

WILMERDING BOROUGH
MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Linda Kirk at 7:01 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice President.

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOSEPH HARTZELL, absent; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, absent. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

K. BELIN/P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 2021, MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

JOSH LAFACE – PAT MEWS DRIVE – I wanted to bring to your attention the grass at the end of the bridge. From my understanding the county is supposed to be taking care of this but it is really overgrown.

L. KIRK: That is county owned.

C. LANG: I will put a call into them, and you can always go onto the Allegheny County Public Works website and file a complaint as well.

N. RONALLO – PAT MEWS DRIVE – What is going on with the people that talked about the town clean-up?

G. JAKUB: we are still working on that and should have something next month.

N. RONALLO: there isn't even cleaning in the business district, the garbage cans are overflowing. It starts with people cleaning the front of their house.

E. BARRETT – HERMAN AVENUE: The minutes are still not being posted to the website.

C. LANG: I will send them over again.

K. MAXWELL: can you just get access to the website because we have the new sunshine laws that just went into effect.

C. LANG: I will request again.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We need to ratify a vote to add \$80.00 onto the bid from Mike Smith for the repairs of the railing at Middle and Airbrake. This work has been done.

P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL \$80.00 TO MIKE SMITH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

2. Grant application was submitted for the Keystone Communities Grant for street signs and decorative lights in the business district. Bids should be awarded in October.

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3. Grant Application was submitted for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant to add a walking trail to the field and repair the drainage and replace the basketball court at the Borough property adjacent to the Wilmerding Community Center. Bids should be awarded in November.
4. Letter from the Historical Society to use the park on September 25, 2021, for another book sale and flea market.

P. SHURGOT/K. BELIN TO ALLOW THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO USE THE PARK ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2021, FROM 8 AM – 2 PM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK –The EMS for August responded to 37 calls and had 26 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.6 minutes and for non-emergences was 11.6 minutes. The fire department had 32 calls, 8 in town and 24 out of town. The also did 4 work details, 3 trainings, 5 social events, and 16 maintenance hours. Inspector McClellan was not able to attend so there is no report.

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

P. SHURGOT: last month I asked you to begin following up on the complaints weekly, have you been doing that and have you issued any citations?

A. HUSSEY: I have been doing that and I have issued 1 citation.

P. SHURGOT: How about the landlords, have all of the rental licenses been paid and if not have you issued citations for them?

A. HUSSEY: We have gotten more in but not all of them and I have not taken any of them to the magistrate.

P. SHURGOT: Please work on that this month so we can complete those before we start on next years.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: Tony resigned and we did interviews to hire.

P. SHURGOT/ K. BELIN TO HIRE STEPHEN SABOL AS THE PUBLIC WORK FOREMAN AT \$19.00/HOUR WITH NO BENEFITS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

Our other laborer is off sick at this time so bear with us and we will get caught up as soon as possible.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: Welsh Orient Slide, Nagy Construction has not submitted all the paperwork so there is no notice to proceed yet, and I am still waiting on County approval to bid the demolition although the asbestos testing has been completed. We will be removing 403 Orient because there are issues with the legal clearances. This will not change the project as when we added this structure it was standing but was later consumed by fire and there is not much left standing. CD 47 was awarded for \$28,018 to repair Station Street sidewalks but we are still waiting on the grant agreement. State Blight Removal Grant in the amount of \$30,000 and the bids for the 4 homes, 474 Airbrake, 448 Card, 128 Middle and 126 Middle, will be opened on September 20, 2021. We also received the Act 152 Demolition grant in the amount of \$45,000for the demolition of 126 Middle, 128 Middle and 428 Middle. We can remove the two properties at 126 & 128 Middle from the State grant and tear them down using the Act 152 money. Morningside slide, Lawson Excavating has scheduled the start of this project for the end of October. The utility patch on Sprague and Station have been

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repaired but the one on Morningside is unclaimed so I will continue to work on it. Ice Plant Hill storm water project design should be completed in November. East McKeesport has applied for a CD 48 grant for the project and will apply for other grants as they are available. CD 48 pre-applications have been submitted for the municipal building handicap ramp, VFD Driveway and Retaining wall, the local share of the GTRP grant and Street Reconstruction for paving of Marguerite, Caldwell, Patton, and Westinghouse. The state is reviewing the application for the GTRP grant for the town square improvements. They have removed 2 items as being ineligible: the flagpole painting and the power washing of the walls. The next CFA meeting is September 29th so the project may be up for consideration at that meeting, if not the next meeting is November 16th. The garbage specification had been sent to you all to review, as long as there are no change we can move forward to bid.

P. SHURGOT/K.MAXWELL TO ADVERTISE THE GARBAGE CONTRACT AS DISCUSSED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: ABSENT

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: The handrail has been completed, Davey Tree should be returning, and I would like to hold their payment until the work is completed. John is there any update on the flagpole?

J. THOMAS: he should be down to start the weekend of the 18th.

K. MAXWELL: Avenue U playground is really bad and in needs of some clean-up if we can have public works look into that? They did a fantastic job at the pavilion, and it will be painted September 14th.

UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL: absent

L. KIRK: do we have any update on the lights?

C. LANG: I will follow up with our customer rep and let you all know.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: Nick had attended multiple tax assessment hearings and had sent over a confidential report on the hearings, and this was sent to Caroline.

C. LANG: that letter from Nick was in the workshop packet.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / K. MAXWELL TO PAY BILLS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TOTALING \$40,683.56 AND FROM THE PLGIT SEWAGE FUND TOTALING \$143,981.23. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 5-0.

J. THOMAS: I sent everyone a list of properties I think we should take for assessment appeal; did you have any contact with the School District?

C. LANG: I have not heard back from them.

RECREATION/PLANNING – K. BELIN

K. BELIN/P. SHURGOT TO MOVE THE \$400.00 FOR HALLOWEEN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

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K. BELIN: Not sure of definite with the Halloween celebration yet but will start on it. As for planning, Joyce has a legal issue regarding the prefab homes and will need to contact Mr. Evashavik. There are complaints of refrigerators at 116 Card Avenue if Al can go look at that.

OLD BUSINESS:

none

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB: As Nancy brought up, we are going to put together a clean up group to go through the town and sweep up the streets, this should be done by the next meeting. Also, there will be some changes with the castle in the next month!

ADJORN AT 7:36 P.M.