

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

S. SMITH / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2010 MEETING AS PRESENTED.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. W. PRICENER, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: I would like to bring you up to date on my son's project around the monument in the park. He and his troop picked up all the cobblestone around the monument and one section is completed. They are about two-thirds of the way filling in the cobblestone. The walls around the monument has been power washed and also the monument itself has been power washed. They have pulled all the weeds from that whole area. They also have stripped the paint off of the bell in front of the school and they are going to polish the bronze. There was about eight to nine coats of paint on that bell. The World War Two monument was cleaned. It had some water stains on it. They have been overwhelmed with the response. They have raised between \$1,500 and \$2,000 and all of that money has been deposited. We have received checks from as far away as Florida and Colorado in addition to the many people of the borough who just came up and handed him money. At the end of this project we will have a complete account of every dollar that was received and where every dollar went. Any money that is left over will go to the new garden club. They are going to remove all the grass and weeds from around the wall and at that point they will purchase shrubs and flowers. He would like to thank Sandy Smith, John Thomas, Mr. Filia and the borough street department for all of their help. There is still a long way to go. Also, the wall that faces Commerce Street and Westinghouse Avenue, where the letters were taken off. Andy's suggestion would be to remove the stone that is there and replacing that with some type of stone where the letters would be carved into the stone. His other suggestion would be to rename the park to the George Westinghouse Memorial Park. This would be with Council's approval. He has had about twenty-five workers on and off. I just want to thank the community for all of their support that they have given for this project.

MS. S. SMITH: we are glad to help out and we want to thank Andy for taking on this project.

MR. W. PRICENER: I also want to thank Pam Martincic for bringing us so much food and drinks.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: can you thank your son me and his crew. I have been up there three or four times and they are doing a hell of a job.

MR. J. MASON, PAT MEWS DRIVE: when the basketball hoop was taken down at the Avenue U park we had no problems over there, it was nice and quiet. Last week the hoop went back up, and I don't know who put it up but I have an idea, and now the kids are back bouncing the basketball all hours of the night. At four o'clock Monday morning the kids were out there playing basketball. There must have been one person who didn't like them bouncing the basketball in front of their house so they put the hoop back up. If they don't like that then move. The last three weeks when the hoop was down there was no noise over there. Last night there were fifteen kids playing basketball and bouncing the ball right at the corner. Something need to be done about this.

MS. S. SMITH: I did not see any kids last night. At 9:45 p.m. the police came past and put a big spotlight on down there and around Avenue U.

MR. J. MASON: they know when the police are coming.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: did you have anything to do with removing the hoop.

MR. J. MASON: no, but something has to be done.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MS. B. BRADLEY, LYDIA STREET: I was wondering if the borough had a noise ordinance. The kids in the neighborhood are screaming so loud. I have called the police and no one came down to check to see what was going on. On June 9th around 8:15 p.m. on the block below me, at Lydia and Caldwell, the kids were screaming and hollering so loud that I could hear them on my porch. I called the police and no one came.

MR. J. FILIA: the Chief will check on that to see why no one came.

MS. B. BRADLEY: on July 8th I called the police because my neighbor's have pit bulls in the house and no one was home and you could hear the dogs and puppies crying. No one came to check it out so we called the humane society.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: I know our dispatcher called the dog officer that night and he was up there the next day and he called the humane society.

MS. B. BRADLEY: what is being done with the high grass and weeds up at that house.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I know our code office sent out certified letters to the owner and property manager.

MS. S. SMITH: the YMCA is offering a free program for children on Tuesday and Thursday from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

MS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: children learn by others actions. I think you need to do something about the graffiti in town. It is on the bus stop shelter on Airbrake Avenue and I did call them but they don't seem to care. It is also on the bridge by Pat Mews Drive and Patton Street. I don't know whether it is children or adults. It needs to be cleaned up so that more graffiti doesn't show up.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I don't want to bring the person's name up but I asked her to come to the council meeting tonight. She was complaining about her landlord and they have having a dispute about the property line. I told her it was a private affair and to come tonight and tell Council about it. You all know who the landlord is.

MS. A. TUCKER, LYDIA STREET: can you refresh my memory about grass and weeds and if Officer Silvis is still doing it. If so how lone does it take before someone gets cited for not cutting their grass.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: as I said last month, that is not all that she is assigned to do. She has other duties to perform besides checking on weeds and grass. This past Monday I had an extra officer so she was out checking on code violations.

MR. J. THOMAS: I talked to Dave Miller and he said the thirty days are up and he sent out the citations and the next step is the Magistrate.

