

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council met in an Executive Session.

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:06 pm.

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.**

**K. MAXWELL/L.KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 4, 2020 MEETING WITH CORRECTIONS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**Edith Barrett, Herman Avenue:** Public Works and Code Officer are always on the other side of town. There are weeds growing in the Belgium block around the entire park, there is a broken tree branch, the branch was picked up but where it broke is a liability, it's like a spear and it needs cut. Mr. Hussey was on Deborah Drive the other day for a permit but overlooked the garbage cans that were out at 3:30 pm on Wednesday. You then drove up the rest of the road and did nothing about the 2 others that had their garbage out. In June we contact you about the wall on Herman at the Castle, you said you would take care of it and nothing has been done. The bushes, trees and leaves around there are ridiculous. There are garbage cans sitting out, there is a refrigerator sitting on a porch, there is high grass everywhere, all the sidewalks are full of weeds.

**K. MAXWELL:** we spoke about that what was the determination of that?

**S. SHURGOT:** sidewalks are the property owner's responsibility; we are only responsible from curb to curb.

**E. BARRETT:** what about the businesses? The weeds along Johnny's are up over a foot.

**S. SHURGOT:** there would be no difference between a homeowner and a business owner, it is their responsibility. I did instruct Al, after the borough cleaned up on Airbrake, to start citing these people. I do not want to hear that we are not doing our job so why should they.

**E. BARRETT:** you own the 2 lots on Station Street, isn't it the boroughs property to clean those?

**S. SHURGOT:** we have sent letters to the County regarding cleaning up along the sidewalks coming off of the bridge.

**E. BARRETT:** Also, along the Doller General store, they have a banner around the front of the building that is painted and peeling. Should they clean that up? The people on Caldwell Avenue are raking their yards out into the street.

**S. SHURGOT:** we do permit that during our cleanup time but right now we are not prepared for leaf cleanups.

**E. BARRETT:** I don't feel that we should be picking them up anyway, I'm not paying my taxes for the borough to pick up leaves around town when I pick up my own.

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**S. SHURGOT:** The Borough has done that ever since I was on Council, but I do agree with you about them doing it now and will have Al look into it.

**E. BARRETT:** Last thing, Mr. Filia's 2 vacant lots are very high, are we going to take care of that?

**A HUSSEY:** on Deborah Drive, those were not garbage bags, they were weeds that she had just pulled. The wall was referred to Greg Jakub because when Kelly asked me about it, I looked at it and Greg said he would take care of it just like the weeds on Marguerite for the Castle.

**G. JAKUB:** But that's your job!

**A HUSSEY:** I was told to back off on that, if you look at the minutes it says you would take care of it.

**G. JAKUB:** no, you need to do your job and contact him. If you don't get anywhere with him, I will be happy to assist.

**S. SHURGOT:** what is the status of the wall on Westinghouse?

**A HUSSEY:** Pastor Reed put the caution tape up and he was waiting to get quotes on replacing the wood, I followed up with him again about a blue garbage can that turned out to not be his, he said they had received some quotes and were waiting for the CIAC to approve. As you see in my reports that if I were asked to do something with that Castle, I would have done it.

**E. BARRETT:** I see on your June report that Mr. Graff was contacted but there is no follow up. With the garbage cans I just feel that if your going to cite all the people across town maybe you should come over here and take a look. We deserve some clean up on this side as well.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. We received a letter from CIAC asking us to rethink our decision on the taxes and delinquencies on the property located at 114 Caldwell Avenue. They have also requested that we apply for a CDBG grant to assist they with the renovations.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO RECEIVE AND FILE. ROLL CALL VOTE:

L. KIRK – YES  
K. BELIN – NO  
J. HARTZELL – YES  
K. MAXWELL - YES

P. SHURGOT - YES  
J. THOMAS - YES  
S. SHURGOT - NO

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK** – I spoke with Tom the other day to go over the COVID guidelines and we wanted to make sure they remained safe. The fire department responded to 20 calls, 4 in town and 16 out of town. There were 1 work details, 3 trainings, 1 social event, and 14 maintenance hours. We have not received a bill from Glick so that will be put off until October. The EMS for August responded to 62 calls and had 37 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.3 minutes and for non-emergences was 10.7 minutes.

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**INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN:** For the month we had 248 events which included 4 abandoned vehicles, 5 animal complaints, 1 death investigation, 13 domestic disputes, 1 DUI, 1 fleeing and eluding officers, 1 narcotics, 1 overdose, 4 suspicious persons, 3 thefts, 39 traffic stops, and 6 warrant. There were 13 arrests made, 1 criminal mischief, 2 DUI's, 1 aggravated assault, 2 simple assaults, 1 possession of marijuana, 1 possession to deliver heroin, 1 terroristic threat, and 4 warrants. Also, you may not have heard yet but there was an attempted armed robbery at the Deli. It is under investigation at this point, a customer came in and scared him off and the individual took off and headed up Kline.

**J. HARTZELL:** on the 48 assists out of town, is there a particular town that you spend time in?

**INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN:** most of those are Turtle Creek and East McKeesport.

**J. HARTZELL:** I'm just concerned because if you go to assist does that leave our town unprotected?

**INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN:** we always make sure there is a car available to return or there is one left in town to answer those calls.

**ENGINEER – A. PRINCE:** Satira will be starting the e2019 Storm Inlet project the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>. CD-47 Pre-Applications are due September 11<sup>th</sup>. So far, we have the handicap ramp at the municipal building, the Fire department driveway and wall, Station street sidewalks and Retaining walls and steps on Sprague and Card. The Welsh/Orient slide, we are preparing a cost estimate for a project to capture water in the slide area to slow the progression of the slide. We cannot do any excavation of the site, so we are going to try to convey the stormwater away from the area.

**J. THOMAS:** In that vacant lot off of Wood Street can we do something about the standing water there?

**A. PRINCE:** yes, Dave wants to put an inlet there and pipe it into a new pipe running along the stairs. There is a manhole at the bottom of the steps.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY:** Please refer to my report.

**P. SHURGOT:** how are we doing with the rental licenses?

**A. HUSSEY:** Mr. Filia is the only one that paid, and I have to go withdrawal his citation so there are around 32 people that still owe.

**P. SHURGOT:** So, we already notified them so are they being moved to the magistrate?

**A. HUSSEY:** yes, Caroline had 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> notices sent from Caroline.

**S. SHURGOT:** are we permitted to add a late fee if these people do not pay.

**C. LANG:** it is written into the ordinance that if it is not paid by March 31<sup>st</sup> a late fee of \$10.00 is added onto the amount due.

**S. SHURGOT:** so how long do we need to hold off to take them to the magistrate?

**C. LANG:** it does not specify; all it says is after March 1<sup>st</sup> you get the late fee added and if it is still not paid than we will issue a citation with the magistrate. We held off a little longer this year because the magistrate

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was closed until June. Once they opened, I gave Al the list of those who did not pay. We did tell the owners that during COVID I would accept the forms without the tenant signatures, but they still had to send them in. Since I held the information longer than usual, I kept sending letter and making calls to the individuals that were outstanding.

**S. SHURGOT:** There has to be an end to the process. We will need to review this before next year.

**G. JAKUB:** I just contacted Mr. Graff and he will have somebody out before the end of the week.

**COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL:** No meeting yet

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL:** I just have a question regarding the field usage. We have an application; would you like me to send you that so we can have something in writing, and do you want me to add anything for COVID restrictions?

**S. SHURGOT:** I had asked her to contact you, but she sent me a letter so yes please forward and application for use form. The Soccer Association has very strict guideline to follow so we should not need to specify any more.

**UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL:** Phil Long from Duquesne Light is no longer our representative we have a new one. I spoke with him about the pole that was knocked down and he did some digging and finally got a work order ticket. Someone should be out to look at it in a week or two. The lamp post in the business district can be changed to LED but we have to submit that under the LED project, and it is done for the year.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** On Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup> Nick participated in the hearing appeals for 21 Red Knot Life properties but no one had appeared, and all the appeals were dismissed. We also discussed a tree in a hazardous condition at 504 Westinghouse Avenue. I looked into the owner, who is deceased, I could not find a living owner but have issued a lien against the property if it would ever sell in the future.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT TO PAY ALL AUTHORIZED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** The finance committee will be meeting to discuss the preliminary budget for next year. Things are not actually as bad as we expected, and we are still getting a pretty decent amount from RAD and Keystone.

**RECREATION/PLANNING – K. BELIN:** still waiting to hear on Halloween, hopefully we can do something for that.

**K. MAXWELL:** I had an idea for Christmas, maybe we can have Santa drive around and leave the kids presents on their porches. They could write the letters and the fireman can go on the truck and drop off the gifts.

**K. BELIN:** planning is still discussing the street signs.

S. SHURGOT: Joe do you remember the grant? Can you check with Amanda at COG?

J. HARTZELL: yes, but I don't think they have that anymore.

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**K. BELIN:** East McKeesport just got something, and they did the entire business district.

**S. SHURGOT:** there was an online class for zoning and planning but I'm not sure if anyone got back to Caroline.

**C. LANG:** by the time I heard from them the class was already, so Barb Richardson is on a waiting list. They will be doing more classes so we will watch out from them.

**PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT:** Most of my report has already been discussed but to add to it they did some asphalt and worked on the larger holes around town, they have installed the speed limit sign on Herman Avenue, they installed 3 handicap signs, cleaned St. Joseph Drive, they have cleaned the leaves around the park, Caldwell Avenue and the Borough Building, and purchased a new attachment for the weed whacker. I have kept them away from the upper streets, but they are going to have to start working their way up. Kelly Maxwell, I did see that they painted at the beginning of Herman Avenue and at the end, but I don't remember the entire side of Herman being painted yellow.

**S. SHURGOT:** I looked at pictures from previous events and it has not been yellow in the past.

**P. SHURGOT:** we are hiring another laborer; we have a second interview coming up so I will keep you all posted. Also, I know we asked Caroline to send a letter to Verizon, have you heard anything yet?

**C. LANG:** No, I have not heard anything, would you like me to try again.

**J. THOMAS:** Edith and I looked at it and where they cut across for the Fios, they filled it in, but I don't think that anything will stick to it because it is not very deep. I will have to talk to Tony about coming up with the plow, but I really don't think there is anything that we can do with it until it is a little deeper.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**K. MAXWELL:** are we going to put the dumpsters out?

**C. LANG:** it is scheduled for September 18-20.

**J. HARTZELL:** I am against those but what happens if they overflow.

**P. SHURGOT:** I guess it would be the DPW's responsibility.

**J. THOMAS:** I agree with Joe, people will dump things that cannot be picked up on a regular basis. I think we should reconsider it in the near future.

**MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB:** Nothing else.

**K. MAXWELL MOTION TO ADJORN AT 8:09 P.M.**