

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE JAN. 4, 2011 MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President S. Shurgot at 7:36 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: under the right to know law we want to inform the audience that this meeting is being tape recorded. Also, Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss some 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.

M. TRKULA / G. JAKUB TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE DEC. 21, 2010 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I am disappointed in the lighting of the Christmas decorations this year and last year. I understand that here an electrical issue and I hope that it can be corrected for next year. Also, there is a lot of litter on Middle Avenue that needs to be picked up.

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MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I do not know if you are aware of the people that move in and out of 702 Middle Avenue and 704 Middle Avenue. The people that moved into 702 Middle were evicted from another house and they have no business in there.

MR. D. MILLER: 702 and 704 Middle are owed by a person that we have on ongoing issue with. I believe that the Donovan's own it and that Kerrigan has the mortgage on it. The Donovan's are looking to take back the property. I am asking that you be patient because it is a long process.

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JUDGE R. BARNER: I have citations for Kerrigan and Donovan going back to July 2009. I have a list here of all the citations that were filed and some of them are bad addresses, some were undeliverable and there are warrants out for them. Some of the case were transferred downtown and some were dismissed because the citations were filed wrong.

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CORRESPONDENCE

1. we have a resolution that the county wants us to pass so that we can take part in their energy conservation retrofit program.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WILMERDING CERTIFYING THAT SAID MUNICIPALITY IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURE (ECM) RETROFIT PHASE AS PART OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S ENERGY PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPALITIES FINANCED BY A BLOCK GRANT THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

MR. J. THOMAS: the county conducted an audit of the building to change the light fixtures. The total savings would be about \$5,018. It states that once the ECMs have been established, reviewed and approved AEM will guide the municipality in the preparation of an application which will include the scope and cost data for all eligible ECMs and apply the correct percentage for each municipality to determine the amount of funding that can be utilized, (100%, 75% or 50%). The most it would cost us is 50% to have this done. They have started with 15 municipalities.

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J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND TO APPOINT STEVE SHURGOT, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS WHICH ARE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO FACILITATE THIS PROGRAM .

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: this just authorizes the county to do a study and there is no obligation to spend any funds at this stage.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. received a notice for the Allegheny League of Municipalities Conference to be held at Seven Springs from April 7-10.

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA TO SEND ANY MEMBER THAT IS FREE AND CLEAR OF ANY MONIES OWED TO THE BOROUGH TO THE CONFERENCE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 39 calls in December with an average response time of 6.46 minutes for emergencies and 9.32 minutes for non emergencies. Of the 39 calls there were 26 transports. For the 2010 year they had 579 calls with an average of 7.1 minutes for emergencies and 8.25 minutes for non emergencies. From the 579 calls in 2010 they transported 413.

Also, there were ten new members voted in to the Fire Department and they would like Council to approve them. They are Scott Farally, Marty Holden, Tony Mascilli, Joseph Mays, Stacy Mays, Richard Rice, John Rogowski, Nick Shearer, Brennan Sites, Shane Spievogle. Background checks and child abuse clearances have been received and are within acceptable results. They all have fire fighting experience as well as numerous certificates which are on file in the fire department office.

J. FILIA / G. JAKUB TO ACCEPT THEM AS MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. FILIA: I will now have the Chief give the police report. Also, Borough Council would like to extend our condolences to you Chief on the passing of your mother.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: thank you. For the month of December there were 154 calls and 9 arrests. A brief breakdown of the calls, there were 2 assaults, 4 assists to other departments, 2 burglary calls, 1 criminal mischief, 14 domestics, 1 harassment, 2 juvenile related calls, 5 parking complaints, 3 retail thefts, 6 traffic accidents and 1 tow tag issued. Also, there were 140 non traffic citations issued for violation of ordinance 979.

FIRE MARSHAL/CODE OFFICER- D. MILLER: everyone has received a copy of my report. As the Chief mentioned there were 141 citations issued against Sean Kerrigan for 2009 and 2010 delinquent rental licenses. Officer Silvis agreed to help me and issued these citations because I have so many to issue against Marjorie Donovan and Heather Wise. I met with Jeff O'Brien, from the Health Department, concerning 119 Pat Mews Drive and the progress the property owner is making in cleaning out the property. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done inside of this property. Jeff and I will stay in contact with the property owner and will be inspecting the property every 30 days to check on the progress. If no progress is being made then a citation will be issued. Jeff will be contacting a social worker because there are groups that will offer to assist the property owner in cleaning out the property.

