

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President S. Shurgot at 7:45 p.m.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter prior to the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: M. TRKULA, present; C. SPICUZZA, present; K. PETERSON, present; S. SMITH, present; G. JAKUB, present; J. THOMAS, present; S. SHURGOT, present.
MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI was also present.

M. TRKULA / S. SMITH TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE NOV. 10, 2008 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. A. BRUCE, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I received a letter from Congressman Doyle's office concerning the creek. He says in order to get the creek dredged the borough must apply for a permit through the DEP. Once the borough receives the permit then they can contact the Allegheny County Engineering Department and ask for assistance in the dredging of Turtle Creek. I was wondering if you can follow through and do what they ask us to do.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we can certainly ask them to do that.

MRS. T. FRYE, MORNINGSIDE AVE.: I have trees falling on my property behind my house and it looks like they are dead and rotting. We are trying to figure out if we own that property or if it belongs to the borough.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I live at the other end of Morningside and on my deed I own a hundred eighty feet up the hill, which is useless to me. If you look at your deed you can see what the figures are.

MRS. T. FRYE: I have everything here but we really don't understand it.

MR. M. TRKULA: I understood that the person who owned it previously owned two hundred feet up the hill.

MR. S. SHURGOT: if you want to give that information to our Engineer he can take a look at it.

MR. D. GILLILAND: from looking at the deed they own two hundred forty-feet from the back of the sidewalk on one side and two hundred forty-one feet on the other side. It is not quite square in the back

CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a notice from the Allegheny County Borough's Association on their annual banquet to be held on Feb. 7, 2009 at the Westin Convention Center.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

2. received a notice from the Allegheny League of Municipalities on their Bi-Annual Legislative Reception to be held at the Westin Convention Center on Jan. 8, 2009.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

3. an ordinance, that has been advertised, establishing a minimum fine of \$300 for violation of borough ordinances.

MR. S. SHURGOT: this ordinance requires a public hearing. I will turn it over to our Solicitor, Greg Evashavik, to conduct the hearing.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we will hold a public hearing at this time before we consider the new ordinance. It has been properly advertised for consideration by Borough Council. Presently the borough has ordinances in effect that provides for maximum fines for violations in the amount of \$600 to \$1,000. It has been observed that the fines levied for violations in the past to not reasonably defray the costs for prosecution by borough officials. So that the public understands, fines in these ordinances are not intended to create revenue for the borough. They are intended to cover the cost for borough officials and administration to cover the costs to prosecute the violations. However, we noticed that the fines that are levied do not allow us to break even and is causing the borough to lose money. This ordinance establishes a minimum fine of \$300 for ordinance violations. We believe that this amount will allow us to break even to enforce prosecution on ordinance violations. Does anyone from the public wish to comment on this ordinance.

MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.: is this for any ordinance violation.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: it includes all borough ordinances. Since there are no more comments or questions this concludes the public hearing.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM FINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF BOROUGH ORDINANCES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - G. JAKUB: the ambulance service had 56 calls and the fire department had 17 calls for the month of November. Chief Comunale will give us the police report.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: for the month of November we had a total of 226 calls. There were five parking tickets and forty-two citations were issued. I am sure Council is aware of what is going on with the police department. The Commissioners told me that when I put the schedule up for next year to put it up without the part time officers and they are going to lay off two full time officers. They are looking at a \$500,000 deficit. They told me that they are cutting departments and it is the police department this year because it was the street department last year, which is down to four full time workers. For coverage, I plan on removing one detective and putting him on patrol and at the end of the school year the school officer will be on the road also. The part time officers do supplement the police, that gives us the luxury of having five officers on from three to eleven and four on nights. What it is going to end up is likely three officers on every shift. We can do the coverage with three on a shift. We routinely do it in the summer when there are vacations. As it stands right now you will have the coverage.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MR. S. SHURGOT: has there been any talk of moving to 9-1-1 dispatch to save some money.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: that would save about \$175,000 a year.

