

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2007 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President C. Tuscan at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President. A moment of silence was observed for the father of Councilman Joe Clemenic who recently passed away.

ROLL CALL: G. JAKUB, present; L. FIASCO, present; J. CLEMENIC, absent; C. SPICUZZA, present; S. VOLPE, present; S. SHURGOT, present; C. TUSCAN, present.  
Mayor D. POMPOSELLI was also present.

S. SHURGOT/L. FIASCO TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JAN. 9, 2007 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

J. GAGETTA, STATE STREET: I don't know if it was the last meeting or the meeting before that I told you that Wilmerding Renew was working on a grant to do a study on the school through the Heinz Foundation. We were awarded the grant as a pass through with Pittsburgh Gateways. Pittsburgh Gateways in conjunction with Congressman Doyle's office is going to do a study of the high school. Hopefully we would like to convert that school, in conjunction with the Castle, into a business incubation and create jobs throughout the valley. As that study gets going we will keep you informed. If the study comes back positive then we would have to go out and get money for the school. I think that will come through the Heinz Foundation and other foundations. Pittsburgh Gateways works with a lot of universities. I know that they work with Purdue University in Indiana and I think that CMU and Pitt would be interested in getting involved with this. They have also worked with WABTEC on some projects. I was told that the school will be available soon because they will be in the new school in September.

MR. C. SPICUZZA: who is sitting on the committee to meet with them.

MR. J. GAGETTA: I just received this the other day and they won't be starting until March. We have a lot of things going on and we need some good help in going to meetings and doing some things.

MR. L. FIASCO: do you have a preliminary use or any ideas for that building.

MR. J. GAGETTA: whatever they would want to see there that would benefit everyone.

MR. C. TUSCAN: John, when would be a good time to set up a meeting to talk more about this. How is Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

MR. J. GAGETTA: that is fine. We can meet up at the Castle. Our primary goal is paying the building off. We have a thing going with the History and Landmarks Foundation. Art Ziglar who is the President of the foundation created a foundation in his wife's name. He donated \$150 in his wife's name and that to me is worth \$10,000 just to get remembered.

MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I am here on behalf of the residents of lower Airbrake Avenue. We have been very fortunate the last couple of years with the weather conditions that crop up overnight that we haven't had a flood. The project of dredging the creek and cementing it and so forth is just a tremendous project. We have been lucky because of that we haven't had the flooding that there was in the past. But, the creek badly needs cleaned. We have contacted the Army Corps of Engineers, who did the project. We also contacted State Representatives, County Representatives and I know I have talked with you. I can't believe that the boroughs of Turtle Creek, Wilmerding, East Pittsburgh and Braddock haven't been more forceful of getting this project of cleaning the creek. The

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Army Corps of Engineers said it is the County's project. The State officials said it is the County's project and the County doesn't respond to any of our correspondence. I am pleading with you to encourage them to get this project done very soon because heaven knows what the spring will bring. After the Corps of Engineers finished their project I think they said that each borough was supposed to provide a fund so that there can be an upkeep of it. I think many of the officials in office don't realize how quickly this creek could flood.

MR. C. TUSCAN: I know some of the history of this. The Westinghouse Electric controlled the whole flood control project at one time. When they went out of business no one was doing it. There has been some debate since then over who has ownership of it and who is to maintain it.

MRS. T. HICKMAN: would you initiate a statement of concern at your next COG meeting. Most of us are homeowners and taxpayers and we try to keep the town going. I think that someone is dumping into the creek.

MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.: this winter edition of the newsletter, is it coming out soon.

MR. S. SHURGOT: it is at the printers right now.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: are we getting free electricity for our Christmas display.

MR. C. TUSCAN: if you remember last year, John Zorich said that they were not just for Christmas but he wanted them to be up in the winter. That is why he bought those displays.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: they look nice, but if you are going to put them on put them on all over. They are not lit on the other side.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a notice from Turtle Creek COG on their annual dinner to be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The guest speaker for the evening will be Chief Executive Dan Onorato.

S. SHURGOT/G. JAKUB THAT ANY MEMBER CAN ATTEND ALONG WITH THE MAYOR AND SECRETARY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - S. SHURGOT: received a request for a handicap parking sign for 106 State Street. All the proper paper work is in order.

