

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 9, 2021 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:10 p.m.

Council met in an executive session to discuss a contract issue.

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/K. BELIN TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2021 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

N. RANOLLO PAT MEWS DRIVE: 137 Watkins Ave has a mattress that has been there for several weeks.

C. LANG: I will give them a call tomorrow.

N. RANOLLO: 119 Middle Avenue has garbage on the front porch and garbage bags in the back that have broken. It has been there since last year. 124 Pat Mews Drive still does not have a gutter on their house and it's been like 5 years.

P. CLAYTON MARGUERITE AVENUE: 349 Marguerite has been abandoned and the yard is completely overgrown. The owner still gets mail there, but she is not taking care of the house.

MRS. CLAYTON: there is also a carpet out front that has been there over 3 months and the garbage men won't take it.

J. HARTZELL: the garbage men won't pick it up because it's not cut up into small pieces.

A. HUSSEY: I have been talking

C. LANG WELSH AVENUE: the wall on the 300 block is collapsing and the street is buckling and lifting the sidewalks. It's from the slide and I know they just started working but that wall is not going to last much longer, and it is coming directly at 344, their sidewalk is completely buckled and getting worse. All of our gas and water lines run under the street.

S. SHURGOT: Dave can you take a look at that for us?

D. GILLILAND: the hump is a result of the slide, and it is undermining the street. We are currently installing drainage in that hillside to keep it dry and that should slow down the slide. I will take a look at the wall tomorrow and report my findings back to council.

E. BARRETT HERMAN AVENUE: Mr. Evashavik are you aware of the open meeting laws?

G. EVASHAVIK: yes

E. BARRETT: the Borough is not complying with those. I mention this every month, yesterday they posted the agenda, it is supposed to be 72 hours before the meeting, not 24 hours. They also posted the September minutes 5 weeks after they were approved.

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G. EVASHAVIK: I am not sure of the time frame of when the meeting information needs to be posted

C. LANG: The information I received said 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

G. EVASHAVIK: I will verify the timeframe and let council know my findings.

E. BARRETT: and why are we waiting 5 weeks for minutes?

C. LANG: what month was missing?

E. BARRETT: September posted yesterday.

C. LANG: those have been on there for several weeks; I saw them posted 2 weeks ago when I went onto the website. There is nothing for September workshop because we do not do minutes for those.

E. BARRETT: the second thing is the school busses. Our ordinance 285-72 says you are not aloud to park a vehicle that the access to driveways and turn around spaces. Scholl get out at 2:40 but the busses start to line up at 1:45 and they block all of our driveways. I have asked them to move, and they will not. There is no place to park because students, parents, and teachers are parked all along Herman. The parking lot they redid has 4 cars parking in it.

K. MAXWELL: the buses line up all along Herman, Westinghouse and Deborah Drive and the side alley, last week a car hit one of the school busses because of the cars parked on Herman. He tried to go between the car and the bus and didn't have enough space. The kids come out and run across the street.

K. BELIN: why don't they use Marguerite anymore?

K. MAXWELL: they should be using that for parent pickup.

P. SHURGOT: they can have the busses park at the WCC until dismissal and radio for each buss to come down.

S. SHURGOT: we will send a letter to the school and see what we can do.

E. BARRETT: and they are still going the wrong way and they don't care; we never got the arrows painted on the street.

J. LAWRENCE: we are having a public event on the laws of the castle tomorrow at 7 pm to announce the uses and new tenants of the castle. I would like to invite all of council to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Resolution 2021-4 to approve the acquisition of parcel 545-R-79, 124 Middle Avenue, under the vacant property recovery program.

K. BELIN/P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPTE RESOLUTION 2021-4 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AT 124 MIDDLE AVENUE UNDER THE VACANT PROPERTY RECOVERY PROGRAM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Handicap application for a general sign at 419 Marguerite Avenue.

J. HARTZELL: how do we know that placard belongs to him?

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C. LANG: that's how we have always received, and I can call and ask for the card to be presented.

J. HARTZELL/ K. BELIN TO APPROVE THE HANDICAP SIGN AT 419 MARGUERITE PENDING THE VERIFICATION OF PLACARD. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. Handicap application at 421 Card Avenue, just a general sign and everything is in order.

J. HARTZELL/P. SHURGOT TO APPROVE THE GENERAL SIGN AT 421 CARD AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. 2022 Rate Resolution and Budget from ALCOSAN implementing a 5-year rate structure. This means a rate increase of 7% will happen every year for the next 5 years. This increases the cost from \$9.10 to \$9.73 for each thousand gallons used, and the customer service charge will increase by \$1.34, from \$19.11 to \$20.45 per bill issued.

5. We have 4 concurring resolutions for the CDBG grants, they include \$30,000 for the local share of the park grant, \$70,000 for the driveway and retaining wall at the fire department, \$80,000 for the handicap ramp at the Borough Building, and \$370,000 for paving of Westinghouse, Caldwell, Marguerite, and Patton. These grants will be administered by TCVCOG.

P. SHURGOT/J. HARTZELL TO APPROVE 4 CONCURRING RESOLUTION FOR THE CDBG GRANT PERIOD CD-48. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. Our copier contract is set to expire January of 2022. RTR has worked out a new contract price for the exact copiers that we are currently using. With a 60-month lease. The new contract cost would be \$134.00 a month for the leased equipment and a cost of \$.09 per color page and \$.02 per black page.

S. SHURGOT: make sure they do not add a cost of insurance to the machines.

P. SHURGOT: do we definitely need the 2 copiers?

C. LANG: yes, Al makes copies of his information and does not have access to my office when I am not there. He also uses the color copier for the logo on his Occupancy Permits.

J. HARTZELL: can we do letterhead instead of the color copier?

S. SHURGOT: but if you need a picture printed or something it's better to have then not to have.

P. SHURGOT/ J. THOMAS TO PROCEED WITH THE NEW CONTRACT AND COSTS FROM RTR FOR 2 NEW COPIERS AND A 60 MONTH LEASE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

7. We submitted a letter of support and a concurring resolution to the Wilmerding Community Center showing the Boroughs support in the application of a GEDTF grant in the amount of \$197,180 for repairs to the HVAC, Ballfield, Parking lot, and indoor running track.

J. HARTZELL/L. KIRK TO APPROVE THE LETTER AND CONCURRING RESOLUTION SHOWING SUPPORT FOR THE WILMERDING COMMUNITY CENTER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: The EMS report for October shows there were 32 calls with 123 transports. The average emergency response time was 8.1 minutes and non-emergency response time was 12.3 minutes. There was no fire report submitted but I did check on the invoice for the flat. Unlike cars the stems are wheel mounted so they are the same age as the wheel itself.

J. HARTZELL: didn't they notice that when they were outting the tire on?

L. KIRK: that s a goof question but we would have had the expense regardless.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: We still do not have a report system, there are 28 departments that went live with the new RMS system and none of them have a data analysis working yet. They estimate it to be the 3rd quarter of next year. I can tell you that there were 192 calls and 111 of those were 911 calls. There were 32 traffic stops and 5 arrests.

L. KIRK: there was also a crime watch meeting that I was unable to attend.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: yes, and tomorrow's meeting is at 6 pm downstairs.

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: They have been busy with leaves; they are doing them on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both had taken some time off but they were not on the same days so we still had someone here. I was told today that we need 4 tires for the dump truck and they are \$190.00 each. We also need to replace the backup camera for the pickup. We found a wireless system for \$250.00

C. LANG: the camera is on the back of the salt spreader not the actual truck. The wires got stuck when they were taking it off last year and pulled away from the camera.

P. SHURGOT/K. MAXWELL TO REPLACE 4 TIRES ON THE DUMP TRUCK FOR A TOTAL OF \$760.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS/K. BELIN TO REPLACE THE BACKUP CAMERA ATTACHED TO THE SALT SPREADER ON THE PICKUP TRUCK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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ENGINEER D. GILLILAND: Welsh/Orient slide drainage project is underway. They started at the top and will be moving to lower portion later this week. They expect to be done in about 2 weeks. As far as the demolition part of the grant, the demolition part of the grant the county still has not given us approval to bid.

C. LANG: We were approved to move forward, and Rob was supposed to email you a procurement packet.

D. GILLILAND: I will watch for that then. There is no action on the CD-47 project that was awarded in June, Demolition will be scheduled for the State Blight Demolition once the legal portion is cleared.

G. EVASHAVIK: once the adjudications are mailed out there is a 30-day waiting period.

D. GILLILAND: Act 152 demolition grant is being taken care of through COG and the county will be doing the asbestos testing although we already did 2 of them. Morningside slide project has been delayed because they have not been able to obtain the pipe. I met with him, and they think they found an alternative and expect to start in 2 weeks. He will deliver a flyer to the affected residents notifying them the street will be open during certain hours and closed or restricted during other hours. The Ice Plant Hill project is in the design phase still and we are waiting for grants to be awarded to East McKeesport for the repairs. The state is considering the GTRP grants at the November 16th meeting and the garbage bids were opened on October 4, 2021, so I just need to know councils' decision.