MR. G. JAKUB: do we assume that the dog is on hold.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: I don't know. I can tell you this much. The way things are, it would be hard pressed for us to add a K-9 officer. I would have to return the money to the District Attorney's office and it would be only fair that I return the money to Wal-Mart or ask them if I could use it for something else.

MS. S. SMITH: what do I do with the money that we raised.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: you can give your money to someone else, that is what I thought you could do, that is up to you. You could give it to another department. I am sure McKeesport could use it. This is all new to me. I just found out the other day. I knew we were having trouble. We lost about seventy businesses over the years.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: how often do you have more than two policemen off at the same time.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: the rule is that two policemen cannot be on vacation at the same time, but they do have comp time, personal days and sick time. It does happen about twenty percent of the time.

MR. G. JAKUB: Chief, do have a contact down at the District Attorney's office. We never got the call for the money for the camera's.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: I can get you the number or I can call for you.

MR. G. JAKUB: maybe if you called it would be better.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we talked to Sen. Logan months ago that we were interested in getting camera's like Pitcairn got. They were going to have someone from the District Attorney's office contact us and no one has ever contacted us.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: under Emergency Management, I have some quotes on a generator.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are going to try and have a crime watch meeting on January 21st at 7 p.m. Chief Comunale is going to bring a presentation down on identity theft, credit card fraud and home invasion. It will be downstairs in the community room.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - J. NALEVANKO: Amy sent a report over from the Code Enforcement office. Two people went to the Magistrate, there were two building permits, twenty-three occupancy permit applications and one residential rental license for November.

MR. G. JAKUB: I forgot to bring this up under public safety. From the fire department we had one application for PA. Child Abuse clearance. It looks like everything is fine on this person.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

PUBLIC WORKS - J. THOMAS: the spreader was ordered from Zoresco on Nov. 12th for the dump truck. We are still picking up leaves. The Christmas decorations are up, with the assistance from the Turtle Creek Fire Department. We concentrated everything around the borough building this year since there was a lot of vandalism in the park last year.

COG REPORT - G. JAKUB: there was no meeting in November.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

1. PennDOT has approved our plans for the Safe Route to School Project and advised us this project will be advertised by the end of the year.
2. we have submitted plans, specifications and other information to the DCNR for their approval on the Phase 2 Walking Trail. Once it is approved then the project can be advertised for bid. We would like to get the job out to bid so work can begin in the spring.
3. the Castle Landscaping Project is in progress. All work except the gazebo, which is on order, has been completed.
4. the owner at 403 Orient Avenue is disputing their sewer bill saying that they are not connected to the sewer and that they have a septic tank. Our maps indicate there is a sewer in Orient at that location so we are in the process of verifying their connection.
5. we have prepared an application for a CITF grant for the remaining sewer deficiency repairs. A resolution authorizing this application should be approved tonight. The grant request is for \$167,000 and there is a small local match.

G. JAKUB / K. PETERSON TO AUTHORIZE A RESOLUTION FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A CITF GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,000 FOR SEWER REPAIRS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

UTILITIES - S. SHURGOT: no report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: no report. Everything was already covered.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS: we have been working on the 2009 and we anticipate not raising the real estate tax but we are going to raise income by several other methods. In our sewer budget, we received from our engineer's office that we have certain mandates required for us in 2009 in the amount of \$180,000. We do right now have a surcharge on our sewage to increase our income so that we can fund this mandate and we need to increase it another ten percent to meet those mandates.

J. THOMAS / TO INCREASE OUR SURCHARGE ON SEWAGE BY TEN (10%) PERCENT.

MS. K. PETERSON: what would the average increase be on a homeowner.

MR. J. THOMAS: you are also going to see in your bill, come January 1st, that ALCOSAN is raising their rates by sixteen (16%) percent. You won't see any of this on your bill until March.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MR. S. SHURGOT: we figured the average increase to a homeowner would be about \$3.00 a quarter.

