

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:16 p.m.

S. SHURGOT: council met in an executive for a contract and personnel issue.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

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

P.SHURGOT/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2019 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

J. TOMASIC ON BEHALF OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – we received a letter from Gateway Engineering, they submitted a request on behalf of RIDC, to subdivide a parcel of land from RIDC to AWR. We had a few questions on the letter; they didn't say anything about the bridge there. I consulted with Don Glenn and was informed that Gateway Engineers needs to state who will be responsible for that bridge. I spoke with the Solicitor about the letter I sent and the response that was sent back on the bottom of my letter. The Solicitor verified that they must send an official letter to us.

L. KIRK: I thought that AWR was awarded grant money this summer to repair that bridge, doesn't that mean it is their property.

J. TOMASIC: I'm not sure of that but I do know that bridge is on our Emergency Management Plan.

J. THOMAS: I would contact WABTEC to see if there was something in the sale because that was all their property.

J. TOMASIC: What direction should I take? Should I follow the Solicitors advice and contact Gateway Engineering to request an official letter?

G. EVASHAVIK: RIDC is the official owner so they need to submit a letter on their letterhead stating that the bridge is going to be part of the parcel being conveyed to AWR if this is approved.

B. ALEXANDER – 215 BRIDGE STREET: The alley and the hill next to our property looks as if it is moving. It is pushing over the wall that is adjacent to our property.

MELVIN: There use to be a nice high curb along the alley way and the curb is almost gone. When the garbage trucks come around they are cracking the asphalt and the garage. I have a concrete pad holding the garbage cans and you can see how far the ground is sinking. If you stand at the street and look back the wall is leaning and will be falling soon. When that happens the alley will be coming with it.

S. SHURGOT: Adam please have Dave contact PennDOT about that.

C. LANG: Ted already came out and took pictures of it.

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S. SHURGOT: a few years ago we had problems up further on Maple Avenue, we got that fixed by an act of Congress, but it looks like it is just coming further down.

J. HARTZELL: the lights on Westinghouse still haven't been fixed

C. LANG: I faxed it after the last meeting but I will call tomorrow and see what is going on with it.

J. HARTZELL: on the website it says about parking against traffic', that is not being enforced. There are cars parking on sidewalks, who handles that?

S. SHURGOT: there are a few places in town where we let it go because the roads are so narrow.

J. HARTZELL: I understand that but there are cars doing it on Station, Westinghouse, Caldwell, and Marguerite, just to name a few.

S. SHURGOT: the Inspector can look into it.

E. BARRETT – HERMAN AVENUE: I just want to report that the lights on the monument have been out for over a week.

P. SHURGOT: didn't we just have that problem and get that fixed.

K. MAXWELL: every time the power goes out it trips the box. I texted Tony yesterday but he didn't get a chance to take care of it. I know he doesn't really see it so I will try to let him know if it happens.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. ALCOSAN is issuing a 4 year rate structure. It goes into effect January 1, 2020 and the increase will be \$.56 from \$7.94-\$8.50 for each thousand gallons used. Customer service will also increase by \$1.17 from \$16.69 to \$174.86 per bill issued.
2. We received a letter from Sandy Smith who is interested in filling the vacancy on the Zoning Board. This vacancy was left when Doris Kiling moved.

P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE LETTER FROM SANDRA SMITH AND APPOINT HER TO THE VACANT POSITION ON THE ZONING HEARING BOARD. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

3. Pauline Walsh and Joyce Tomasic both submitted letters to be reappointed to the planning Commission. Both their terms expire on December 31, 2019. We also have a vacancy to fill the position of Mr. Pricener; Lenny Giourard has submitted a letter for this vacancy.

P. SHURGOT/K. MAXWELL TO ACCEPT THE LETTERS RECEIVED FROM PAULINE WALSH AND JOYCE TOMASIC TO BE REAPPOINTED TO THE DPLANNING COMMISSION AND TO APPROVE LENNY GIOURARD TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

4. We have a resolution to pass for Demolition of slums and blight. This would be for the CDBG grant that we are applying to do 2 demolitions on.