J. THOAMS/J. KIRK TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO BIG'S SANITATION FOR GARBAGE PICKUP. ROLL CALL VOTE.

L. KIRK: YES

K. BELIN: NO

J. HARTZELL: YES

K. MAXWELL: YES

P. SHURGOT: NO

J. THOMAS: YES

S. SHURGOT: YES

MEMBER VOTED APPROVAL, 5-2.

COG REPORT - J. HARTZELL: We did not have a quorum for our meeting so we could not take any formal action. There will not be an increase in dues and November 13th there will be fireworks in Wilkins

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: just following up on the flagpole?

J. THOMAS: he promises the world but obviously can't deliver. The weather doesn't seem to bother him but if you would like to see if someone else can do it, I would understand.

K. MAXWELL: I got a call from the fireman about water damage and replacing the ceiling tiles. The told me around \$100.00 but they mis-calculate so then they were not sure of the cost, but I haven't heard back from them

J. THOMAS: that job is completed and paid for from the fire department.

K. MAXWELL: that is not how it was presented to me, Tom told them to call and get the okay. I also need to get with Steve so we can talk about decorating for Christmas.

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K. MAXWELL: there is supposedly a problem with the cable in that room as well and I told them to talk to Caroline and call you so they can have comcast come out.

K. MAXWELL: they have not mentioned that.

UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL: the LED lights are all in and we can start looking into next year if you feel we have the money.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: We have Ordinance 1050 that is in connection with the police contract between Wilmerding Borough and the Borough of Pitcairn for police services to be effective January 1, 2022, for a term of 5 years. The contract has already been negotiated and approved and to implement said contract we must have the Ordinance for intergovernmental services.

K. MAXWELL/L. KIRK TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 1050. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS /K. BELIN TO PAY ALL APPROVED BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$173,400.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, \$720.00 FROM THE PLIGIT SEWAGE FUND, AND \$12,519.00 FROM THE PLGIT MOTOR LICENSE FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.

J. THOMAS/K. BELIN TO HIRE MARK TURNLEY AS OUR BOROUGH AUDITOR FOR THE YEARS OF 2020, 2021, AND 2022 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5000.00 FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND TO E-FILE OUR AUDIT AND FINANCIAL REPORT TO DECE FOR AN ADDITION FEE OF \$250.00 FOR A TOTAL OF \$5250.00 FOR ALL THREE (3) YEARS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

RECREATION / PLANNING– K. BELIN: Recreation we did Halloween with the school and had a nice turnout but were not able to do the parade because after walking through the school most children left.

K. BELIN/P. SHURGOT TO RELEASE \$400.00 FOR CHRISTMAS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. BELIN: Planning there is not much going on as they are still looking for a project to do.

OLD BUSINESS:

S. SHURGOT: several months ago, we authorized the tax collector to have a room in the building, do we know what is happening with that?

C. LANG: he has not begun to use the office that was given and I'm not sure when he will.

K. MAXWELL: I thought we did January 1st, 2022 and left him the option for this year since everything was already printed.

J. THOAMS: we will be doing the motion to have Keystone print the bills again but I'm not sure how soon we have to let them know of any changes.

C. LANG: I will look into the minutes and then we can proceed accordingly.

J. THOMAS/K. BELIN TO AUTHORIZE KEYSTON TO PRINT OUR TAX BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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J. HARTZELL: have we ever ordered the parking tickets?

C. LANG: no, I am still waiting on copies so we can see where they were printed.

NEW BUSINESS:

S. SHURGOT: Dave, can you clarify the letter regarding the 10% fee?

D. GILLILAND: So right now, when a project is initiated, we did not charge until the project was completed. We found that we are carrying the cost due to the lapse in the contracts at this time. We have proposed that we will bill 75% of the fee after the project is awarded because that is the bulk of the work being done. Once the project is completed, we will bill the final 25%. Also, the engineering fees are not covered by most of the grants, so you are not waiting on the money to be released to you.

G. JAKUB: if the project is a larger amount can we work out a payment schedule?

D. GILLILAND: Yes, we will bill you and are willing to work with you on larger amounts. This was just a figure that was put together, but we are always willing to negotiate.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: We were planning the clean-up committee but due to some issues we have not been able to have a meeting yet and it may be getting too cold at this point but I'm still working on it. Also, thanks to everyone who came out and voted last week.

J. HARTZELL MOTION TO ADJORN 8:20 P.M.