MR. J. THOMAS: ALCOSAN uses 18,000 gallons as their base. Their increase is about \$8.00 or \$9.00 and ours is around \$3.00. So you are looking at about \$11.00 to \$12.00 more a quarter if you use 18,000 gallons of water in that quarter. If you use less then your increase will be less.

MR. S. SHURGOT: if you listened to the news, Penn Hills was hit with a \$3,000,000 mandate. We have to come up with \$180,000 in sewer repairs this year. The sixteen percent that ALCOSAN is going up does not give us any money towards that \$180,000. There is a problem with the sewer up on Orient Avenue right now. The mandate that we have there is no way out of it. We are hoping that we get this grant that maybe we can give a reduction later in the year. The grant we are applying for is \$167,000.

MS. S. SMITH: once the project is complete it would be our intention to reduce it.

MR. J. THOMAS: it is a five year plan and we are going to be in year four next year.

MRS. T. HICKMAN: does the Airbrake pay sewage bills.

MR. S. SHURGOT: yes.

MRS. T. HICKMAN: do you think that they would be willing to pay for part of it.

MR. S. SHURGOT: at this point we can't take a chance and find out. Our plan is that once we get this mandate paid for we would lower our surcharge.

MR. G. JAKUB: we approached the Airbrake and basically we did not get any response. They will donate equipment to the Fire Department, but other than that they don't want to talk about it.

M. TRKULA SECOND ON THE MOTION TO INCREASE THE SURCHARGE ON THE SEWAGE BY TEN (10%) PERCENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL.

MR. J. THOMAS: also in our budget preparation we talked about ways of increasing income. One of the ways that we thought was to raise the permit fees. All the permit fees would go up \$10 except the occupational license fees.

J. THOMAS / TO ADOPT THE FEES THAT WERE POSTED FROM THE NEW COMPANY AND ADD \$10 TO EACH FEE EXCEPT THE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE FEE WHICH WILL REMAIN AT \$35.

MR. S. SHURGOT: at the last meeting we posted the new fees of the new company we hired. We would have to add \$10 to the fees from the new company.

G. JAKUB SECOND THE MOTION TO ADD \$10 TO THE PERMIT FEES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2009 AND TO CHANGE THE WORKSHOP MEETING ON DEC. 16TH TO A GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING STARTING AT 7:00 P.M. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: the plumbing problem has been corrected.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO PURCHASE A SIGN FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE AND A NAME PLATE FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT SECRETARY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: this Saturday, the 6th, we are going to start the stories in the castle. Next Saturday, the 13th, is the Christmas party at the castle from one to three. The 17th is the deadline for the holiday house decorating contest. We plan on doing the judging between the 18th and the 20th.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: as you know we are now meeting quarterly. Our next meeting is on December 17th.

OLD BUSINESS

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO REJECT THE DUQUESNE LIGHT PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN THE PROPERTY THAT SITS ON SECOND STREET, BETWEEN AIRBRAKE AND MIDDLE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO REJECT THE DUQUESNE LIGHT PROPOSAL, 4-2.

J. THOMAS / G. JAKUB TO SEND SEN. LOGAN A THANK YOU LETTER FOR SECURING A GRANT FOR THE BOOKMOBILE FOR WILMERDING AND WALL FOR 2009. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. J. THOMAS: we received three proposals for the Auditor for 2009. We are going to review these at the meeting on Dec. 16th.

M. TRKULA / S. SMITH THAT EFFECTIVE JAN. 1ST THAT WE NO LONGER OFFER FAMILY HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO ANY OF OUR EMPLOYEES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

MR. G. JAKUB: I just want to let everyone know what a good job Amy is doing. We asked her to get involved in collections on garbage.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we already had one of our biggest outstanding individuals pay off what they owed and we have another one coming forward. We have made some progress with our efforts this time.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE DEC. 2, 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MAYOR'S REMARKS

MR. D. POMPOSELLI: everything seems to be running smoothly. I have no comment at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.