

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE OCT. 4, 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

**REV. D. REEVES / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPT. 13, 2016 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** last month we gave you a lot of internal information about litigation. We will not discuss that tonight because it is on-going litigation and we do not want any confidential information getting out into the public which may hurt our case.

**PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS**

**K. MAXWELL, HERMAN AVE.:** in the last three weeks I have personally called the police three times for the juveniles that have been running amok in the park, around the school and through my yard. The third time I called them was because there was a physical fist fight in the park. Each time the police officer came into town all he did was drive around Herman Avenue and then leave town. These kids are running up King's Way and onto the school property. These kids are taunting the police by saying vile stuff that they are going to do to the police officer if they should approach them. Saturday night around 11:30 there were about twenty of them in the center of the park playing very loud music. We are paying them to police this town, not just to drive by. These kids don't care because they know the police are going to do nothing. Last month they said their average response time was 30 to 40 seconds. They night I called about the fist fight in the park it took them 4 minutes and 23 seconds to respond and all they did was drive down Commerce Street. There are about twenty to thirty kids in that park every day causing mischief. I think the police need to do what we are paying them for or stop paying them. People do not want to go in that park anymore because of the kids and the language that they use.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we were made of a problem in either apartment 41 or 43 in the Parkhouse. There were rumors on the street that there was going to be a big party in that apartment and the police knew about it and did not take it too seriously.

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**MS. A. WARD, CARD AVE.:** I had an issue and I called the police and I was told by the police that they are no longer going to patrol Wilmerding and that is something I am going to have to deal with. I also called them about a parking situation on Card Ave. They actually responded to the parking issue but not the other issue that I called them about.

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**MRS. M. MEIGHAN, FOURTH STREET, N. VERSAILLES:** has Mr. Kerrigan made any payments on the \$30,000 that he owes in garbage.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** not that I am aware of.

**MRS. M. MEIGHAN:** can we put our garbage fees and our taxes in escrow until Mr. Kerrigan starts paying on his debt.

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**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** that is a question for a private lawyer to answer since I work for the borough. But to answer your question anyway, no you cannot do it because you would be in violation of the ordinance. You would be subject to a citation and your day in court just like we are doing to him.

**MRS. M. MEIGHAN:** I gave you a paper last month in regards to the nuisance law and the park has to be a nuisance. If we can't get the local police, is there like the State Police or someone else that we can go higher in order to have a response time.

**MAYOR G. JAKUB:** with the intent of the nuisance law, we are working with the DA, I can't go into details, but we were given the protocols to work with and we just received the last bit of information to get the process started.

**MRS. M. MEIGHAN:** like she said, it took them four minutes to respond to a fight, who can we go to next to get a faster response. There is a sign in the park that says that "the park closes at dusk" yet there are still kids there after dusk.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** we have an ordinance tonight that is going to try and clarify some rules about the park.

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**MS. K. TAYLOR, CARD AVE.:** I got the same issue as everybody else concerning the parking tickets. I refuse to pay it because I have been parking the same way for nine years. I was here at the beginning of summer and I asked for a "Blind Child at Play" sign to be put up. Every time I ask the borough workers when they are going to put up the sign they tell me it is being made. There are also cars speeding down that road, it is 15 miles an hour not 40. Something has to be done about the parking. I shouldn't have to park five miles down the street and not in front of my house just because someone who moved in on Card Avenue has 17 cars.

**MAYOR G. JAKUB:** we talked about the parking situation up there and we may consider making permit parking. Each home would get two spaces.

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**MR. S. VOLPE, CARD AVE.:** why can't you have a town meeting like Glassport did?

**MAYOR G. JAKUB:** everyone left the last meeting before it was over. What I want to do is bring back crime watch. We do not have to call it crime watch, we can call it concerned citizens and we would meet once a month.

**MR. S. VOLPE:** when we had this in Glassport we had the Assistant District Attorney, Council, Mayor, property owners and the Magistrate there. What they did was explain the system and how it works. What happens is that all these people are there and the residents can hear it straight from the people's mouth. The whole process is spelled out for the residents.

**MS. S. SMITH:** do you think it would be better to have this meeting instead of the Police Academy. This would bring all the instructors out to explain the process.

**MR. S. VOLPE:** I would do it separately.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** how did it work out for Glassport? Did they see an improvement?

**MR. S. VOLPE:** yes, because a lot of the residents didn't know where the violations were.

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**MR. S. SHURGOT:** can you get us a list of all the people that were invited. We would like to set this up for early November.

