

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President S. Shurgot at 7: 35 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to discuss some personnel issues.

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.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup> AND FEB. 17<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

MR. M. TRKULA: on page 7 of the Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes under Code Enforcement it reads that there was a motion made G. Evashavik and second by K. Peterson to have our Solicitor send a letter. I believe that it should be G. Jakub and not G. Evashavik. Also, on the last page of the Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes there was a motion made by C. Spicuzza and second by G. Jakub to add the Performance Management Communication Notice Form to the Employee Handbook which can be signed by the President of Council as discussed by Council. I did not have a chance to discuss it because I wasn't there. I would have voted no.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 17<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTIONS AS NOTED ABOVE, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. R. STOKES, COMMERCE ST.: I would like to thank the police department for their efforts last month during the high speed chase, the robbery at the deli and the incident with the fox. They were handled very well.

MR. J. MAURIZI, ANGIE'S RESTAURANT: someone mentioned that Mr. Nalevanko and Mr. Volpe may be offered their jobs back.

MR. S. SHURGOT: it is a possibility.

MRS. A. BRUCE, AIRBRAKE AVE.: the new guy you hired on the borough, it seems like he is doing a pretty nice job cleaning up the leaves and the streets. Is he on permanent.

MR. S. SHURGOT: he is called as needed.

MRS. A. BRUCE: did you ever send the letter on the creek.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I am in the process of finishing up the application.

MRS. A. BRUCE: did you send a letter to the castle telling them they are tax exempt.

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MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I prepared a letter informing them of Council's decision. I sent it to Wilmerding Renewed.

MRS. J. CRISSMAN, GLENN ST.: I would like to know about the handicap sign for 518 Glenn Street for me and my husband.

MR. G. JAKUB: we did approve one spot to be designated for the handicap sign. With the parking up there we cannot put two spots. There is no room up there for parking, it is impossible.

MRS. J. CRISSMAN: what are we supposed to do if I have to park down the street and have to carry groceries, I just can't do it. There were two handicap parking spaces up there, but they were for different houses.

MR. G. JAKUB: it is impossible to lay out the street the way it is. There are too many cars up there with a limited space. It is difficult to get anything through that street when you have cars parked. The gentleman that is working on that place, they had a dumpster up there. We have never issued two handicap signs for one house. I believe that it is one per household. We can check into that for you.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - G. JAKUB: for the month of February the ambulance responded to 39 calls and the fire department responded to 25 calls. They logged 70 man hours, used 17.62 gallons of gas and drove a total of 348 miles for all the vehicles. They also received a grant of \$9,500 which will be used towards the payment of the fire truck. They also have two new members who were voted in at their March meeting. They would like Council to accept the new members who are Richard Oddo and Emily Hartzell. The Fire Marshall will give us his report.

FIRE MARSHALL - MR. D. MILLER: I had a couple of calls about the condition of 10-12 Morningside Ave. I was informed that this is on your list to be demolished this summer. I also will send a letter to 109 Middle Avenue about the condition of the property. I was also informed that the property at 115 Watkins Avenue is waiting for county approval so that it can be sold to the Ukrainian Club. They plan on demolishing the building and using that space for parking.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I have taken pictures of that property and we have sent letters to the county and I hope to have some movement on that soon.

MR. D. MILLER: I have about ten or twelve inspections ongoing and some re-inspections. I inspected the new store today, which is going to be called What Not, and they want to open tomorrow. There were a few small items that needed to be addressed and she is going to get the work done and call me back. She is ready to go. I would like to get an official Maximum Occupancy sign made up. They should be posted above the door. I have been to Wabtec and they are going to be tearing a fire escape down. They have a lot of ways for egress over there. I want to do a walk through with the fire

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department this summer.

POLICE REPORT - CHIEF J. COMUNALE: when you do that walk through can you let us know the date so our guys can be there too. For the month of February there were 178 calls, 10 citations and 1 parking ticket was issued. The two highlights last month were the pursuit, which started in Versailles and ended up here and we are lucky that nobody got hurt and the incident at the deli. We are still investigating that on a daily basis and late today we developed a suspect.

MR. G. JAKUB: Chief, can you give us an update on what is going on with the police department.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: everyone has been called back to work and they are working the school district. Some of the part timers did not want to come back and that is their choice. Everything is status quo as it was but we still do not have the specialized positions. I anticipate us being over this situation in the next few weeks and being back to some type of normalcy. I am not sure about the K-9 and I believe that we are going to have to give the money back. I have enough officers on each shift. We have the coverage and they are there.

MR. G. JAKUB: we had other Council Representatives come from the different boroughs surrounding us. Just recently Wall Council is going to send us letter to set up a meeting. It would be Wall, East McKeesport and Wilmerding getting together. We all know in the future consolidation is going to be the only way. We may look at some form of providing services as a group. If we were a group compared to one municipality, we might qualify for more funds and grants. We are going to start a process to see what each one can bring to the table and go from there.

MR. M. TRKULA: you mentioned 38 miles for the fire trucks.

MR. G. JAKUB: it is 348 miles for all the vehicles. Do we still want to have crime watch. The last one we had there were only seven or eight people here and five were council people. We need support from the public to keep this going. We will set it up for Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. downstairs.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - S. SHURGOT: Amy sent her report and she collected \$465 in occupancy permits, \$1,330 in rental license for February and year to date of \$4,855. Amy sent letters out to all property owners who have not paid their license and gave them 30 days to respond. Update on delinquent garbage, collected \$5,810, 10 accounts have been paid off and 22 are making payments.

PUBLIC WORKS - J. THOMAS: the road department spent 254.5 hours for the month, \$3,998 in payroll and benefit costs was \$976.38. The vehicles were driven 459 miles and purchased \$219 in fuel. We had \$481.72 in repairs and supplies that we bought to work on the building was \$503.35. We also made a purchase of \$834.69 from Export Fuel for approximately 480 gallons of diesel fuel which is used by both the road department and the fire department.

MR. M. TRKULA: what was painted.

MR. J. THOMAS: the hallway on the back steps where the patch was put in and where the patch was in the Historical Room

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MR. M. TRKULA: the entire wall or just the patch.

MR. J. THOMAS: I believe that it was the entire wall. I never went in to look.

MR. M. TRKULA: I was just questioning the dollar amount, \$503.

MR. J. THOMAS: that was more than just the paint. There was also light bulbs, a ladder and some other things.

MR. S. SHURGOT: in your packet tonight there is a new form, it is our monthly income/expense report. It is not a finished form but most of the information is on the budget form, but it is kind of hard to find, so we are going to track total hours and expenses for each department.

COG REPORT - G. JAKUB: there was no meeting in February because of their annual dinner. Both Representative Costa and Senator Costa were there. Senator Costa gave a great report on how the different programs will affect the County, the State and local municipalities and what grant money will become available.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - D. GILLILAND:

1. PennDot has approved our plans for the Safe Route to Schools Project and advised us that it will be advertised this year.
2. I have provided a breakdown of bid items for the Walking Trail Phase 2 Project. I will await Council's response as to what items can be done with your public works crew.
3. the Castle Landscaping Project is nearing completion. The gazebo is in place but needs a small amount of concrete around each of the posts to complete the project.
4. the sewer repairs at 401 and 403 Orient Avenue have been awarded and contracts sent to the low bidder.
5. we have submitted an application for a CITF Grant for the remaining sewer deficiency repairs, which would be Phase 4 and 5. The grant request was for \$167,000. The County requested that we transfer this application to a CD Grant format. That request has been submitted and the intent is to fund this through the stimulus program when that funding comes through.
6. we have submitted your Annual Wasteload Management Report to ALCOSAN in advance of the deadline.
7. I have inspected the house at 109 Middle Avenue and you all have my report on this matter.
8. we did receive notice that the Community Conservation Partnership Program Grants are available again, that is for recreation. This is what we have for the walking trail. There are all different types of grants but they are all recreation related. If anyone has anything let us know. The deadline for submission is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. These are all matching grants.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: the walking trail grant, right now as it is, if we do not do any work we would have to fund \$20,191 in materials.

MR. D. GILLILAND: that is correct.

MR. S. SHURGOT: if we do some work we can lower that amount.

MR. D. GILLILAND: that is correct.

MR. J. THOMAS: how long are those bids good for.