S. SHURGOT/G. JAKUB TO APPROVE THE HANDICAP PARKING SIGN FOR 106 STATE STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we talked about in front of the Post Office, since we put up no parking signs in front of Shiring's, of putting fifteen minute parking signs up. I had a thought that where the bus stop is we would make that a yellow curb there so that the people can get off and on the bus and the bus doesn't have to stop in the middle of the road. Another thought I had in driving pass these front parking lots is designate so many parking spots in certain areas for the apartment buildings and leave some other ones open for the businesses. We can assign parking permits to the landlords of the apartment buildings and that would only be the spots that they can park in. What did we decide to do with the alley.

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MR. C. TUSCAN: we found in our ordinance that we can require him to get more dumpster's or more pickups.

S. SHURGOT/S. VOLPE TO EXTEND THE NO PARKING AREA IN FRONT OF THE POST OFFICE A LITTLE LONGER TO INCLUDE THE BUS STOP AND TO POST FIFTEEN MINUTE PARKING FROM THERE TO THE POST OFFICE DRIVEWAY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the other thing is the parking lots. We need to do some investigation and designate so many spots that we think are needed. We need to talk to the Engineer to see how many spots are needed for the apartment buildings. Then get them that many spots with numbers and hand out the appropriate parking passes so that we can have people at one place instead of all over the parking lot.

MR. D. GILLILAND: you would probably need twenty spots for each building.

MR. L. FIASCO: that will cut off the parking for the businesses.

MR. C. SPICUZZA: if we did twenty spots and those people are out right now and the Sport's Page is packed, we are going to be getting calls that someone is parked in their parking space.

MR. G. JAKUB: does anyone know how many spaces are in each lot.

MR. L. FIASCO: there probably around twenty spaces.

MR. S. VOLPE: what do you guys think about selling the lots to a developer to see if it is feasible to put little businesses in the parking lot where the Faller Building is. If they could vacate that street and use part of the street and go straight across the back and use the front part as the parking lot.

MR. L. FIASCO: if we give permits out then there would not be enough parking.

MR. S. VOLPE: we need businesses in town.

MR. L. FIASCO: we need businesses but we also need parking for those businesses.

MR. S. VOLPE: that is turning into a junk yard. The ordinance says that you are supposed to have so many parking spots per unit. Why should we be maintaining his private parking lot. The residents should be paying x amount of dollars per month for parking.

MR. C. TUSCAN: you also have the hi-rise building there. You have all three apartment building contributing to this.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we can take a look at this. Maybe we can make one parking lot for residents only and the other one for the businesses.

MR. G. JAKUB: do we by doing something like that cause more headaches down the road, nuisance parking and so on. You know what is going to happen, the police will be called constantly because someone is in my parking place and I need them towed.

MR. S. SHURGOT: at the last meeting we voted 6-0 to open the alley back up on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Unless we changed our mind I just want to let the people that action has already been taken. / There will be a crime watch meeting on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the castle. / I received the reports from the fire department and the ambulance. The fire department responded to 21 calls for the month of January and had 94 man hours. The ambulance responded to 47 calls. The Chief will give his report.

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CHIEF J. COMUNALE: you said that you were going to open the road tomorrow. You can't open the road with the dumpster still there. For now you can have him put it in the parking lot. How long do you want to give him to move it out of there.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will give him to the twenty-first.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: I will call him tomorrow and tell him he has to have it out of the alley and he could put it in the parking lot for now and needs to be out of there by the twenty-first.

MR. S. SHURGOT: can we have him move it down to the other end by the Sport's Page.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: for the month of January we had 298 general calls, 28 citations and 8 parking tickets. We have received a lot of applications for the Citizens Police Academy. It is scheduled to start on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> and the cut off date to get the applications in is Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - J. NALEVANKO: I have been in contact with PennDot, the county and Waste management about the trash on the tri-boro. Basically Waste Management has an agreement with the county to clean that every so often up by State Street. / The signs at the Avenue U park, there are signs there about what age limits the kids can utilize the park but there is nothing like that at the Airbrake Avenue park. We do have the lighting at the Airbrake Avenue park but there is no lighting at the Avenue U park. The county informed me that the guard rail over by Avenue U, underneath the bridge going towards Watkins, are all knocked down. / Steve is getting the winter newsletter together. Concerning the snow for homeowners to clean the sidewalk. The way it is written they have up to twenty-four hours to clean their sidewalks after the snow has fallen. My concern was that the businesses, especially in the business section here, they should maintain their sidewalks for the elderly and the handicap. When we do have multiple units, is there a manager or someone on site to maintain their sidewalks.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the property owner or the landlord has to make arrangements.