MS. TUCKER: there has been garbage sitting out for days at 244 Card and the neighbor called the police because it stunk so much. The landlord notified the tenants about this. The dogs are gone but the bags are still there. The garbage was supposed to be picked up on Friday but they didn't put it out.

MR. J. THOMAS: some people were confused because the holiday fell on a Sunday and pick up was on a regular schedule.

MS. A. TUCKER: another thing, when the street sweeper comes in to clean the streets, why can't they notify us when they are coming so we can move our cars.

MS. D. ROSS, PAT MEWS DRIVE: I also have a complaint about the park on Avenue U.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are not going to discuss this issue again. We have already addressed that issue for five minutes. While I was on vacation we got criticized because it took five days to get the bridge paved because there was dust. No offense but that basketball court has been there for years. We are getting criticized because there is

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

no place for the kids to go and they are playing on the streets. It is not being brought up again. There is five minutes per subject. Unless you have another subject then we are done.

MS. D. ROSS: I called the police the other day because there were kids out there at 6 in the morning bouncing a basketball.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: I will pull all the calls and I will listen to them. I was on vacation last week, out of state, and I received several calls about that so I called back here and had my officers check it nightly and no one was around. Last night, on my own, I came down here on my motorcycle and rode around down here for over an hour and there was no one in the playgrounds. This was around midnight and 1 in the morning. I will have a car there tonight. If you have a problem give us a call and a car will be dispatched.

MS. D. LAGORGA, AIRBRAKE AVE.: there is a stop sign at First and Middle. During the day there are about thirty cars going past and none of them stop, this is every day. The police sit on the hill and watch the stop sign on Airbrake but they can't see Middle Ave.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we can have the Chief check on that.

MS. P. MARTINCIC, PAT MEWS DRIVE: you have the bridge paved and we want to thank you for it.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Allegheny County did it.

MR. T. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: can you give us an amount on what has been collected on past due garbage bills.

MR. J. THOMAS: since we hired our new collection agency, Maiello, Brungo and Maiello, for the month of April we collected \$350.65, for May \$2,133.51 and for June \$1,208.50 on delinquent garbage.

MR. T. FRYDRYCH: was it about \$80,000 that was delinquent.

MR. J. THOMAS: no, it was about \$40,000 or \$50,000.

MR. J. FILIA: the total for the combined real estate and garbage was probably the amount that you heard. Do you have the figures for the delinquent real estate tax.

MR. J. THOMAS: for the month of April they collected \$5,519.06, for May \$3,772.54 and for June \$6,469.87. Since this outfit started collecting our delinquents we have collected close to \$20,000.

MR. A. MARTINCIC, PAT MEWS DRIVE: I called Waste Management on Sunday and they told me since the holiday was on a Sunday that they would be collecting on the regular day. If anyone is not sure when the garbage will be picked up all you have to do is call.

MR. A. PRICENER, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: I would just like to thank everyone for the support that you have given me for the work on the project in the park. The community support has been great and also the support from Council. I should have the project completed by the Night Out event.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I just want everyone to know that Wilmerding has a friend on the County, Mr. George Thompson. He grew up here in Wilmerding and he gives our projects a little extra push. If you see him tell him thanks.

MR. T. FRYDRYCH: I have one more thing I forgot to bring up. The weeds around town, is there someway that the borough can go around and spray them. Years ago you used to do that.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we can't do that anymore because there are new regulations and you have to be trained.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MR. W. PRICENER: are there any regulations against a resident going around and cutting down weeds across the street from them. On Westinghouse Avenue we go over and cut stuff down to help the borough and the neighborhood. The community should help out and pitch in to clean up their neighborhood.

MR. T. FRYDRYCH: you are liable for anything that would happen on someone's property. You just can't randomly go on someone's property.

MR. W. PRICENER: well I do. We do it on Westinghouse Avenue.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a request from Natalie Hilbert about placing an ad in the East Allegheny Soccer program book. A full page ad is \$40, a half page is \$25, a quarter page is \$15 and to be listed as a patron it is \$5.

M. TRKULA / S. SMITH TO PLACE A HALF PAGE AD IN THE PROGRAM BOOK.

MR. J. FILIA: are there any kids from Wilmerding.

MR. S. SHURGOT: there are two.

MR. J. FILIA: I am all for it I was just want to make sure.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0, TO PLACE A HALF PAGE AD.

2. received a notice of the 2010 Fall Conference of Townships and Boroughs to be held at Seven Springs from Sept. 30th to Oct. 3rd.

