

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President S. Shurgot at 7:55 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in executive session before the meeting to discuss some personnel issues.

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

J. FILIA / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPT. 1, 2009 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: are you aware of what is happening on Middle and Airbrake Avenues. I already talked to the Chief about this and I want to let you know what is going on. There is a gentleman there that has two dogs and he takes them for a walk three times a day on a leash. His dogs attacked another dog that was on a leash and bit it and the dog had to go to the vet. This is the fifth time, that I know of, that these dogs have attacked other dogs. The Chief told me that he would take care of this but I just wanted to let you know. Who knows, the next time it might be a child that is bitten. I am not sure if the owner got bitten too.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I believe everything that she said. If she is called on she has to have proof that these are vicious dogs. You have to have proof if somebody requests it.

MR. S. SHURGOT: they took the dog to the hospital. Did they file a police report.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT: yes, there was a police report.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I just saying that you have to be careful.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: I am aware of the one incident that she is talking about. I will check tomorrow and if there is five I will pull all of the information and give it to Ken Ferree and he can cite him under the dangerous dog law and we will take the appropriate steps.

MRS. A. BRUCE, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I don't know if you are aware of all the garbage that has been out since Sunday all along the streets. This is being done every week. Nothing is being done about this.

MR. S. SHURGOT: as you know our Code Official resigned and we interviewed several people and hopefully we will hire someone tonight to fill that position.

MRS. A. BRUCE: it has been like that before she resigned.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MR. S. SHURGOT: not to be smug, but if you have a better idea on how we can handle this come and talk to Council because we are looking for a solution.

MRS. A. BRUCE: people move in and out like flies. We need someone to be watching for this. Also, the weeds along the curbs are terrible. No one is cutting them and someone needs to tell them what they have to do.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. we received a request from the U.S. Census Bureau wanting to know if the borough is interested in helping them by providing space to test job applicants, to distribute educational materials and many other items to help them get an accurate census.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I don't see a problem getting involved. Karen, would you be willing to coordinate with the Census Bureau to see what we can do to help them.

MS. K. PETERSON: yes.

2. received a notice that the Police Pension Fund CD is up for renewal on Oct. 10th.

G. JAKUB / J. THOMAS TO RENEW THE CD FOR SIX MONTHS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. we have a request from the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development asking us to pass a resolution to participate in a energy audit.

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY AT NO COST TO THE BOROUGH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Mike, since you are chairman of Borough Property will you be our contact person on this.

MR. M. TRKULA: yes.

4. received a letter from the Allegheny County Library Association asking us if we want to continue the bookmobile service for Wall and Wilmerding at a cost of \$16,000.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Sen. Logan has helped us in the past to get the funds for this. I will contact him to see if he will still fund the bookmobile.

MR. J. THOMAS: in the past when the municipalities funded it, was it a fifty-fifty split or did we pay more since we had a larger population.

MR. S. SHURGOT: it was always a fifty-fifty split.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

G. JAKUB / J. THOMAS TO HAVE MR. SHURGOT CONTACT SEN. LOGAN FOR THE FUNDING OF THE BOOKMOBILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. received a request for a handicap sign at 130 State Street rear. All the necessary information is provided.

MR. M. TRKULA: where they want to put the sign Officer Silvas was up there and said that they cannot put it there because it is right at the top of the hill. Maybe if the Police Chief can meet with the Public Works Supervisor and maybe back it up a little bit. Where they want this is directly at the top of the hill and Office Silvas said no.

MR. G. JAKUB: they have a habit of drifting in front of the garage.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you have to understand that the intent of an application for handicap parking is so that they can have access to their house. If it is not near the house then why do they need it.

MR. J. THOMAS: how much room is between their house and the fence. Can they get a car in there.

MR. M. TRKULA: their house is two houses from the end.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: it is always Council's discretion to grant handicap parking.

MS. S. SMITH: when you ask for a handicap sign it is usually in front of the house. We can grant it for 130 State Street. They can say they don't want it because they do not want to walk up those steps and it would not be feasible to put it where they requested.

MR. J. THOMAS: I agree with what Mike said, to have the Police Chief go over there with the road foreman and see what they can come up with.

M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO HAVE THE POLICE CHIEF AND THE PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN GO OVER THERE AND INVESTIGATE IT AND COME BACK WITH AN ANSWER NEXT MONTH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. received a request for a handicap sign for 138 State Street. All the necessary information is provided.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 138 STATE STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - G. JAKUB: I received this from North Versailles Township. On Sept. 17th at the public speak out meeting the Township Commissioners approved a three year extension on the police contract. Based on the contract negotiations that took place in July

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

the Township Commissioners agreed to provide police service at the following amounts. In 2010 the cost would be \$170,000, in 2011 the cost would be \$176,800 and in 2012 the cost would be \$183,872. This reflects a four percent increase every year. Our Public Safety Committee is going to meet with theirs and we are going to iron out the details of what the contract will say.

G. JAKUB / J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE \$170,000 COST WITH A FOUR PERCENT INCREASE THE FOLLOWING YEARS AS STATED IN THEIR LETTER.

ROLL CALL: M. TRKULA, yes; J. FILIA, yes; K. PETERSON, yes; S. SMITH, yes; G. JAKUB, yes; J. THOMAS, yes; S. SHURGOT, yes. Motion passed to accept the police contract as stated, 7-0.

MR. G. JAKUB: we have an issue with a fire hydrant. Both John and I have worked on this and it is in front of Earl O'Connell's house. It is leaking and it may be tampered with. They are going to watch it a few times and if it continues to leak they are going to repair it for us.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: we had 201 calls in September for service, there were 18 citations and 1 parking ticket issued. Sometime between Oct. 16th and the 23rd there will be a wide load coming through town. They are asking for permission to bring it through. It is a double wide house and it is for the family that was burned out in East McKeesport, at the top of Ice Plant Hill. They will be coming down Fifth Avenue and going up Ice Plant Hill. I don't see any problem to get up Ice Plant Hill and pull into that lot. It would be up to you guys if you want to allow them or not to allow them since there may be some weight limit issues. I don't know what the weight is but it is over your weight limits.

MS. K. PETERSON: they can't come off of Route 30 to do this.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: they can't make the bend at the top of Ice Plant Hill. This is the only way that they can get up there.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: would they have a police escort.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: we are going to escort them.

MR. J. THOMAS: It will fit on Westinghouse Avenue with parking on both sides, except for the 100 block.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: yes. The only problem would be when they are turning onto Westinghouse Avenue from Station Street.

S. SMITH / G. JAKUB TO GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO COME THROUGH TOWN FOR ONE DAY AND ONE TIME ONLY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: are we still doing the self defense class for crime watch on Oct. 21st

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MR. G. JAKUB: yes.

MS. K. PETERSON: on Saturday, the house at 114 Caldwell Ave., it has no electricity and no water. There were people in there at night, a middle aged man and two teenage girls. A neighbor called the police because they saw these people going in there. The police came and spoke to whoever was in the house and left. They called me and told me about this so I called the police and they told me that the people in the house have permission from the owner to be there. They have no occupancy permit and there is no electricity and water. Why didn't they ask them to leave.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: I will check to see what officer was working and I will ask him about this.

MS. S. SMITH: will the police help with our parade on Oct. 31st.

CHIEF J. COMUNALE: yes. We will also be patrolling the streets that night.

MR. S. SHURGOT: everyone has a copy of the Fire Marshal's report. Are there any questions.

MR. G. JAKUB: the Fire Department responded to 17 calls for the month, had one training class, one work detail and one community detail. Eastern Area responded to 60 calls for September and had 39 transports. The average response time for emergencies is 6.42 minutes and for non-emergencies it is 7.53 minutes.

MR. M. TRKULA: I was wondering is the Mayor and Chief went up to take a look at the parking issue we had last month on Glenn Street.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: we went up there and found a truck with no inspection sticker so the Chief tagged it. There are 13 parking spaces for 14 homes and some of them have 2 cars. I talked to the gentleman and told him that we can only give them one handicap spot. He turned around and said that those people have two vehicles and they have two spots. I told him he has two spots. I talked to almost everybody and they all agreed and they will get along. I think that the problem is settled.

PUBLIC WORKS - G. JAKUB:

The new pick up truck is in and the lettering is on. The Shaw Avenue garage is about 90% cleared out. The scrap was removed and the receipts and the money was given to the Secretary to put into the general fund. I believe there was \$255 for the scrap.

We have a meeting set up for next Thursday with the Chairman of Public Works in East McKeesport, George Padezan, so we can continue the service that we do for each other.

We are still having a problem with the wire harness on the dump truck, which is a dealer problem, and we are trying to resolve that. Leaf removal started today. We got around the building and this general area.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MS. K. PETERSON: are we going to get the street sweeper for the fall.

MR. G. JAKUB: I am going to see if Jimmy can set something up. It all depends on where and how much it is going to cost. COG just sent us a fuel charge that we never saw before.

MR. S. SHURGOT: if we do have some luck in getting the sweeper, make sure the area is posted the day before.

MR. G. JAKUB: we want to do the same thing with the leaves.

UTILITIES - J. FILIA: no report.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

1. PennDOT plans to advertise the Safe Route to School Project in December.
2. COG plans to advertise the CD 35 Significant Deficiency Sewer Repair Project for a bid opening in October or November
3. the CD 35 demolition of the houses on Sprague and Morningside should begin in November. Bids were opened for the CD 35 demolition project of 353 Marguerite Avenue. The low bidder was ROAC Contracting at a bid of \$31,050. This will be fully funded from the County and there will be no cost to the borough.

MS. K. PETERSON: what about the garages.

MR. D. GILLILAND: the garages are included in the bid unless Council wishes otherwise.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM ROAC CONTRACTING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,050 TO DEMOLISH 353 MARGUERITE AVENUE, INCLUDING THE GARAGES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. G. JAKUB: I thought that we were going to address the issue of back taxes on that property.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you have already gave me instructions to find out why the property was not put back on the tax roles when they bought it at sheriff sale.

4. Equitable Gas has not completed the repair of our storm sewer at Caldwell and Brown. They said it is on Trafford Corporation's to do list.

