

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:02 pm.

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.

M. TRKULA / W. PRICENER TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2014 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a request for a Mortgage Satisfaction for 304 Station Street. These are the townhouses across the street and this is the original owner. They were closing on the property on Sept. 5th and a phone vote was taken to approve the Mortgage Satisfaction.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO APPROVE THE MORTGAGE SATISFACTION FOR 304 STATION STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. The Floodplain Ordinance was advertised and the Solicitor will conduct a public hearing on the ordinance.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: at this time we will conduct a public hearing on the Floodplain Ordinance. This ordinance is mandated and it has to be updated by the end of September. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to comment on this ordinance at this time?

There being no comments, does anyone on Council wish to comment.

MR. W. PRICENER: in the ordinance it states that there are fines set. What is the amount of the fine?

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the fine is not to exceed \$600 per day. That is up to the Magistrate on what he wants to fine them.

S. SMITH / W. PRICENER TO ADOPT THE FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE #1023. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

3. The county has requested that the borough pass a resolution for the Ice Plant Hill project.

MR. W. PRICENER: the Y picked up 1/3 of the original estimate and they are going to have a difficult time raising \$5,000 for the design.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: I would like to ask the Finance Committee to take a look to see if the borough has the money to up the cost for the Y so that we can move forward with this project.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO HAVE THE BOROUGH PICK UP THE Y's PORTION OF THE DESIGN STUDY IF MONEY IS AVAILABLE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. M. TRKULA: so the Y will pay nothing.

MS. S. SMITH: this is for the second phase, the design plan. They have already contributed towards the soils study.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR ICE PLANT HILL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: for the month of August Eastern Area (EAPS) responded to 53 calls with 33 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.4 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.1 minutes. For the month of August the Fire Department responded to 23 calls. There were 12 calls in town and 11 calls out of town. Five members participated in the State Accredited Basic Vehicle Rescue Class, 7 members attended an active shooter class and 6 members attended a safety class held by Norfolk Southern.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: for the month of August the police responded to 231 calls and made 5 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 2 assaults, 2 burglaries, 4 criminal mischief, 16 domestics, 4 drug investigations, 4 gunshots, 1 identity theft, 6 juvenile, 4 loud noise, 7 parking complaints 3 public intoxication, 7 thefts, 2 traffic accidents and 2 tow tags issued.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: the crosswalks and the stops have been painted.

MS. S. SMITH: they did not do any painting on the north side.

MR. M. JAKUB: we painted the stops on Airbrake, Second, Third and Fourth Streets.

MR. W. PRICENER: they put asphalt down around Avenue U, they are cutting the weeds and will be cleaning the catch basins. The road signs are being replaced as needed. Dave, what is the status of the walking trail.

MR. D. GILLILAND: they are not done and they will be back to finish. There is a one year guarantee on the planting.

MR. W. PRICENER: the old part of the trail, when they are cutting weeds the bottom of the fence is in the way and they are using too much string. They want to cut about ten inches off the bottom so they can cut the weeds along the fence.

We are going to contact Cleveland Brothers to see what their extended agreement covers. It would cost us \$1,300 a year for this maintenance agreement.

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When the county cuts the grass they just leave the clippings everywhere.

MR. S. SHURGOT: last year we talked about putting signs up on the days they would be doing the street sweeping. Did you ever decide on what signs you were going to get.

MR. W. PRICENER: I forgot about it.

MR. M. TRKULA: up on Sprague Street we need some crosswalks painted at the bottom of each set of steps. We also need some speed limit signs up there. There are a lot of kids that catch the bus up there and we should get it done before they start school, whenever that will be.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:

1. Verizon has not taken any action on the removal of the poles on Clara, Airbrake or Maple.

MR. G. EVAHAVIK: I sent a letter to Verizon on August 8th putting them on notice that if something happens with those poles that they are responsible.

2. The remaining work on the 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 (Maple Avenue). Thirty days has passed for them file an appeal and we will advertise for the demolition as soon as COG gives us the go ahead.
4. PennDOT has acknowledged the washout problem near the end of the new wall on Maple where debris from the Tri-Boro is washing onto Maple. They said that they will correct the problem but have not done so yet.
5. We sent out proposals for the door repairs and replacements. We only received one proposal back and that was for \$17,000. We feel that you should solicit more proposals for next month.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO HAVE THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE SEEK MORE PROPOSALS FOR THE DOORS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. We received two proposals for the repairs of the catch basins. The lowest proposal was from Satira Construction for \$10,400.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO AWARD THE CATCH BASIN REPAIR PROJECT TO SATIRA CONSTRUCTION FOR \$10,400. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

7. We received two proposals for curb replacements. The lowest proposal was from Satira Construction for \$9,725.50.

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W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO AWARD THE CURB REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO SATIRA CONSTRUCTION FOR \$9,725.50. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: no report.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: the windows are not working in the office and at the top of the stairway. We are going to have the installer look at them.

When I was at the school board meeting I told them that we are working on the Blighted Community Project to get these properties back on the tax rolls and they should be looking to do the same.

We talked about frivolous law suits and we will discuss that in the future.

MR. W. PRICENER: under the window in the office it is starting to crack, can you take a look at that.

MS. K. PETERSON: we are looking at getting some trees trimmed.

MS. S. SMITH: there are three locations, the 100 block of Westinghouse we are going to get the stumps removed at a cost of \$325, on Avenue U we will be trimming the dead trees at a cost of \$1,450 and at Pete's (Viaduct) Park we will be removing three dead trees at a cost of \$1,550 for a total of \$3,325.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO HAVE ORIGINAL TREE SERVICE REMOVE AND TRIM THE TREES AT THREE LOCATIONS AT A COST OF \$3,325.

MR. M. TRKULA: did you get any other bids.

MS. S. SMITH: no, because in the past they were always the lowest.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO AWARD THE PROJECT TO ORIGINAL TREE SERVICE AT A COST OF \$3,325, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we received a letter from the Redevelopment Authority dated Sept. 2nd that since 51% of the households in Wilmerding are low to moderate income they will now partially underwrite the acquisition costs of side yards and blighted structure remediation as long as funds are available.

We are going to talk to Congressman Doyle's office to see if we can get the Corps of Engineers to clear the brush and trees under the bridge going into WABTEC. If we get a heavy rain the water is going to back up. It looks like an island down there.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we are looking for grants to help the homeowners fix up their property by painting the house and cleaning up around their property.

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SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: we are at the last step in the Altman case and I requested that Commonwealth Court decide this case on the briefs that were submitted. The court granted our request and hopefully we will win this one also.

There have been numerous 979 reports filed for 432 Airbrake and I will talk to the Chief about this.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS: there was one bill that was put aside; it was for the COG vactor. It broke down and it was only here for a half day and they charged us for a full day. Joe called them and they did not know it was only here for a half day. The operator never told them how long he was here and that it broke down. They will issue a new bill.

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

RECREATION – S. SMITH: we had a light turnout for our Night Out and I think the weather was a factor. Our next event will be the Halloween costume contest. We will have it on the 31st and we will be done before the kids go out to trick or treat.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE TO COVER EXPENSES FOR THE NIGHT OUT ACTIVITIES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: EAPS will be giving out free flu shots on Wednesday Oct. 8th from 3 – 7 pm here at the borough building.

On Oct. 1st the Mayor has arranged a meeting with County Council in Room 101 Courthouse at 3 pm.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA: March 8, 2015 is our 125th Anniversary (Founders Day) and we need to embellish on our roots. It seems that no one knows who George Westinghouse is.

It seems that people are abusing our 979 Ordinance and we need to make examples of these people.

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Is it possible to make Card Avenue one way? It is a narrow street and there is only room for one car at a time.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I believe that we tried it once before. In the summer it was one way and in the winter it went back to two ways.

MAYOR H. SLACZKA: what is the status of LERTA? The deadline is approaching.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you need to let me know what you plan to do.

MAYOR H. SLAZCKA: we want to do the housing and commercial properties. We need to get on the list for approval.

We need to enforce are parking signs and ordinances. If someone is in violation they need to be tagged. If we are not going to do anything then take the signs down.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.