S. SMITH / M. TRKULA TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

3. received a notice from the PA. State Association of Boroughs on their Fall Leadership Conference to be held from Oct. 15 - 17.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

4. bids were opened on June 7, 2010 on the consent order and agreement for sewer system cleaning and televising. The low bidder was Sewer Speciality Services for a total price of \$29,825.

M. TRKULA / S. SMITH TO AWARD THE PROJECT TO THE LOW BIDDER, SEWER SPECIALITY SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,285.

MS. S. SMITH: is there enough money to pay for this.

MR. J. THOMAS: we have money now but we may not have it in a few months. It is something that has to be done.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0, TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO THE LOWEST BIDDER.

5. received a letter from the Allegheny League of Municipalities asking us to adopt a resolution opposing HB 2341 and SB 1357 which would consolidate local governments and giving the counties oversight of all municipal operations.

J. THOMAS / J. FILIA TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

MR. M. TRKULA: we can talk more about it at the workshop.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

6. received a letter from the Tax Collector asking Borough Council to appoint Mr. Ralph Powell as a Deputy Tax Collector while she is on vacation, July 17 -24. She also states that she would be legally responsible for all taxes collected and received by the appointed deputy.

MR. J. FILIA: Joe, in the past, how did you handle this when you went on vacation.

MR. J. HARTZELL: I didn't take a vacation until October when most of the tax season was over.

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0, TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. RALPH POWELL AS DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: the ambulance responded to 65 calls during the month of June with an average response time of 6.5 minutes for emergency calls and 9.2 minutes for non-emergency calls. Out of the 65 calls there were 42 transports. For the fire department for the month of June there were 19 calls with 33 man-hours. They were assisted by the police on 11 calls and by Turtle Creek Fire Department 7 times. I will now turn it over to Chief DiCenzo for the police report.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: for the month of June there were 250 calls and 7 arrests were made. A brief breakdown of some of the calls: animal and dog complaints - 6, assaults - 2, burglary calls - 2, criminal mischief - 6, disorderly conduct and noise - 1, drug investigations - 2, juvenile related calls - 16, neighbor disputes - 5, suspicious activity and incidents - 13 and wanted persons and warrants served -2.

MR. J. FILIA: there is a neighbor who calls the police on some children for being out after the curfew. The children are in their own yard, with a parent, and there is nothing the police can do. The police have had a couple of calls from the residents regarding that situation.

MS. S. SMITH: I just want to remind everyone here tonight that the crime watch meeting will be held on Wednesday July 21st at 7 pm at the school.

FIRE MARSHAL:

MR. S. SHURGOT: he is working tonight and everyone has received a copy of his report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

MR. S. SHURGOT: everyone has a copy of his report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

MR. S. SHURGOT: Mr. Jakub is working late tonight and he is going to try and make it.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

1. work is underway on the Safe Route to School Project and should be completed by August 18th.
2. the CD 35 Significant Deficiency Sewer Repair Project has been completed and the asphalt paving company will return to correct two patches around manholes.
3. there are a number of resolutions for CD 37 that has to be passed tonight in order to apply for CD funding. The first one is for street reconstruction for \$288,000. The locations are Westinghouse Avenue from John to Station; Avenue U between Middle and Airbrake; Middle Avenue from Patton to Avenue U; and Airbrake from Miller to First.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR CD 37 STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND FILE THE APPLICATION WITH COG. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

The second resolution is for retaining wall replacement on Middle, Sprague and Card Avenue for \$780,000.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR CD 37 RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT AND FILE THE APPLICATION WITH COG. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

The next resolution is for the Ice Plant Hill retaining wall for \$55,000.

J. FILIA / S. SMITH TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR CD 37 ICE PLANT HILL RETAINING WALL AND FILE THE APPLICATION WITH COG. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

The fourth resolution is for catch basin replacement at Lydia and Poplar; Card and Lydia; the 200 block of Wood Street; Westinghouse and Clara; Bridge and Middle and Maple and Second for \$20,000.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR CD 37 CATCH BASINS AND FILE THE APPLICATION WITH COG. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

The fifth resolution is for the Phase II Airbrake Avenue Walking Trail for \$40,000.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR CD 37 AIRBRAKE AVENUE WALKING TRAIL AND FILE THE APPLICATION WITH COG. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

The last resolution is for the demolition of 74 Morningside, 428 Airbrake Avenue, 418 Westinghouse Avenue, 125 Watkins Avenue, 409 Orient Avenue, 710 Middle Avenue, 715 Airbrake Avenue, 14 Sprague Street and 18 Sprague Street for \$50,000.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR CD 37 DEMOLITION AND FILE THE APPLICATION WITH COG. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

COG REPORT:

UTILITIES:

SOLICITOR - N. EVASHAVIK: no report.