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G. EVASHAVIK: this is general and does not identify exact properties and it indicates that the Borough does have some vacant and dilapidated structures.

J. THOMAS/L. KIRK TO APPROVE THE DEMOLITION SLUMS AND BLIGHT RESOLUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CDBG PROGRAM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: the EMS report for October shows there were 57 calls with 35 transports. The average emergency response time was 7.8 minutes and noon-emergency response time was 10.2 minutes. I did not get a fire department report for the month but there was an accident when they were responding to a fire in Braddock. We are currently waiting on the estimate from Glick.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: There were 323 events for the month. They included 3 abandoned vehicles, 1 burglary, 9 disturbances, 8 domestic disputes, 3 DUI'S, 1 escort, 7 motor vehicle crashes, 4 PFA's, 88 traffic stops, 14 warrants, and 1 weapons. There were 16 arrests for the month, 2 fugitives, 2 terroristic threats, 3 DUI's, 1 aggravated assault, 1 theft, 1 EWOC, 1 criminal mischief, 1 firearms, 2 habitual offenders for driving and 2 disorderly conduct.

L. KIRK: Crime Watch is having their December meeting at Johnny's on December 10th at 6 p.m.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – A. HUSSEY: We had 8 occupancy inspection, 5 passed and 3 failed. The Borough collected \$480.00 in fees. We had a total of 27 code enforcement events.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: They have been cleaning up trash around time, cleaned up leaves around town, and did final cuts on Borough properties. The pickup truck went in to get the new plow and spreader and the dump truck needs new tires that will cost approximately \$1000.00

P. SHURGOT/ J. THOMAS TO PURCHASE 6 TIRES FOR THE DUMP TRUCK NOT TO EXCEED \$1000.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

P. SHURGOT: I was away but we also hired a new employee for the street department. John and Linda did the interviews so they can give more information on that.

L. KIRK/K. MAXWELL TO HIRE COLE POLLIARD AS A FULL TIME PUBLIC WORKS LABORER POSITION. HE WILL BE HIRED AT \$12.00/HR AND IS UNDER A 90 DAY PROBATIONARY PERIOD. AFTER THAT HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR SINGLE PARTY BENEFITS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

P. SHURGOT: Jeremy Goldstein will be available this year to help plow if needed.

S. SHURGOT: we had the new spreader on today and we found out when it is fully loaded with salt going down 2nd Street it caught and the remedy is to put shims on the shock absorbers.

P. SHURGOT: the cost of the spacer things is about \$400.00. He is hoping that will solve the problem because if we need to upgrade the leaf springs it will cost over \$1000.00.

P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO REPAIR THE SPREADER AND HAVE THE SHIMS INSTALLED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

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P. SHURGOT: also I would like to have Caroline send a letter to Baron Landscaping to see if he would be willing to help us, if needed, in the winter.

J. THOMAS: up on Orient Avenue there is a large pit that is covered with a steel grate. The grate is rusted through, we have already passed for the new grate now we need to approve for Urban to come and install the new one.

P. SHURGOT: did Urban give a timeframe on when this could be done

J. THOMAS: no

C. LANG: the grate is ready for pickup but Tony did not want to pick it up and have it sitting here.

J. THOMAS/ L.KIRK TO AWARD THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ORIENT GRATE TO URBAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1200.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

ENGINEER – A. PRINCE: 413 Welsh/Orient slide, we are waiting on the study, once complete we can advertise for bids. Ice Plant drainage project has no change; the project is to start in 2020. Herman Avenue sewer separation has been delayed to March of 2020. The contractor had an accident on another job and his excavator operator will be off work for an extended period due to injuries. The DPW ceiling has been looked over and Dave recommends that the area in front of the driveway be excavated down to the level of the basement floor and a French drain be installed to capture whatever water is coming in. After that the ceiling can be hydro-blasted and new waterproofing cement installed. The estimated cost of the French drain is \$40,000.

