

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE FEB. 2, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:38 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

ROLL CALL: MICHAEL TRKULA, present; JAMES FILIA, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; GREGORY JAKUB, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. Mayor DOMINICK POMPOSELLI was also present.

M. TRKULA/ G. JAKUB TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF JAN. 5, 2010 WHICH ARE THE CLOSE OUT OF OLD BUSINESS, THE REORGANIZATION MEETING AND THE REGULAR MEETING . MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. we have an ordinance that has been advertised and ready to be acted on. It is an ordinance providing for mandatory permits for certain building alternations, erection of signs, demolition and installation of storage sheds and providing for such fees.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the fee schedule is as follows: for a storage shed under 100 square feet, \$35.00; a storage shed 100 square feet or greater, \$45.00; installing or replacing a roof on a single family residential property, \$30.00; installing or replacing a roof on all other structures, \$40.00; demolition of a structure under 1000 square feet, \$50.00; demolition of a structure 1000 square feet or larger, \$70.00; erecting a permissible sign under 20 square feet in area, \$30.00 and erecting a permissible sign 20 square feet in area or larger, \$45.00. These fees may be amended and revised by Council at any time from time to time by simple resolution. At this time we will have a public hearing on this ordinance. Any person who wishes to comment on this may now be heard.

No one came forward to express any comment on this ordinance.

G. JAKUB / M. TRKULA TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE SETTING PERMIT FEES.

MR. M. TRKULA: the people who put small sheds in their yards are cleaning their yards up and it seems we are charging them to keep their property clean.

MS. S. SMITH: what size is a 100 square foot shed.

MR. J. FILIA: it is 10 feet by 10 feet.

MR. M. TRKULA: all that I am saying is that it seems that we are penalizing the residents to clean up their property.

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MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0, TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE SETTING THE PERMIT FEES.

2. received a letter from Pauline Walsh of 410 Caldwell Avenue that she is willing to serve on the Planning Commission. I believe that there are two vacancies on that board.

M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO APPOINT MS. PAULINE WALSH TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. received a request for a handicap sign for 444 Airbrake Avenue. All the necessary paperwork has been received and is in order.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 444 AIRBRAKE AVE.

MR. M. TRKULA: it says on the application that she is legally blind. How can she drive.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you have to remember that it is not a personal spot.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0, TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 444 AIRBRAKE.

4. received a letter from Joseph Hartzell resigning as Tax Collector effective Feb. 1, 2010.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JOSEPH HARTZELL AS TAX COLLECTOR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. received a notice of the annual COG Dinner Meeting to be held on Friday Feb. 26, 2010 at the Olympia Hall in East Pittsburgh. The cost for the dinner will be \$50 per person.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO SEND OUR COG REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DINNER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. received a request for a handicap sign for 230 Welsh Avenue. All the necessary paperwork has been received and is in order.

K. PETERSON / M. TRKULA TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 230 WELSH AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

7. received a letter from the Allegheny County Library Association that they will begin bookmobile service to the high rise with their Senior Services Bookmobile on the third Thursday of each month. This service is funded through the Regional Asset District.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: for the fourth quarter 79% of the population served n Wall and Wilmerding are adults. We had a 75% usage for the fourth quarter.

8. the annual State Borough's Association conference will be held from April 25th to th 28th at the Omni William Penn in Pittsburgh. They are offering a special one day conference registration rate for Borough

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Representatives from Allegheny County. The one day fee is \$80 per person and includes the day's educational sessions, lunch and conference materials. The rate is available for either Monday April 26th or Tuesday April 27th.

MR. S. SHURGOT: myself and Mr. Hartzell are going to be recognized at the luncheon on Tuesday for over 20 years of service to the borough. I would ask that you send us for that one day.

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA TO SEND THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY TO THE STATE BOROUGHS CONFERENCE AND ANY ONE ELSE THAT WISHES TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: I received a letter from the Fire Department that they have elected Tyler Shoaf as a member. They have conducted a background check and everything is clear. He is 17 so he will be a junior fireman.

