

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2011 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: M. TRKULA, present; J. FILIA, present; K. PETERSON, present; S. SMITH, present; G. JAKUB, absent; J. THOMAS, present; S. SHURGOT, present.  
MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI was also present.

M. TRKULA / S. SMITH TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEB. 1, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. D. PARISI, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.: my concern is what is going on with the Dollar General Store. There are rumors out there that it is going to close. We need this store in town and it would be a shame to see it leave. My question is, have you heard if it is going to close or not. I would like Council to consider this and to send a letter to Mr. Tom Setz, the owner, that Borough Council wants this store to stay here.

MR. S. SHURGOT: that issue was raised in the workshop. The Building Inspector is going to contact the main office of Dollar General to see what is going on.

MR. D. MILLER: originally a complaint was filed by the employees who said that they got sick because of mold in the store. The fire department responded and they did not find anything. Dollar General sent out an independent contractor to monitor the air quality in the store and they did not find anything. As far as I am concerned they could open their doors tomorrow. I will talk to Mr. Setz tomorrow and also Dollar General.

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MS. A. TUCKER, CARD AVE.: what is going on with 244 Card Ave. with the 979 ordinance. I know that they have at least ten calls against them. Also, they do not bring their garbage down.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Dave, the 979 ordinance violations are turned over to you.

MR. J. THOMAS: I have prepared a list of all the 979 violations.

MR. D. MILLER: I will have to check with Louise on them.

MS. A. TUCKER: it is not even spring yet and there is loud music coming from there.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Dave will take a look at that and take whatever action is necessary.

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MR. J. MASON, PAT MEWS DR.: there has been a backhoe parked on State Street for over a month. What is going on with that.

MR. D. MILLER: they applied for a building permit for a retaining wall. They put in a PA. One Call and started digging but ran into an old gas line. They called the gas company to come and take care of it. I will send them a letter tomorrow to either remove the backhoe or to start working.

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CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a letter from County Council President Rich Fitzgerald asking us to adopt a resolution for the General Assembly to enact a statewide moratorium on reassessments. They want us to join them in informing our legislators that a court ordered reassessment is not a purely academic exercise in Pennsylvania Constitutional law.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO SEND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PUT A MORATORIUM ON REASSESSMENTS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: Eastern Area ambulance responded to 50 calls in February. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.3 minutes and for non-emergency calls it was 9.8 minutes. Chief DiCenzo will give the police report.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: for the month of February there were 150 calls with 5 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 1 assault, 3 criminal mischief, 10 domestics, 1 drug investigation, 2 juvenile related calls, 3 parking complaints, 3 suspicious activities, 2 suspicious vehicles, 4 thefts and 1 warrant was served.

North Versailles Police Department will launch a new Community Notification Service called "nixle" this week to improve communication with people who live, work and visit our area. The system provides a quick, efficient and secure way to get neighborhood level information out to community members who subscribe to the system. They can be notified by either e-mail, text message or cell phone. To sign up for this service just go to their website, [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). The system is available at no cost, but standard text message rates may apply for subscribers who do not have a text plan. This is a secure communication service and there is no spam or advertising associated with Nixle Municipal Wire Messages. Some of the notifications that may be sent is that if a young child or adult with Alzheimer's disease walks away from their home; a public safety emergency where it would require people to stay in or remain away from their homes; a serious injury or fatal crash in which the roadway would be closed for several hours and other events such as parades, fireworks or utility outages. Some of the other surrounding communities are also participating in this.

There is a rumor going around that I have sent out a letter asking the larger businesses to pay a permit fee to solicit in the township and that I am keeping the money. That is not the case. We have a township ordinance that states anyone soliciting in the township needs to obtain a permit and the fees go to the township. There are a lot of agencies from out of town that come here to solicit donations and we want to make sure they are legal organizations. We are just trying to keep an eye on who is coming into the township to solicit and that is why they need an application. If the organization is local and they are a non

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profit then we can waive the fee because we know who they are. There are a lot of organizations that pop up overnight and what to come here and solicit and we want to keep a handle on who can and cannot solicit. We do a check on each organization that applies.

MR. J. THOMAS: have you ever denied a permit.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: yes, if they do not have a valid number showing that they are a non-profit organization.

FIRE MARSHAL/ CODE ENFORCEMENT - D. MILLER: performed occupancy inspections at 664 Airbrake Avenue, 425 Patton Street, 510 Middle Avenue, 700 Middle Avenue, 672 Airbrake Avenue, 283 Wood Street, 411 Commerce Street and 516 Glenn Street. Issued citations for 433 Patton Street, 120 Card Avenue, 105 Herman Avenue, 116 Middle Avenue and 221 Welsh Avenue.

PUBLIC WORKS: no report, Mr. Jakub was absent.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND: report given at the workshop.

COG REPORT: report given at workshop.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: no report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: as I mentioned in the workshop we have a resolution amending Borough Ordinance 996, which adopted the International Property Maintenance Code, to add and adopt Appendix "A" of the code. This resolution establishes standards and requirements to board and cover windows and doors of vacant structures.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AMENDING ORDINANCE 996 TO ADD APPENDIX "A". MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

I have prepared a deed for the YMCA property so that we can convey it back to the School District. According to their Solicitor they will accept the deed.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO APPROVE THE DEED FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE YMCA PROPERTY BACK TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. ROLL CALL: M. TRKULA, yes; J. FILIA, yes; K. PETERSON, yes; S. SMITH, no; J. THOMAS, yes; S. SHURGOT, yes. MOTION TO TRANSFER THE YMCA PROPERTY BACK TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS APPROVED, 5-1.

PERSONNEL - J. FILIA: since the Fire Chief passed away all of the line officers have moved up one spot. The new Fire Chief is Tom Hartzell and Chris Cattau was appointed Third Lieutenant.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

for the month of January our delinquent collector collected \$776.54 for garbage and \$3,464.95 for taxes. The total that they have collected so far is \$39,280.01. I would like to set up a meeting with them to.

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The Tax Collection Committee is still working on an agreement with Keystone Collections to be the Earned Income Tax Collector for the southwest district in Allegheny County. They are the earned income collector for Wilmerding starting this year.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: there are some lights out in the public works garage and I will get some prices to get them fixed.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: no report.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: Joyce Tomasic will give a report later.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

S. SMITH: I talked with someone in the city about garbage pickup and they said they would be interested in helping us out.

PLANNING - JOYCE TOMASIC, CHAIRPERSON: at our planning meeting there were a few items that we discussed. The first one was the dredging of the creek. I know they were here recently but can Council send a letter for them to do it again.

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There was a gentleman here to discuss alternative energy through wind power. This would be a five year plan and it would cost \$250 to evaluate the borough building to see if it is suitable to put a windmill on the building. We can use this as our study and this will be the first step in applying for a grant.

MS. S. SMITH: they would just evaluate the building.

MS. J. TOMASIC: yes, they feel it is a good location.

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Mr. Ron Yocca, the owner of the old Tonaluka Club, came to the Planning Committee meeting and explained his position on the property. He told us that Habitat for Humanity wanted to purchase the land to build two houses but they are not going to pursue this because the borough put a lien on his property for tearing it down. Habitat for Humanity has strong guidelines before they build. It must be built on concrete and they use no foundations. Also, the person has to prove that they can buy the house. They do not just give them to anybody. My question to you, did the borough put a lien on the property.

MR. S. SHURGOT: yes, to cover the cost of demolition and engineering expenses.

MS. J. TOMASIC: is there any way that you can remove the lien. By putting two houses there you are putting them on the tax rolls which is more income for you.

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MS. K. PETERSON: even though that was grant money can you put a lien on the property for that. There was no borough money used to demolish the property.

MR. J. FILIA: we have to pay that money back if we can so it can be used again.

MR. S. SHURGOT: that money would go back into the grant fund.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: they gave us the money on the condition that we file a lien to try and recoup it.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - D. POMPOSELLI: nothing at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.