MR. J. FILIA: I think the Solicitor should be there for the hearings. This may help our case.

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MS. S. SMITH: is there a hazard inside the house.

MR. D. MILLER: I did not notice anything when I was in there.

PUBLIC WORKS - G. JAKUB: we talked about this in the workshop. Instead of putting salt on the new sidewalks around the park we should put calcium chloride down. I can get a pallet of 50 bags for \$420, which is around \$8 a bag. I think this is a good price for the calcium chloride.

G. JAKUB / K. PETERSON TO BUY 50 BAGS OF CALCIUM CHLORIDE FOR \$420. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

The final phase of TV inspection of sewers should commence in January or February 2011.

I have had no further communication from PennDOT regarding the Maple Street retaining wall.

The repair of the inlet at Orient & Frank will be started January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Allegheny County Health Department is following up on the repair of the sewer lateral at 400 Caldwell

COG REPORT - G. JAKUB: no report.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: no report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: no report. Everything was acted on.

PERSONNEL - J. FILIA: no report.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: Waste Management has removed the 54 units that Kolec owns and our bill was reduced by \$600.

MR. J. THOMAS: a question for the Solicitor. We received a notice from W.P.J.W.A. that they have a delinquent account and they cannot shut the water off because they get their water from the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County. We contacted MAWC and they sent us a list of things to do to get the water shut off. Have you had a chance to look at the correspondence.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: any time that you are dealing with delinquent payments you have to make sure all the steps are followed. There were four items that they need before they can shut the water off.

MR. J. THOMAS: we received the 2009 audit report.

MR. J. FILIA: how far back did you go on billing for garbage if the house was occupied or not. I have a bill that is high and I was wondering how it got so high.

MR. J. THOMAS: I believe we started that in the second quarter of this year.

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MR. J. FILIA: I will bring the bill over so that we can take a look at it and determine how far back it goes.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: no report.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: we had 32 children fro the Christmas and there only 5 that did not live in Wilmerding. I have to agree with Theresa, we were lax on the Christmas decorations this year. One of the reasons was vandalism and also a truck knocked down some wires. We hope to remedy the situation for next year.

MR. G. JAKUB: the lights on the poles were not lite because of two incidents where trucks knocked down the wires and we could not get an electrician to fix it. We finally got reimbursed from both trucking companies for the damage

MS. S. SMITH: the recreation committee put up trees at the castle and thanks to the help of Paula and Shelly the fire department won this year.

MR. J. THOMAS: every year there is a box by the tree and where the money is going to go. People vote on the tree they like and the one who gets the most votes wins the prize. The fire department designated the West Penn Burn Unit so we are going to send them the \$100 we received as the prize.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: Mr. Stokes believes that you did not follow the proper procedure when he was replaced on the Planning Commission. He said that his term did not expire until the end of the year and he was replaced before that. They also would like a current zoning map. Is there money in the budget for the Planning Commission. They did not see a line item for them.

MR. J. THOMAS: there is \$400 in the budget for Planning.

MS. S. SMITH: can we increase the number of committee members.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: that is fixed by borough ordinance.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE - J. THOMAS: at the January meeting they are supposed to approve the Keystone Collections agreement. The residents of Wilmerding will be paying all of their one percent wage tax to Keystone Collections beginning in January of 2011.

OLD BUSINESS

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR SEND A LETTER TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT THE BOROUGH IS GIVING THEM BACK THE BALLFIELD EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you would have to do that by conveying a deed. We would need to prepare a new deed.

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA TO INCLUDE IN THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR DRAW UP A DEED TO CONVEY THE PROPERTY BACK TO THEM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-1 WITH S. SMITH DISSENTING.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: can we send a letter to the County asking them to do something with that island going into Wall.

MR. G. JAKUB: we asked them before to take it out but they said it was a safety issue.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: Chief, do you have any statistics on how many trucks get caught up there and send that information to them.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: you can't adjust a County road.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: in the back of the borough book that we receive there is a seminar that I would like to attend at a cost of \$75.

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA TO REAPPOINT MR. HENRY SLACZKA TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD FOR A THREE YEAR TERM. MEMBERS VOTES APPROVAL, 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.