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**MS. A. WARD:** this is my first meeting and I didn't have my questions answered. I want to know, are we not going to have North Versailles Police and is the parking going to be a continual issue.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** parking has always been an issue and Council asked the police to start ticketing. Our intent was to start ticketing in the business district. The answer to your other question, the County Police will be taking over patrolling on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**MS. A. WARD:** how do expect Wilmerding to prosper when there will be very little police patrol. This is going to make me sell my house.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** I think the police are going to work out fine. You are going to have one officer in town 24/7 just like we had our own police department several years ago. The County is also going to have their impact squad work out of the hi rise. There is talk that the County Sheriff may assist them and also the Housing Authority Police may assist them.

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**MRS. K. MAXWELL:** I know that January 1<sup>st</sup> the County Police are coming in and hopefully everything will be better then than it is now. Until then we have to have that coverage instead of a drive by every once in a while.

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**MR. S. VOLPE:** 15 – 20 years ago when they experimented on making Card Avenue one way. They did it for one summer and after that there was a question about parking. I believe that Council stated at that time that you can park in either direction because you can only park on one side.

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**MS. E. RUSCH, GEORGE ST.:** this is also about the parking issue. I also got a ticket and I have lived there for forty-two years and I always parked face down on the hill because it is more convenient. In the winter it is going to be more difficult to park facing up the hill. Are you going to put more trucks on the road to handle the snow?

**MAYOR G. JAKUB:** you will be able to park the way you used too. There was a miscommunication and it wasn't meant to ticket the residents. The intent was to do all around the business district and that is why we pulled all of the tickets.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** at this time we have an ordinance to consider on the use of the park. I will turn it over to the Solicitor to conduct the public hearing.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** at this time we have an ordinance amending Chapter 216 of the Code of Ordinances making changes in public park rules and future amendments by resolution. All parks shall be open to the public as Council sets forth and may amend those hours by simple resolution but in no event shall any person be permitted to attend any park between dusk and sunrise; no person shall maintain any fire in any park, including grills, no children under nine shall be allowed in any park unless accompanied by an adult; no person shall disturb the peace and all pets shall not be permitted to run at large in any park, they must be kept on a leash and under control of the owner and they must clean and remove all waste from their pet.

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**MRS. T. HICKMAN:** did you say that pets must be under control or on a leash?

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** you understood correctly.

**MRS. T. HICKMAN:** I would like to see that they should be on a leash. You are opening the books for an accident.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** the State Dog Law regulates dog and permits dog owners not to have them on a leash if they are under their control. If it is a properly trained dog the state does not mandate that so we have to follow the state law first.

**MRS. M. MEIGHAN:** what would the penalties be?

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** we would issue a citation and they would go before the Magistrate. The Magistrate sets all the penalties but the fine could be up to \$300 or imprisonment. The Magistrate makes the call.

**P. SHURGOT / REV. D. REEVES TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF THE PARK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK:** the fire department responded to 27 calls in September, 14 were in town and 13 were out of town.

Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 68 calls in September with 43 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.6 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.7 minutes. They administered 2 NARCAN. Their third quarter report totals are 182 calls and 111 transports and for three quarters of the year they had 471 calls with 321 transports.

**OFFICER SLIVKA:** for the month of September we responded to 226 calls and made 3 arrests. A summary of the calls: 3 animal complaints, 4 assaults, 3 criminal mischief, 13 domestics, 2 drug investigations, 3 harassments, 2 hit and run, 18 juvenile complaints, 2 loud music, 2 man with a gun, 2 neighbor disputes, 4 overdose, 8 parking complaints, 1 shooting incident, 8 suspicious activity, 3 suspicious vehicles, 8 thefts, 1 traffic accident, 2 landlord ordinance and 3 tow tagged vehicles.

**MS. L. KIRK:** we met with the fire department and we discussed the possible changeover to the county 9-1-1 center. They are looking into it but there is a monetary cost to switching over.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** everyone has received a copy of the code enforcement report from COG.

**PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT:** the guys did their daily and weekly trash pick up, had the skid steer serviced, cut down all the saplings and weeds along the walking trail fence, weeded and put down new paper at the Viaduct Garden, weekly grass cutting, picked up leaves on various streets, patched potholes, cleared the catch basins, took the dump to Zoresco and planted mums in planters at the building. They are working with Don Glenn on the water issue in the garage.

**ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:** the Ice Plant Hill project was scheduled to begin the first week in October, however, Duquesne Light has not relocated their wires to the other side of the road. This work is scheduled for completion by October 14<sup>th</sup> after which construction can begin.

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The asphalt paving project has been completed but they still have to come back and seal the seams. The Summit Street project will be started in mid-October.

There was an incident in the public works garage where a piece of ceiling fell down. Don is recommending that the borough contract to have some test holes drilled to find the source of the water infiltration.

**P. SHURGOT / L. KIRK TO AUTHORIZE THE DRILLING OF TEST HOLES TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THE WATER INFILTRATION IN THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

Mr. Glenn inspected the George Street steps and wall and has submitted a letter with recommendations.