5. the manhole that collapsed at Caldwell and Lydia has been replaced.

6. we submitted a CITF Grant Application for the matching funds needed for the Phase 2 Airbrake Avenue Walking Trail.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

7. your 2009 sewer budget included the cost of purchasing CSO Alerts for your two Combined Sewer Overflows, as required by the consent decree. We are seeking Council authorization to proceed with this purchase at a cost of \$9,900.

MR. G. JAKUB: that money is coming out of our sewer fund, is that correct.

MR. S. SHURGOT: yes.

MR. J. THOMAS: when do they have to put them in. What is the schedule on that.

MR. D. GILLILAND: if they are authorized tonight they would be put in and you would have the bill next month.

MR. S. SHURGOT: when is the deadline to put them in.

MR. D. GILLILAND: I am not sure. I will check on that.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we need to hold off a little if you can.

G. JAKUB / S. SMITH TO PURCHASE THE CSO ALARMS WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED.
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: no report.

COG REPORT - G. JAKUB:

we received final approval on salt. The price is locked in at \$52.75 a ton. This is the SHACOG price.

We need to appoint to people to the Earned Income Tax Study Committee. They suggested the two COG representatives.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO APPOINT STEVE SHURGOT AND GREG JAKUB TO THE TAX STUDY COMMITTEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. FILIA WAS EXCUSED FROM THE MEETING BECAUSE HE HAS ANOTHER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND TO.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: the sale of the Shaw Avenue garage has been finalized.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON:

there was a question regarding the meeting about the dredging of the creek. It is actually a study that is on going.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

there was a letter sent to the Planning Commission from Holy Angels Church about zoning and it was very unclear on what they want to do. We asked them to resubmit a letter to Planning Commission to explain exactly what their intentions are.

there was a question regarding the sewage that is coming from Westmoreland County into Turtle Creek. It was explained to me that there is an ALCOSAN line under the creek and it goes to the ALCOSAN plant.

we are still discussing the possibility of developing Russian Hill. Joyce is going to look into getting some grant money to put a parklet or some other type of recreation up there.

RECREATION - S. SMITH:

the Halloween Parade will be on October 31st with registration at the borough building beginning at 4 pm and the parade starting at 4:30 pm. I talked to the President of the Women's Civic Club and they are going to give us three ladies to judge the costumes. After the parade we will distribute bags at the school.

this year we are participating with the Castle in their Haunted Castle.

we are also going to bring back our Holiday House Decorating Contest.

we will be having Veteran's Day services here at the borough building on Nov. 11th starting at 11 am.

there will be light up night on Nov. 27th .

the children's Christmas party will be on Dec. 12th . We are always looking for volunteers to help us with these projects.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: Steve Shurgot and I met with different firms about collecting our delinquent real estate and garbage funds. I will have all the information ready for our adjourned meeting and we can discuss who we want to hire, if any of them.

I want to advise Council and the public that when this police contract is all done and said we are looking for an increase in real estate taxes for 2010. The way I look at the figures right now is that our earned income is down, we have to do something with street lights. I talked to some Council members about maybe taking some out, reducing the wattage. We are paying close to \$90,000 a year for street lights and I don't think we need all of them. The bottom line is that there has to be an increase in real estate taxes for 2010. I am not sure how much because our committee has to meet.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

OLD BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: I had our secretary send the school district a letter because some questions were raised about their intent on the use of the school and the increase loitering around the school and the problems that it is causing. We were hoping to get a meeting with them. They did send us a letter that they were going to post no trespassing signs and that the school is used for alternative education. I will call Ms. Valicenti next week to try and set up a meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: I would like to change our workshop from Oct. 20th to the 27th if that is okay with everyone.

MS. S. SMITH: we received a letter from Geraldine Homitz asking if Borough Council would participate in honoring Chuck Klausing. The dinner is \$25 a person and they are asking if Council can present him with a plaque for his achievements.

S. SMITH / G. JAKUB TO PURCHASE A PLAQUE TO PRESENT TO CHUCK KLAUSING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

G. JAKUB / S. SMITH THAT WE HIRE LOUISE WALKER TO REPLACE AMY IN OUR CODE OFFICE AT A RATE OF \$9.00 AN HOUR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 5-0-1 WITH K. PETERSON ABSTAINING BECAUSE SHE WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE INTERVIEWS.

MS. S. ZIBRAT: can I just make a comment about Chuck Klausing. His father was the Mayor here for many years. I think it would be really nice if the whole Council could attend. Every place that he goes to he always mentions Wilmerding.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - D. POMPOSELLI: the Chief and I went over to Banquets Unlimited and on Bridge Street they have permit parking signs up. The Chief and I thought it would be a good idea to put them on the right hand side also because the owner of Banquets Unlimited is requesting it. It seems that there are cars that park there and get the bus to go to Pittsburgh. The Chief and I think it would be a good idea to put three signs on the right side.

MS. S. SMITH: who is requesting the permit parking.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: Banquets Unlimited.

MS. S. SMITH: they would not have control over who can park there.

MR. S. SHURGOT: can Borough Property take a look at it and make a recommendation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL