost is going to be so until we get into negotiations, I will have no idea.

RECREATION / PLANNING– K. BELIN: Well I think we may have to cancel the Holiday celebration as well, but Halloween went well.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

P. SHURGOT: Kelly Maxwell, can you look into purchasing a computer for Public Work, like a tablet.

K. MAXWELL: yes, I can look into it.

S. SHURGOT: if we get something small, he can use it to take pictures as well like when the park was vandalized. We recently had an artist tag a few items in the Airbrake Avenue playground.

P. SHURGOT: Tony did file a report with the police.

J. THOMAS: Can Caroline send a letter to the fire department regarding the meetings in the building?

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S. SHURGOT: I was going to remind everybody of that as well as remind them of the regulations of mask and proper cleaning.

G. JAKUB: can we just post on the building that it is closed.

S. SHURGOT: yes, I can draw something up and we can get it posted. Also, I put something together for Veterans day to place on the Borough website.

P. SHURGOT: Caroline can you put something on the sign.

C. LANG: it is already done.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I just want to thank everyone for coming out to vote.

K. BELIN MOTION TO ADJORN 8:00 P.M.