Bids were opened for garbage and the low bid was from Big's Sanitation. It is our recommendation that the bid be awarded with the one year option.

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** when we met with Susan we asked to have two bid descriptions, one with e-waste and one without.

**MR. D. GILLILAND:** she said she was told not to include the electronic recycling.

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** I don't think we would go with the recycling because it would cost the residents more money but we still wanted two bids to see what the cost would be.

**K. PETERSON / P. SHURGOT TO AWARD THE BASIC GARBAGE COLLECTION TO THE LOW BIDDER, BIG'S SANITATION, FOR ONE YEAR WITH A FOUR YEAR OPTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

We have two grant applications that we are submitting to the County for CD 43 grants. One is for improvements to the Airbrake Park and the other one is for demolition of four houses.

**MS. S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CD 43 GRANTS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

We received a letter from the DCNR informing us that we do not have the required sign at the Airbrake Park for funding that was received in the sixties. I have a quote of \$60 plus shipping to have the required sign made.

**K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO ORDER THE SIGNS FOR THE AIRBRAKE PARK AS LONG AS IT IS REQUIRED AFTER REVIEW BY THE SOLICITOR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** no report.

**UTILITIES – K. PETERSON:** Duquesne Light is in the process of replacing meters.

**MS. S. SMITH:** has the borough building received its new electronic meter.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** no.

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**BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH:** we received a rejection notice from Keep America Beautiful for the trees. The CIAC has expressed an interest on replacing those trees on Westinghouse and over on Station.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** there was discussion tonight with the residents about residential parking permits. We do have an ordinance establishing residential parking but it designates certain streets only. My recommendation would be for Council to authorize me to amend this ordinance to allow Council in the future to change these designated permit parking areas by simple resolution.

**S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITOR TO AMEND THE PARKING PERMIT ORDINANCE BY SIMPLE RESOLUTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0**

The question came up if we received payments on delinquent garbage and taxes. The company that does it for us gives us a report around the tenth or eleventh of each month.

**RECREATION – P. SHURGOT:** we are working on the Halloween festivities which will be held on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 pm in the park. Trick or treating will be on Halloween from 6 -7:30 pm.

**PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES:** no report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** last month we discussed the problem with the litter in the park. Who ordered the new signs are the fines we are allowed to charge.

**MS. S. SMITH:** Michael usually orders the signs.

**MR. M. JAKUB:** I can, but I was waiting to see what type of wording you wanted on the sign.

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** you can put on there that the fine is up to \$600.

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**MS. S. SMITH:** each year we have the Pitt students come in for our annual clean up. The CIAC always provides lunch for them. Linda Kirk will be the lead person this year along with Bill Pricener. The clean-up day will be on Saturday Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

At the end of last month's meeting you had asked for an update on the Keystone Enterprise grant. The rejection notice was received in June for the \$25,000 grant.

We had Allegheny County send out applications for the Citizens Police Academy to all of our businesses. Since then we have opened it up to the residents. Any citizen that is interested we have applications here.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**MS. S. SMITH:** we had a discussion at our workshop about all the hard work that our Fire Marshall does. We felt, as a Council, that we should give Mr. Hussey a stipend for his services.

**S. SMITH / REV. D. REEVES TO GIVE MR. HUSSEY, THE FIRE MARSHALL, A \$100 STIPEND EACH MONTH, STARTING NOV. 1<sup>st</sup>. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

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**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** with the new police coming in I thought we were going to get together with them to let them know what are policies are, what needs to be checked in the town, what the curfew is and what the street department does. Who is in charge of that, is it the Mayor or the Public Safety Chairperson.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** Linda is public safety so she should set up the meeting.

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**MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE:** I couldn't ask these questions earlier, but when someone administers NARCAN, is the address a matter of public record.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** no, it would be a violation of the HIPA Law.

**MR. A. FRYDRYCH:** when you delve into this business of giving people permits for parking, the last time that it happened most of the homes in Wilmerding were single family. I think you are going to have a problem with just issuing two permits for one house. There may be multiple tenants in that home so then what do you do.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we are going to have to figure something out.

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**MRS. M. MEIGHAN:** are you going to have a study done to compare the number of calls between North Versailles and the County.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we will get the reports from the County and we have the reports from North Versailles to compare.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB:** I met with Senator Brewster and his aides and he is in the process of getting us a \$10,000 grant for cameras.

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**MS. S. SMITH:** I was with Joe Markosek last Thursday and he told me that Allegheny Petroleum got a \$4,000,000 grant and American Wire Research got a \$400,000 grant to repair the bridge off of Airbrake Avenue in the 900 block.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.