G. JAKUB: We have never been able to determine where that water is coming from and now we want to add a French drain?

S. SHURGOT: We have done core samples and everything else but still have no clue where the water is coming from.

J. THOMAS: this has been going on for years, we resealed the whole driveway, they drilled at the sidewalk and took core samples, and they still can't find it.

S. SHURGOT: the core samples showed that there is no water there.

A. PRINCE: I will let Dave know that you do not want to go with his recommendation. The 2019 Storm Inlet project bids were opened on October 23. The low bid was from Satira Construction in the amount of \$33,100.00. Dave recommends that council award this project to Satira.

J. THOMAS/LO. KIRK TO AWARD THE 2019 STORM INLET PROJECT TO SATIRA CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,100.00 TO BEGIN IN SPRING OF 2020. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 5-0.

A. PRINCE: Caroline contacted Dave about a hump on the 300 block of Welsh Avenue. Dave originally thought it was a water break and met with WPJWA. They say there is no break so it is possible that it has something to do with the Orient slide. Dave will be meeting with PA Rock & Soil at 8am tomorrow to see if this is possible.

J. THOMAS: on Ice Plant I thought we were going to have a meeting between all the municipalities and discuss what is going on.

A. PRINCE: I will have to ask Dave about that.

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S. SHURGOT: I mentioned to Bob Zischkau about getting that done soon because it is now washing the lower road out.

COG REPORT/ UTILITIES – KAREN PETERSON: no report.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: BC electric replaced the emergency light in council. Elk was here to do maintenance on the boiler and they found some issues that need addressed. The flu pipe and box need replaced due to rust and the estimate is \$3720.00.

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

L. KIRK/P. SHURGOT TO HAVE ELK DO THE BOILER REPAIRS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3720.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: I covered everything in executive.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS /K. MAXWELL TO PAY ALL APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 5-0.

J. THOMAS/K. MAXWELL TO ADVERTISE BUDGET FOR 2020, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

J. THOMAS: can we advertise then make changes to it?

G. EVASHAVIK: you can change it as long as they don't affect the Tax Levy; if they do then you would need to re advertise.

S. SHURGOT: We were going to invite the 2 new council members to a workshop on the budget but we want to get it advertised.

J. THOMAS: also in a discussion with the Borough Secretary regarding revenue and services we provide we thought that we should increase the "no lien letter" payment to \$25.00 to stay in conjunction with the surrounding communities.

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO INCREASE THE LIEN LETTER REQUEST AMOUNT TO \$25.00 BEGINNING IN JANUARY OF 2020. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

J. THOMAS: Not sure if we ever discussed evoking our 4th year on the garbage.

J. THOMAS/ P. SHURGOT TO HAVE THE ENGINEER OR CAROLINE SEND A LETTER TO BIGS TO ENVOKE OUR 4TH YEAR OPTION.

K. MAXWELL: is this the last year for Bigs?

J. THOMAS: it's an option every year but we will have a 5th year still.

PRESIDENT SHURGOT CALLED FOR A ROLE CALL VOTE:

L. KIRK – YES

K. MAXWELL – YES

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P. SHURGOT – YES
J. THOMAS – YES
S. SHURGOT – YES

J. THOMAS/L. KIRK TO AWARD OUR 3 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES, CAROLINE LANG, TONY KRISHER AND AL HUSSEY TO RECEIVE A BONUS OF \$100.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

J. THOMAS: we received an email from MBM they will be taking 7 people to court for delinquent garbage and liening 6 properties for 2016 taxes.

J. THOMAS/L. KIRK TO CHANGE THE WORKSHOP TO THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

RECREATION – K. MAXWELL: We had close to 30 kids for the Halloween Parade. The Santa letters have been out and the Christmas in the Park is December 7 at 5 p.m. We will be selling the luminaries again for Christmas Eve. They are 5 for \$5.00.

K. MAXWELL/P. SHURGOT TO RELEASE THE \$400.00 TO RECREATION FOR CHRISTMAS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

PLANNING – REV. REEVES: none

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: NOTHING

K. MAXWELL MOTION TO ADJORN 8:12 P.M.