J. FILIA / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT TYLER SHOAF AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND TO HAVE HIM SWORN IN BY THE MAYOR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. FILIA: the Fire Department also had their elections in December and elected the following: James Cortazzo as Fire Chief; Thomas Hartzell as Assistant Fire Chief; Richard Mattis as Captain and Erin Smeltzer as First Lieutenant.

J. FILIA / G. JAKUB TO ACCEPT THE OFFICERS AS ELECTED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. FILIA: Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 47 calls in January. They transported 30 patients and their average response time to emergency calls was 7.7 minutes and to non emergency calls 7.9 minutes. I now will ask Chief DiCenzo to give the police report.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: for the month of January we responded to 219 calls. I will give you a brief breakdown on some of the calls. There were 7 alarm calls, 31 ambulance assists, 4 animal and dog complaints, 3 burglaries, 6 criminal mischief, 14 domestics, 8 parking complaints, recovered one stolen vehicle, 11 suspicious activities, 5 traffic accidents and one Ordinance 979 complaint. I will answer any questions that you have.

MS. S. SMITH: do you have an update on the K-9 dog.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: the commissioners have put it on hold indefinitely.

MS. S. SMITH: I thought that all the money was freed up and there would be no expense to the Township.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: they may take a look at it down the road but it all depends on finances.

MR. G. JAKUB: is Officer Silvis still going to do code enforcement.

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CHIEF V. DiCENZO: at this time she is still doing the code enforcement.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - D. MILLER: for the month of January I worked a total of 60 hours. On Wednesday Feb. 10th a hearing will be held for R Place Homemade and also some of Kerrigan's properties. I will be issuing 19 citations next week. 400 Westinghouse Avenue, the old church, applied for a zoning hearing and from I heard tonight they do not need a zoning variance and I will inform them that they have to start all over and apply for an occupancy permit. There were 52 rental licenses that were collected in January and they have until the end of February to submit them. The code books are outdated and it will cost about \$600 to purchase the new 2009 books.

MR. J. FILIA: what happens if the rental license is not paid.

MR. D. MILLER: I will write citations on them.

MR. J. FILIA: will they appear before Judge Barner.

MR. D. MILLER: that is where I will file the citations. If they pay the money then I can withdraw the citation.

PUBLIC WORKS / COG - G. JAKUB: we are in the process of clearing the snow and the supervisor has checked the sewers. The Christmas decorations on the poles will be taken down on the next warm day. They are patching pot holes right now. When we purchased the pick up truck we got the regular blade on it and it was not satisfactory so we had to purchase another one. This one will be wearing out shortly and instead of keep buying blades for it I would recommend that we buy a carbide steel edge, which is the same kind that is on the dump truck, and it has lasted us at least two years. They cost around \$500.

G. JAKUB / J. THOMAS TO PURCHASE A CARBIDE EDGE STEEL BLADE FOR THE PICK UP TRUCK AT A COST OF \$500. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. G. JAKUB: the COG meetings will be moving to a new location. They are also looking into the USX Credit Union and what it has to offer it's members. The interest rate is 2.5%. Also, they are pushing the census because that is what determines the federal funding. They want to capture every person in each town.

MS. K. PETERSON: I offered the Census Bureau the use of the building to help them get an accurate count.

MR. G. JAKUB: they are also looking into hiring an employee to run the vector.

MR. M. TRKULA: can you ask them to look at health insurance. If they combine all the towns that have two or three employees maybe we can get a better rate.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: do we have any extra zoning maps. I had someone ask me what the zoning was in an area and I couldn't tell them. Are they up to date.

MR. D. GILLILAND: there was a change on one parcel. We can get you some copies if you want them.

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ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

1. bids were opened for the Safe Route to School Project on January 11th with the low bid from CH & D Enterprises in the amount of \$298,650.50, which is 62.65% over budget. PennDOT has agreed to fully fund the construction but Wilmerding would be required to pay for Inspection Services. I have solicited three quotes from Engineering firms that are PennDOT certified to do the work. Only one quote came back and that was for \$32,472.00. There is a process by which PennDOT could assume inspection fees but the process of advertising and qualifying is lengthy and PennDOT feels that the funds would be lost during this time delay. Once Council takes official action regarding this matter then I will inform PennDOT and they will proceed accordingly.

M. TRKULA / G. JAKUB TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL PROJECT TO CH & D ENTERPRISES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$298,650.50.

MR. G. JAKUB: is there a chance that we can back out if we do not get funding for the inspection.

MR. D. GILLILAND: all we are doing is agreeing to go through the process. If we wait and it takes too long they can pull the funding and you don't want to do that now at this stage of the project. We can see if PennDOT can pay for the inspection.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0, TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL PROJECT.

2. the CD 35 Significant Deficiency Sewer Repair Project has been awarded and COG is in the process of getting contracts, bonds and insurance in place.

3. the CD 35 Demolition of the Tonaluka Club will begin by the end of the week. 10 & 14 Morningside and 38 Sprague Street will be underway within two weeks.

4. as discussed last month there are numerous sewers yet to be cleaned to comply with the consent decree. Based on prices we received from Homestead, the total cost would be \$24,000.

MR. J. THOMAS: when can they start.

MR. D. GILLILAND: they are working in Homestead right now. They cannot do any work if the temperature is below 26 degrees.

J. THOMAS / G. JAKUB TO PIGGYBACK ON THE HOMESTEAD CONTRACT TO CLEAN THE SEWERS AT A COST OF \$24,000 WITH THE MONEY COMING OUT OF THE SEWER FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. the emergency demolition CD grant application for 710 Middle Avenue was turned down by the County.

6. we received notification that the County has awarded \$12,600 in CD 36 funds for the paving of the YMCA Basketball Court. This project requires a local match of \$2,250.

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MS. K. PETERSON: what is going on with the walking trail.

MR. D. GILLILAND: the CD grant was turned down for the matching funds.

MS. K. PETERSON: is there any other place to get the extra funds.

MR. D. GILLILAND: at this point I don't see any extra money out there.

MS. K. PETERSON: then it looks like the walking trail project is finished.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: no report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: we have a delinquent tax notice for a parcel that we acquired through a quick claim deed from Union Real Estate. The property is not worth much because the delinquent taxes from 1953 to 2006 are \$1,260. When the borough took over the property they thought that they were released from all taxes and that is incorrect. Before you accept any property a title search is done.

PERSONAL - J. FILIA: we have some pending issues that we will discuss in the future.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: no report.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: the committee will be meeting to discuss our Easter activities.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: no report.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. M. TRKULA: John, have you heard anything on the life insurance. They were supposed to make the adjustment so that everyone was getting the same thing.

MR. J. THOMAS: I am still working on it. I am waiting for them to get back to me. They said it is still with the underwriters.

MR. S. SHURGOT: what is the status of the delinquents with Maiello, Brungo and Maiello.

MR. J. THOMAS: Joe told me he sent them all the delinquents, taxes and garbage. They are in the process of setting things up.

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NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO HAVE THE BOROUGH PAY THE FIRST \$1,250 DEDUCTIBLE ON THE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR OUR EMPLOYEES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0-1 WITH M. TRKULA ABSTAINING.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - D. POMPOSELLI: I have people coming into my notary office asking questions which I cannot answer. I told them to contact Council. If anyone is here tonight now is the time to ask your questions.

MR. G. JAKUB: I forgot to bring this up under public safety. We will be having a crime watch meeting on March 24th at 7 pm in the Fireman's Room.

MS. S. SMITH: I will not be able to make the workshop on the 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.