MR. D. GILLILAND: those bids are usually good for 60 or 90 days. I don't remember what the bid specs say. We still have a little bit of time on that. The grant is good a lot longer period of time.

MR. G. JAKUB: what happened with the guy on Glenn Street with the wall.

MR. D. GILLILAND: we sent him a letter and gave him a deadline to do some work there and make sure the wall is rebuilt.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: no report.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS: as Mr. Shurgot stated, the Treasurer put down some figures for the month that we requested and I will report on the income that we received for the month of February. The sales tax money we got in was \$5,224.36, the franchise fee was \$7,926.31, rubbish collection \$3,080.13, tax money \$7,920.66, the code department was \$1,635 and the delinquent taxes was \$414.62.

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

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: no report.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: tomorrow the committee is going to actually meet over at the school. We are looking at March 20<sup>th</sup> as another Family Movie Night. We will know tomorrow if the auditorium is going to work. On Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> we are going to finalize our Easter activities. So far Wall and Turtle Creek are not having anything for Easter. We are also looking into the National Night Out which is August 4<sup>th</sup>. I already hired Chris Denim, who is a Neil Diamond impersonator, to come. We are going to have a little festivities in the park that night.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: no report.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. M. TRKULA: Greg, you mentioned the COG dinner, did you go.

MR. G. JAKUB: yes.

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MR. M. TRKULA: we had said at the meeting to receive and file. At the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting the Mayor had brought it up.

MR. G. JAKUB: we got called by COG that we needed to have a member there.

NEW BUSINESS

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO LOWER THE OCCUPANCY INSPECTION PERMIT FEE TO \$40.  
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

M. TRKULA / TO HAVE OUR SOLICITOR LOOK INTO HOW WE CAN GIVE THE YMCA  
BALLFIELD BACK TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

M. TRKULA / TO HAVE OUR TAX COLLECTOR SET UP HIS OWN HOURS TO COLLECT  
TAXES AND LET THE PEOPLE KNOW HE WILL BE SETTING HOURS UP THAT WON'T BE ON  
BOROUGH TIME.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the Tax Collector is independent and we don't direct him. You can direct the  
Borough Secretary but the Tax Collector is an elected position and we cannot direct him on what to do.

MR. M. TRKULA: what I want to say is that the Borough Secretary can no longer collect taxes on  
borough time.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I disagree with you. If someone comes in and gives him a check, is he going to  
tell him to go home.

MR. M. TRKULA: I don't have a problem with that but he can send a letter out and tell them that he  
will be here say Monday and Wednesday nights from six to nine. If someone forgets and happens to  
come in then he can take it.

MS. S. SMITH: we have a borough of a lot of senior citizens that won't come out at night and we  
shouldn't ask them to come out at night. The little bit that Joe spends time interacting with our  
community is not a big inhibittance for him.

MR. M. TRKULA: I will withdraw my motion to everything I said.

MR. J. THOMAS: I have an inquiry about Duquesne Light and what obligation they have about trees  
that are around their high tension wires.

MR. D. GILLILAND: they will only cut branches around the primary wires, which are the highest  
ones. Anything lower they will not touch.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - D. POMPOSELLI: I would like Council to direct the Borough Secretary to find  
out what happened with that letter we sent regarding the posting of signs on the hillside. We haven't  
heard anything from them.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: we will have him take care of it.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I received a complaint from a landlord who has property on Welsh Avenue who has a tenant, and the tenant moved out for one reason or another without notifying anybody. The gas company came in and turned the gas off so the man put some heaters in there so the pipes wouldn't freeze, then the came in and turned the electric off. The landlord was never notified by the utility companies. Should they notify the landlord when the utilities are turned off.

MS. S. SMITH: I thought the utility companies had a second party that was to notify you before they shut them off.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: in his case it was after working hours and he called the emergency number and they told him that there was nothing they could do about it. This is what was told to me. I don't know if it is true or not, I don't know.

MR. M. TRKULA: I had tenant who was renting off of me, they shut the gas and power off and I was never notified. I happened to ride by when the guy was shutting the meter off. I don't think they have to notify you.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we can't regulate the utilities, they are regulated by state law. I don't know what the procedure is, if they have to notify someone or not.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.