

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:20 pm.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session to discuss some legislative matters.

ROLL CALL: MICHAEL TRKULA, present; REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; WILLIAM PRICENER, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR HENRY SLACZKA was also present.

REV. D. REEVES / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPT. 9, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. S. VOLPE, CARD AVE.: the house at 405 Card Avenue is getting out of hand. The fire department was called there because their gas line was loose. Also, there are about 11 people living there, can they do an inspection of that property. I believe that there are foster kids there.

MR. W. PRICENER: if foster kids are involved then CYF should be notified. I know that CYF does inspect the homes were kids are involved.

MS. A. LOVETT, WELSH AVE.: there are too many foster kids in the area.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we can see if an occupancy permit was issued and who is listed on it.

MR. S. VOLPE: can you list how many citations were issued for the month in the minutes.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the citations are civil not criminal. We can post the citations on the website.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: I have lived in my house for 80 years and I have been coming to these meetings for the last 10 years. It seems to me that the system is not serving us. We need to be more aggressive.

MR. B. DAMICO, LANDLORD: I have owned a lot of properties in this borough over the years and now I only have one property left and I am trying to sell it. I keep my property in perfect condition but I can't sell it because of the property next door to mine. I have been complaining for years to the code office about the property at 424 Airbrake and it seems that nothing is ever done. They park their car in the front yard, there is garbage on their porch and they own a big dog which the owners do not clean up its waste. This town is a disgrace. There is also another property on Airbrake, I believe it is 724 Airbrake, and they have garbage all over their property. I have talked to Louise about these properties and she tells me that we are working on it. You have not done anything about these properties. Also, the property at 1100 Maple Avenue and 1125 Maple Avenue is a disgrace. Nothing is being done about these properties. The value of the properties in town are going down. You have to do something to save your town. Someone has to step up and start taking action.

MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: there was an article in the Post-Gazette that some Pitt professors are promoting DC power where George Westinghouse used AC power. They received a grant to develop the use of DC power instead of AC power. They are working in the Homewood area because that area is people of modest means. Do you think someone could approach that group to see if we can be part of this project.

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MS. S. SLACZKA, PAT MEWS DR.: I thought garbage pick up was on Friday. They are coming on Thursday and going onto private property to empty cans. Was the day changed?

MR. J. HARTZELL: the pick up day is still on Friday. What they are doing is picking up garbage on the way to the dump if their truck is not full. They are short handed and they are trying to help the guys out who pick up on Friday.

MS. S. SLACZKA: whatever happened with the meeting with Waste Management?

MS. K. PETERSON: I will call them and set something up.

MS. N. RONALLO, PAT MEWS DR.: I have a picture here that shows that Sandy Smith puts her garbage out early. The picture was taken on a Sunday and you are not supposed to put it out until the night before. No one over there puts their garbage out early.

MS. S. SMITH: we addressed this issue before.

MS. N. RONALLO: I don't like her and she does not like me. Can we put our garbage out early too?

MS. S. SMITH: it is a bag of grass clippings and they are along the fence in my driveway.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: she can store the clippings on her property. We do not have an ordinance that prohibits her from keeping it outside. There is not a problem with what she is doing.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The police CD is up for renewal. It will mature on Oct. 16th and the interest rate has not been determined.

**J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO RENEW THE CD FOR SIX MONTHS AT COMPASS BANK.
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

2. Received a request from James Thomas at 755 Airbrake Ave. for a handicap sign. All the necessary paperwork has been filed and he showed proof that the handicap placard is in his name.

**M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 755 AIRBRAKE AVE.
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

3. Received a resignation letter from Mr. Henry Slaczka resigning from the Zoning Hearing Board since he was appointed Mayor and cannot serve in both positions.

**S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF HENRY SLACZKA FROM THE
ZONING HEARING BOARD. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: for the month of September Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 38 calls with 25 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.6 minutes and non-emergencies it was 8.2 minutes. For the 3rd Qtr. they had a total of 143 calls with 99 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.8 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.0 minutes. So far for the year they had 283 calls with 191 transports. Their average response time for the year so far is 6.8 minutes for emergencies and 8.05 for non-emergencies.

For the month of September the fire department had 20 calls, 7 calls were in town and 13 calls were out of town. Five members are taking State accredited classes and 3 members participated in the fire prevention demonstration at Praise Christian Academy.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: for the month of September we responded to 193 calls and made 11 arrests. A summary of the calls that we responded to are: 7 burglary, 13 disturbances, 3 dog barking complaints, 16 domestics, 3 drug investigations, 5 juvenile, 2 neighbor disputes, 3 overdose, 2 parking complaints, 4 suspicious activity, 5 suspicious vehicles, 8 thefts, 4 traffic accidents, 3 wanted persons and 12 vehicles tow tagged.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: there were 35 catch basins cleaned out and it took two days to complete. The crosswalks were painted and they will be out picking up leaves. They were getting the spreader ready for winter. They will be grinding the stumps on Westinghouse Avenue and also on Station Street.

Dave, there are still weeds that need to be removed from the walking trail, the bench still needs to be replaced and the curb is broken.

MR. D. GILLILAND: they have until October 15th to complete the job and they are to remove the weeds for one year. They were notified to complete the project or they will be facing liquidation charges of \$350 per day. We may have to pursue the performance bond.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:

1. Verizon has removed the poles from Clara St., Airbrake Ave., and Maple Ave.
2. The remaining work on the Airbrake Ave. Walking Trail includes final grading, seeding, weed removal and repairs such as the bench replacement and grass restoration.
3. Once legal clearance is completed we will prepare specs for the demolition of 223 Third Street.
4. PennDOT has acknowledged the washout problem near the end of the new wall on Maple Avenue where debris from the Tri-Boro is washing onto Maple Avenue. They said that they would correct the problem but so far they have not done so. It is a bigger problem than they anticipated.
5. We have submitted all the signed agreements to the County for their signature so that PA. Soil and Rock can begin the soils study on Ice Plant Hill.

MS. S. SMITH: we met with the County and told them that we need their funds to do the second phase. Once the next phase is completed we need to open one lane and they said they would help us with that.

6. On September 29th bids were opened for the door replacement and repairs. There were seven request for proposals sent out and only three responses were received. The low bid was from Brunner Home and Business but he has elected to grind the top edge of the Commerce Street door. This is a temporary solution as the jamb and the door will continue to deteriorate. The true solution is to replace this door due to corrosion, rust and frame damage. Should Council wish to proceed with this project it

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is recommended that A.G.L. Enterprises be awarded the contract. Although Brunner's total cost is \$11,193, it is lower by \$1,247 than A.G.L. Enterprises price of \$12,440, the main door at Commerce Street will be replaced by A.G.L. at a cost of \$4100 rather than a temporary fix at \$250.

MS. K. PETERSON: I have two bids coming in.

MR. M. TRKULA: didn't they have to be in by a certain date.

MR. D. GILLILAND: the deadline was Sept. 29th.

MR. S. SHURGOT: since they were closed bids, would there be a problem since the prices are known. Can we still accept more bids.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: yes you can since they were only proposals, can they come in at any time.

7. There is a sewer problem behind the deli and North Versailles came out and cleaned out the grease but there is still some debris in the line. The line serving the deli runs uphill about 10 feet. There are a few recommendations to remedy this problem. First the 5 foot manhole at the rear of the restaurant is in poor condition and needs to be replaced, second a new manhole needs to be installed where the line drops 10 feet and connects to the main line. A clean out will be installed in this manhole which then would allow the pipe to be safely cleaned and third the restaurant must immediately cease and desist from depositing grease into the sewer system, install a grease trap and if there is a grease trap has already been installed it needs to be cleaned and properly maintained. The estimated cost for the 5 foot manhole would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 and the 10 foot manhole would be about \$8,000 to \$10,000.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO HAVE THE ENGINEER SEEK PROPOSALS FOR THE TWO MANHOLES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: they talked about the blight program and they are going to meet with other COG's to see what they are doing.

If there are no more calls for the vactor then they will shut it down for the year.

MR. J. THOMAS: Monroeville joined the Land Bank but Gateway did not. When are we going to get our call.

MS. K. PETERSON: I will let you know.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: I will call the other two companies for bids on the door.

The window in Joe's office and at the top of the steps are being repaired.

MS. S. SMITH: there were defected breakers in the park and they were repaired. Everything is working.

UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: everyone should be getting their water bill monthly instead of quarterly.

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PLANNING COMMISSION – REV. D. REEVES: we discussed the vacant houses bought by the C.I.A.C.

There is a course on the duties of the Planning Commission on Oct. 4th, 23rd and Nov. 6th. The cost of the class is \$95. No one seems interested in going.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: the Verizon poles have been removed.

The Mayor provided us with some information on the Tax Abatement Program (LERTA) and we have reviewed all of the information. To enact this it requires an ordinance. It has to go to the Planning Commission first who will have a public hearing and then submit their finding to council, the school district and the county. There are various types of tax abatements. What type of properties do you want to include, commercial or residential. There are a lot of options and it all depends on what you want to do. Do you want to put a cap on this.

MR. W. PRICENER: on October 1st we met with the County Executive and discussed numerous items and LERTA. Mr. Davin gave us some good guidance on what we need to do. It all starts with the Planning Commission.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: the Planning Commission furnished the same information to the Solicitor. They will be meeting soon.

MS. S. SMITH: when we met with the County Executive they told us that there are a number of programs throughout the county that will help businesses. We told him that we were looking at capping it at three years and they said that all three taxing bodies do not have to be in agreement with this.

MR. J. THOMAS: when would you approach the school district about this.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you can do it now. You should try to get them on board as soon as possible.

MS. S. SMITH: can we get an insurance policy for liability to open up one lane on Ice Plant Hill.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the hill hasn't slid in a year.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the more time passes the more evidence you have to open the road.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: the Y.M.C.A. is on life support. It is a first class facility and it had the second largest membership of all their branches and now it is at the bottom of the barrel. Once you lose that you will never get it back.

MR. D. GILLILAND: it would be my recommendation not to open the road. We are going into the freeze and thaw season and there is always the possibility that it may slide.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: if the liability factor is taken care of what stops you from opening the road. I would suggest that you give it some serious thought.

MR. S. SHURGOT: there is a large boulder hanging there. This is about health and safety. There are going to be people walking up and down that sidewalk. If the hill is unstable it is not worth it.

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FINANCE – J. THOMAS

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

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO HAVE THE ENGINEER CONTACT WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION FOR OUR 4TH OPTION YEAR, 2015. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO CONTINUE WITH THE DISCOUNT PROGRAM FOR THE 2015 GARBAGE COLLECTION FOR EVERYONE THAT IS PAID UP TO DATE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

RECREATION – S. SMITH: we will be having the Halloween Costume Judging on Oct. 31st at 5 pm in the fireman's recreation room. Trick or Treat will follow from 6 – 8 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. M. TRKULA: has anything been decided on what we are going to do with the dog money.

MS. S. SMITH: no.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: our town wide clean up will be on Saturday Oct. 18th and we will have some Pitt students coming in to help. We are getting 42 students this year and we are going to break them up into teams. The C.I.A.C. will provide the lunch. We are also getting two dumpsters for the clean up and they will be by the school on Herman Avenue.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA: I already spoke my peace.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.