MR. J. NALEVANKO: it is my understanding that in some of these cases puts the responsibility on the tenant. I would think, as a property owner, if someone would fall on my sidewalk I am not going to place that responsibility in my tenants hands.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: they can do whatever they want. If they do arrange for a tenant to do it and the tenant fails to do it the landlord is still responsible and can be cited.

MR. J. NALEVANKO: concerning the parking lots down here. Did you ever think about putting in meters.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I have concerns about that. Our committee can take a look at that.

MR. J. NALEVANKO: Council should also take into consideration that if there is any new construction that is being built that it stays within the historical significance of the town.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we have no ordinance regulating what type of construction can be built. You would need to describe the type of building style that you want to control. We can write it up but you would have to put the specifics in.

MR. J. NALEVANKO: I would like to request from Council a list of all the properties that the borough is responsible to maintain.

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PUBLIC WORKS - L. FIASCO: so far so good with the streets. I haven't had any concerns or complaints from the residents.

MR. S. SHURGOT: who determines who gets called out. Do they have some type of rotation. Since Jim is the Supervisor he should be called and if he can't make it then he should call Mike. I think we have a problem with the chain of command downstairs. One thinks they are both equal and should be called out just as often. We have a foreman and that is his responsibility and decision.

MR. L. FIASCO: we discussed this with the foreman last evening and we gave him a pamphlet on how to handle different types of employees. He is well aware of the situation.

COG REPORT - C. TUSCAN: there was nothing that would affect the borough.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - D. GILLILAND: we applied for four projects last summer under CD 33. We received an approval for one project and that is the bleacher demolition/drainage project in the amount of \$20,000. The application was for \$88,000 of which \$22,000 was for drainage. In light of the funding shortfall we have asked the County for their approval to do only the drainage portion of the project. We sent a letter to the County asking them if we can only do the drainage portion. We are awaiting their approval for that. They did call me today and are trying to reassign it as a sewer project rather than the parks and recreation project that it was originally assigned.

MR. C. TUSCAN: the other option we have is to do it in phases. We do not want to lose the grant.

MR. S. SHURGOT: did we ever look at building a retaining wall at the bottom and backfilling where the bleachers are planting grass there and spelling Wilmerding in flowers. I don't know what the cost of that would be.

MR. D. GILLILAND: we can look into that. Maybe what we could do is when we get the water off with this project we could apply in May for phase two for an alternate plan. / A letter was sent to the Allegheny County Health Department regarding a broken sewer lateral at 120 Card Avenue. They came out and met with the homeowner and issued a three day repair order and made recommendations to the homeowner for the repairs. / A report was sent to John Nalevanko regarding the legality of placing storage trailers on the Airbrake property. / The U.S. Department of Commerce requested information on our significant deficiency sewer project and we did submit that. They are going to request quarterly reports on that. / A letter was sent to the homeowner at 253 Orient Avenue regarding a driveway opening. We detailed to them exactly what they had to do to correct the situation. We will follow up on that. We gave them thirty (30) days to do this. / We submitted a report on our findings of the front porch located at 402 Middle Avenue. / We submitted the semi-annual progress report to the DEP regarding the consent decree. / I will contact PennDOT to see what the progress is on the safe schools to sidewalks project. We have to submit a report once a year on what is going on with the project.

UTILITIES - S. SHURGOT: the Finance Committee is going to look at people who owe property taxes, sewage and garbage. You have in your packet tonight a copy of the garbage report and some of these figures are totally ridiculous. Do we have a right to stop picking up these people's garbage if they are not paying for this service.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you can but you have to think about the consequences. What if they just leave the garbage sitting there.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I am thinking about the consequences but I am also looking at the people that never paid for garbage pick up. Can we find out what we can do for these people who haven't paid.

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MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I am going to find out about the bankruptcy and whether the delinquent garbage fees can be discharged.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - G. EVASHAVIK: no report.

FINANCE - S. SHURGOT: the Finance Committee will be meeting on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. to work on these delinquencies.

S. SHURGOT/C. SPICUZZA TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - S. VOLPE: we received a letter from COG that they have a sign maker available, that is still in working order, for any one that wants it. Would you be interested in getting it.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: that is a good machine. I used it for four years when I worked for COG.

MR. S. VOLPE: I will give them a call to see what all is involved with this. / There were a couple of sidewalks that weren't cleaned. It was like two days after it snowed there was still snow on the sidewalks. The steps going up to Morningside, they weren't touched at all. Also King's Way and around the park were cleaned but the steps going to Morningside were not. Also the ones from the Y down were not clean.

MR. L. FIASCO: I saw the truck going up to Morningside and I physically saw him throw salt.

MR. S. VOLPE: maybe after they do the streets they can check the sidewalks.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: are these complaints coming from the Councilmen or the people.

MR. S. VOLPE: both.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I haven't heard anybody mention anybody's name that complained.

MR. S. VOLPE: if I see it myself I don't have to mention anybody's name.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I know you don't but I haven't heard one citizen complain yet that they are not doing a good job.

MR. S. VOLPE: If people call us up, do we have to say we had three calls from so and so.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I can sit here and say somebody called me. Who?

MR. S. VOLPE: I can sit here and lie and say there were four people that called. I don't have to mention anyone's name. If someone complains that is our job to bring it up.

RECREATION - L. FIASCO: we will be meeting for our Easter activities and planning the events for the season. I have made arrangements for the band to do the Concert In The Park.

PLANNING - C. SPICUZZA: I spoke with Mr. Shurgot about putting Planning on the website so there would be a quick link. We also have plans to meet with Mr. Kerrigan and the Shiring Agency to see what their plans are for the community. We discussed the plans that Don Glenn gave us concerning Howard Street, Laveen Street and Bella Avenue and the soils report. We meet the last Wednesday of the month and everyone is welcome to attend.

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PERSONNEL - C. SPICUZZA: we still have an open slot on the Zoning Board.

MR. C. TUSCAN: I will be moving some people around on the committees.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: has anyone contacted our current Building Inspector for John to meet with him to get a list of landlords.

MR. L. FIASCO: have we entertained opening up the position to someone else. I know there is general disapproval of him. When we met with Sean Kerrigan he told us that he was putting in \$35,000 to renovate the heating system in his building. As of the date of his report there is no building permit for \$35,000 and started that in November. He is missing a lot of things and he is costing us more money than we are getting.

MR. C. TUSCAN: can we meet on Monday Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss this further.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: when are we going to get the steps done on Station Street. The railing was fixed but the steps still need to be done.

MR. C. TUSCAN: we were going to wait until spring. When we bid it the first time it included repairing the railing and the prices were too high.

S. SHURGOT/G. JAKUB TO RE-BID THE STATION STREET STEPS WITHOUT THE RAILING.  
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: I don't know if you all got a call from a resident from Morningside Avenue about the Ashbaugh properties. I would like to have our Street Department go up there and board it up because it is a safety hazard.

S. SHURGOT/C. SPICUZZA TO HAVE OUR STREET DEPARTMENT GO UP THERE AND BOARD UP THE HOUSE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: everyone should have received a memo from Nick Evashavik on the Reagan case. He was fined \$100 by the Magistrate and the Judge upheld that fine.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we did not have to appear at the Magistrate but you need someone there to request the maximum fine, otherwise you lose out. Someone from Council, the Mayor or even citizens whose property it affects should be there to emphasis to the Magistrate that he needs to impose the highest fine.

S. SHURGOT/S. VOLPE TO ORDER THE CURRENT COPY (2006) OF THE BUILDING CODE.  
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

MR. J. HARTZELL: I just need the address of where to order from.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - D. POMPOSELLI: I was told that there is nothing the County can do about the bus cutbacks and they are going to be laying off about 400 workers. This was all brought about because of the union contract. There is not much we can do, we just have to wait and see what the State comes up with.

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MR. C. TUSCAN: the problem is with the union and the agreements they made. They just can't cut routes because there is a process they have to go through.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: we will do what we can to keep the buses coming into town.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.