PERSONAL - J. FILIA: no report.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: I would like to sell the belgian block that was over at the other garage.

MR. J. THOMAS: how much are you selling them for.

MR. M. TRKULA: we can table this and discuss it at our workshop.

MR. S. SHURGOT: did they put the millings from the bridge down on Pitcairn Street.

MR. M. TRKULA: yes, they put the millings all the way up Pitcairn Street to RJ's and he also had about twenty yards of asphalt left that he put down there to keep the dust down.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

RECREATION - S. SMITH: we are working on our night out activities which is on August 3rd in the park.

PLANNING - R. STOKES: we are off for the summer.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE - J. THOMAS: the proposals for the Tax Collector for the Southeast Area Tax Collection District are due this week and the committee is going to meet on the 15th. The Tax Collector should be appointed sometime in August but no later than September.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: we have had some issues with verification of complaints from residents about high weeds and grass. We talked about having Louise going out and verifying those complaints.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we just need to institute it that one day a week she goes out.

MR. M. TRKULA: what is the purpose of that.

MS. S. SMITH: verification. Just to make sure that the complaint is valid. Your neighbor may not get along with you and call over here and complain that you grass is too high.

MS. S. SMITH: at last month's meeting it states on Page 6 that Mr. Filia was going to meet with Mr. DeMuth to discuss him helping out with our code enforcement. Did you have that meeting.

MR. J. FILIA: no, at this time there is no need to bring him on.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: Steve Volpe mentioned that Auberle would send up summer help at no cost. I spoke with Auberle and they have a program where they would bring their residents into town and cut the weeds, pick up trash and anything that we would need. They have their own supervisor and they are fully insured. The only thing we would have to provide is gloves and vests.

S. SMITH / J. FILIA TO HAVE AUBERLE COME IN AND HELP OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ON A AS NEEDED BASIS.

MR. J. THOMAS: the only cost to the borough would be gloves, vests and garbage bags.

MS. S. SMITH: yes. They will have a supervisor with them and it all depends on how many kids are in house at the time. We could have as many as six boys and girls. Also, people are under the impression that Auberle is just for bad kids, that is not true. These are kids that come from a bad home environment. I am all for bringing these kids in.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO HAVE AUBERLE COME IN ON A AS NEEDED BASIS, 5-0.

MR. J. FILIA: there has been some inquiry about having me removed from Borough Council due to a conflict of interest because my name is on a liquor license. Before I accepted this position the Borough Solicitor checked into this and ruled that there was no conflict of interest. Those people who have a vendetta against me and are trying to remove me from Borough Council, all I can say to them is run against me when my term is up.

MS. S. SMITH: I would like to go along with Andrew Pricener's recommendation that we change the name of the park to the George Westinghouse Memorial Park.

MR. M. TRKULA: I think we need to discuss this a little more. We can discuss this at our workshop.

MR. J. THOMAS: Andrew, how much time do you need to get the stone together.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MR. A. PRICENER: I am not sure. I would have to talk to the gentleman.

MR. M. TRKULA: we have a workshop next week.

MR. J. FILIA: it won't be until next month. If we say it is okay at the workshop we can't do anything until our meeting in August.

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: you can decide to do it at your workshop but you would have to ratify it at the next meeting.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI: I have another name for you too consider. I would like you to consider naming the park after a man who did a lot for the Borough of Wilmerding and that man is Dr. Frank A. Leonardo. I think you should leave it up to the people of Wilmerding to decide, put it on the ballot. This is just my opinion. Let the people have a say on what name you want to put on the nicest place in town.

MR. J. THOMAS: since our next meeting is on National Night Out I would like to have the meeting time changed.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO CHANGE THE TIME OF THE AUGUST 3RD MEETING FROM 7:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: there are several trees in town that are dead and I think we should have them taken down. We received a proposal from Jungle Jim Tree Removal to take down 15 trees for \$1,500.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR REMOVING 15 TREES FOR \$1,500 TO JUNGLE JIM TREE REMOVAL SERVICE.

MS. S. SMITH: do we have money to pay for this.

MR. J. THOMAS: yes.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: we discussed in the workshop prior to the meeting about setting an amount for anyone who would like to file an appeal on the 979 ordinance and we decided on \$300.

J. THOMAS / J. FILIA TO SET THE FEE AT \$300 FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO FILE AN APPEAL ON THE 979 ORDINANCE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO HAVE LOUISE GO AROUND TOWN WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO VERIFY THE COMPLAINTS THAT SHE HAS RECEIVED.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - D. POMPOSELLI: don't forget to ask a friend to come to the festivities in the park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.