

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss on going litigation and personnel matters.

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

M. TRKULA / TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED.

MR. J. THOMAS: on the last page it says that I went around town to look at street lights that we can shut off. Mike Trkula also was with me and his name should be added.

MS. S. SMITH: the only correction I have is that the date on the first page of the minutes is May 10th and the other pages it is May 11th. May 10th is the correct date.

/ J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTIONS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. H. SLACZKA, CARD AVENUE: you may be aware that there was a fire at St. Joseph's Apartments on Saturday morning. Fortunately no one was hurt but there was a lot of water damage and it could have been worse. I would like to commend the fire department on their performance and how they handled the situation. We offered the tenants who were affected an opportunity to go to a motel, at no cost to them, until they could return.

MS. S. SMITH: I understand that the men you hired to restore the apartments did a great job.

MR. H. SLACZKA: everyone's concern was the safety of the tenants. Also, on St. Joseph Drive there is a huge pothole that needs filled in. It keeps getting bigger and bigger.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will take care of that.

MR. D. MITCHELL, N. V. COMMISSIONER: I have had the opportunity to ride around with the police officers while they patrolled Wilmerding. I noticed that they have a good relationship with the people. I want to thank you for giving us this opportunity to service Wilmerding and we always try to provide the best service to the residents.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I did see that there was a drop in the crime statistics.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CORRESPONDENCE

1 a resolution providing for a late fee of \$10.00 if the rental license is not paid by March 31st.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION . MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

2. a resolution appointing Keystone Collections Group as the Local Services Tax (LST) Collector effective January 1, 2012.

J. THOMAS / J. FILIA TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: the ambulance responded to 71 calls in May with 46 transports. The average response time for emergency calls was 7.1 minutes and for non-emergency calls it was 9.05 minutes.

Last month there were only three 979 complaints. I would like to commend the police on the way they are handling it. The Chief will now give the police report.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: for the month of May there were 248 calls with 5 arrests. This is up about 60 calls from the previous month. A summary of the calls are: 3 animal complaints, 1 assault, 2 burglary, 3 criminal mischief, 1 disorderly conduct, 17 domestics, 7 harassment, 8 juvenile related calls, 3 missing persons, 7 suspicious activities, 11 thefts and 3 traffic accidents.

We have five or six men on a shift to cover the township and Wilmerding so everyone is well covered.

MR. J. THOMAS: the fire at 349-353 Welsh Avenue the police did a great job in helping the fire department. I just wanted to thank them for their help.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: most of the officers were fireman.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ FIRE MARSHAL - D. MILLER: occupancy inspections are picking up and I have done 66 so far this year.

There is still \$595 outstanding for rental licenses and citations will follow.

418 Westinghouse Avenue is getting so bad that the vegetation is holding up the house. It needs to be demolished as soon as possible. There are warrants out for him.

The Housing Authority does not agree with my decisions on occupancy inspections. They did give us a list of all the rentals. There are 53 units that do not have occupancy permits. We are fighting over the fire doors to the apartments. They disagree with me and they have twenty days to appeal this.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The old Tonaluka Club was sold in April even though there were liens against it. Sent a letter to the new owner that he has to maintain the property and he has fifteen days to respond.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: he bought it with the liens attached and now they are his responsibility. You can cite the new owner.

MR. D. MILLER: we have a list of high grass complaints and I will meet with Officer Silvis on a regular basis about these.

MR. S. SHURGOT: at the corner of Watkins Avenue and Avenue U, the Lester property, the grass and weeds are high.

MR. D. MILLER: I don't know if we can get anything done with that property. The last time I saw Mr. Lester was at the Magistrate's office in handcuffs.

The school needs to get involved with some of these properties.

MS. K. PETERSON: we all should go to a school board meeting and present our case.

MR. J. THOMAS: what is the latest with 710 Middle Avenue.

MR. D. MILLER: I issued a temporary occupancy permit for change in ownership purposes only. His intention is to rehab the property.

MR. J. THOMAS: he threw out a lot of stuff. Also, the gutters are not connected.

MR. D. MILLER: I will give him thirty days to apply for a building permit.

PUBLIC WORKS

MS. S. SMITH: are the curbs going to be painted.

MR. M. TRKULA: yes, we already bought the paint.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

1. the final phase of the TV inspection of sewers is 95% complete.
2. PennDOT has contacted me about the Maple Avenue retaining wall. All the repairs that they are doing to the roads and bridges has strained their budget. Their intent is to advertise for bids sometime this year. The borough may have to give up some of their right of way to have the repairs done.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

3. we have received quotes to repair a section of the collapsed storm sewer pipe on Maple Avenue near State Street. The low proposal was from Lawson Excavating for \$2,100. They are qualified to perform this work and his price is fair and reasonable.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO REPAIR THE SEWER PIPE AT MILLER AND STATE TO LAWSON EXCAVATING AT A COST OF \$2,100. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

4. CD -38 pre-apps were submitted on May 24th for the following projects: demolition of ten properties for \$55,000; repair six catch basins for \$20,000; the Ice Plant Hill retaining wall for \$55,000; street reconstruction for Westinghouse Ave, Avenue U, Middle Avenue, Airbrake Avenue for \$288,000 and to repair retaining walls on Middle Avenue, Sprague Street and Card Avenue for \$780,000.

5. The installation of the stone apron above the Frank and Orient inlet has been completed.

MR. J. THOMAS: has everything been filed with the D.E.P. on the consent agreement.

MR. D. GILLILAND: everything has been filed and you are in compliance.

MR. S. SHURGOT: do we need any storm sewer markers.

MR. D. GILLILAND: we put in an order for them.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: no report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: we have prepared an ordinance for your consideration concerning the elected Tax Collector. This ordinance provides for the filing of written reports and it is based on their duty to comply with certain regulations as outlined in the Tax Collector's Manual. The reports must be filed on a weekly basis during the months of April through July and filed monthly during the balance of the year. The monthly reports must be filed no later than the tenth day of the month following the month for which the Tax Collector is reporting. A check should accompany the reports. If the Tax Collector fails to comply with the above reporting requirements a late fee shall be imposed in the amount of \$20.00 for each day or portion of a day for the first six days when the report is overdue. The total fee for any calendar year shall not be in excess of \$250.00. All of this is outlined in the Tax Collector's Manual.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO ADVERTISE THE ORDINANCE FOR THE TAX COLLECTOR.
MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PERSONNEL - J. FILIA: we are in the process of getting the paperwork together for our summer workers. One of four has started already and the rest will start when we receive the paperwork back.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: so far we have received \$241,988.60 in real estate taxes for 2011, which is about 85% of what we budgeted for the taxes. For the month of April our delinquent collector has collected \$250.50 in delinquent garbage and \$1,248.38 in delinquent real estate taxes. So far we have received a total of \$11,329.38.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: the dump truck is getting inspected at Palumbo's.

The public works garage door is not working. Someone will be out to take a look at it.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: the Memorial Day services were well attended and I have heard favorable comments. The participation is growing and everyone seems to like the rotating of the Pastors.

The recreation committee will be co-hosting the bingo, along with St. Jude, at the G. W. Day festival.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we also had four Pastors from the other churches in attendance.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: we have been talking about the wind turbine and putting them on top of the borough building. They are still investing that and they are also investigating the possibility of putting solar panels on the borough building.

MS. S. SMITH: is there any grant money for this.

MS. K. PETERSON: I will be looking to see if there is any grant money out there.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE - J. THOMAS: one of the prerequisite for Keystone is that they need information on the businesses in Wilmerding. They will be collecting the earned income tax for the southeast district beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: I am looking into banners to put on the poles. The prices I have looked at are very expensive. For a 2 foot by 4 foot banner the cost is \$96 and for a smaller one it is \$38. The biggest expense is the cost of the brackets. The least expensive ones are \$78 each. You are looking at about \$3,000 to put the banners up. We would need a minimum of 24 but we are looking at about 30. If you get the seasonal banners then you are looking at additional costs for the banner but not the brackets.

MR. J. FILIA: what is the difference between the \$96 banner and the \$38 banner.

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

MS. S. SMITH: the \$96 banner is two sided. The brackets for the flags are still on the poles on Station Street. Maybe we can use those brackets and get flags.

MS. K. PETERSON: since this is George Westinghouse's town did you consider getting in touch with WABTEC.

MS. S. SMITH: I thought of that. I know we need to get a sponsor because we cannot afford to buy these on our own.

MR. J. THOMAS: I was informed that our contract with UniFirst, who supplies the mats and mops to us, will expire at the end of this month. We do not need to incur this extra expense.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT WITH UNIFIRST. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: we have signed up for Allegheny County Energy to retrofit the building with new lighting. Mr. Ralston from the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development told us that we are one hundred (100%) percent funded. In reading over the contract for the methodology payment agreement it says that we are responsible for the funding of \$5,000. I would like a clarification on the contract before we sign the agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. K. PETERSON: I would just like to thank the residents who came out to vote and for their support.

MR. S. SHURGOT: just a reminder that the workshop will be on Tuesday June 21st at 7 pm and the next meeting will be on July 12th at 7:30 pm. We moved the July meeting back a week due to the holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm