

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice President Greg Jakub.

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, present; J. THOMAS, present; S. SHURGOT, present.

MAYOR D. POMPOSELLI was absent.

M. TRKULA / S. SMITH TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: down on Third Street there are two big trucks from Dorr's that park there and it makes it tough to get through. We almost had some accidents there because they take up all of Third Street.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: there is not much you can do They have a business right there and it is a public street. They are allowed to park on a public street as long as they are parked legally.

MR. J. THOMAS: the lot on Middle Avenue, how many residents park there. Would the truck fit in there.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT: the truck can fit in there, besides there are two trucks that park there.

MR. S. SHURGOT ENTERED COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:37 P.M. AND WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR. MR. SHURGOT ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

MR. J. MASON, PAT MEWS DRIVE: we have property owners that let their grass grow so high. I understand that the code office sends them a notice that it has to be cut in thirty days. Once they get the notice then they cut the grass. It is the same people, why do they have to wait for a notice to cut their grass.

MS. K. PETERSON: I agree with you, if they received a notice last year then they should not have to receive another notice.

MR. S. SHURGOT: when they go before the Judge, he says that as long as they make an effort to cut it there is nothing he can do.

MR. J. MASON: but he does this year after year.

MR. G. JAKUB: according to the law he has to be given a chance to remedy the problem.

MR. J. MASON: also, there is an abandon house on Watkins, 125 Watkins, that the kids are going in. It is owned by the three taxing bodies. Is there any way to board that house up.

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MR. J. THOMAS: we are trying to get a meeting with the school district. You can go to their meetings and tell them about these houses.

MR. J. MASON: someone is going to get hurt over there.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a letter from the East Allegheny Athletic Association Competition Cheerleading asking us to be a sponsor for the cheerleaders. For a quarter page ad the price is \$50 - \$125, for a half page ad it is \$150 - \$300 and for a full page ad and a sponsorship plaque it is \$325 +.

M. TRKULA / G. JAKUB TO PLACE A QUARTER PAGE AD FOR \$50, THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. received a request for a handicap sign at 219 Card Avenue. All the paperwork has been submitted with the proper information.

M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 219 CARD AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. received a opt in agreement for the vactor. The cost is \$5,250 and would be made in two installments. This is for seven days and we are to provide a laborer and a dump site.

M. TRKULA / G. JAKUB TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. received a notice that it is time to opt-in or opt-out of Allegheny County's CDBG Program. If we opt-in then we are eligible for projects such as sewer & water, demolition and economic development. If we opt-out then we would have to compete for state CDBG funds. If we want to opt-in then we do not have to do anything. If we opt-out then we must pass a resolution "Notice to be Excluded" no later than May 31st.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO OPT-IN TO THE CDBG PROGRAM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. received a notice from the G.W. Day Festival that they would like to use the park on Saturday June 4th from noon to 7 pm for the children's activities.

MR. M. TRKULA: are they going to need the street blocked off. If they are then they need to contact the bus company and let them know.

MS. S. SMITH: they are just going to use the park and the sidewalk area for the bike parade.

K. PETERSON / M. TRKULA TO GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO USE THE PARK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 54 calls in April. They had 35 transports and their average response time for emergencies was 6.1 minutes and for non emergencies it was 7.6 minutes. I will not let Chief DiCenzo give the police report.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: for the month of April we responded to 185 calls and made 11 arrests. A brief breakdown of some of the calls are, 3 animal complaints, 3 assaults, 1 burglary, 4 criminal mischief, 12 domestics, 2 drug investigations, 5 harassment, 2 juvenile related calls, 1 retail theft, 8 suspicious activity, 5 thefts and 4 traffic accidents.

I received a call from Pugliano Construction. They will be working on the Patton Street Bridge and it will be single lane traffic while they do concrete replacement. They will be starting on Monday.

Over the weekend we obtained a search warrant for a house on Westinghouse Avenue. It was an ongoing investigation for three or four months. My officers donated their time during this investigation and I am upset that during this election that someone running for Council would bash the officers. They saw them sitting in the car and they thought that they were not doing anything and that they should have been patrolling the town. My officers donated their time to this investigation and for someone to make a remark about my officers not doing their job highly upsets me. People should get the facts before they make any accusations. There were two arrests made and drugs and a gun were taken off the street. I commend my officers for donating their time to this investigation, which they did not have to do.

MR. G. JAKUB: I would also like to commend them for a job well done. They were out at all hours of the day and night and gave up their own time for three months.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: these investigations take time. If you see an officer just sitting there they may be watching something. Just let them do their job.

MR. S. SHURGOT: you have one person saying something without investigating the situation. Unfortunately people believe these rumors. Chief, have the calls dropped.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: they have dropped.

MS. K. PETERSON: I have not heard anyone from Council bad mouth the police.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: it is the ones that are running for Council.

MS. S. SMITH: NIXEL, how is that going.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: when they proposed that to us it was supposed to be a free service but now they want to start charging.

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PUBLIC WORKS - G. JAKUB: the ramps at both corners on the park side are starting to crumble. I don't know if that was caused by salt. We are going to take a look at them.

MR. J. THOMAS: in Louise's report she wants to know if Council can impose a late fee on the annual rental license if they are not paid by March 31st. This would give them an incentive to pay on time.

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: you can add that to the ordinance by a resolution.

J. THOMAS / G. JAKUB TO ADD A \$10 LATE FEE TO THE ANNUAL RENTAL LICENSE IF THEY ARE NOT PAID BY MARCH 31ST. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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

G. JAKUB / J. FILIA TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID OF \$2,295 FROM J. L. URBAN TO INSTALL A STONE APRON ABOVE THE FRANK AND ORIENT INLET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT - G. JAKUB: I will recap on what I talked about in the workshop because Steve was not here. There are seven municipalities that have a vector truck and maybe we can set up something with them. We tabled the opt-in agreement for the use of the vector.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: I am going to get a copy of the letter for Council to review for the community to participate in the electric discount program.

MS. S. SMITH: what is the name of the company.

MS. K. PETERSON: M G Savers.

SOLICITOR - N. EVASHAVIK: we attended the Kerrigan hearing and also assessment hearings.

MR. J. THOMAS: is it possible to deny a rental license if they are delinquent on their garbage or real estate taxes.

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: no, it does not allow us to deny anyone a rental license based on unpaid bills.

PERSONNEL - S. SMITH: I have finished the employee handbook and I will give everyone a copy to review and we can discuss any changes at our workshop on May 24th.

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FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

For the month of March Maiello collected \$,139.98 in delinquent garbage and \$2,605.60 in delinquent real estate taxes. So far for 2011 they collected a total of \$9,858.31 for us.

The 2011 real estate taxes are out and thirty-four percent has been collected for a total of \$96,000.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: no report.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: we had about 68 kids for the Easter Egg Hunt. I would like to thank the Women's Civic Club for their help and also John Thomas. I am asking for \$300 to cover the costs.

Steve and I are working on the Memorial Day Services. We have the firing squad and also the pastor from St. John's Baptist Church. Mr. Dominic Paris will be the Master of Ceremonies.

On May 26th the girl scouts will be pulling the weeds around the flowers as a community service project.

The recreation committee will be taking part in the George Westinghouse Festival by helping with the bingo.

August 2nd is National Night Out and our committee is working on that.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO DONATE \$300 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE TO COVER THE COSTS FOR EASTER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: Mr. Volpe attended our meeting and we asked him if the school was up for sale. He told us that it is but that they are not really pushing it.

MR. J. WRIGHT, WELSH AVE.: can I comment on that. My wife delivers meals on wheels with one of the school directors and that it is only a rumor. They did bring it up at their meeting for consideration but it did not go any further.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I know that they are turning off the utilities.

MS. K. PETERSON: we asked Mr. Volpe how can anyone express an interest in the school if there is no information out there. He said that if anyone is interested to call the school and they will listen to any offers.

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We also noticed that the website is not updated. Also, we think that the emergency evacuation plan should be put on the website.

I am going to get a copy of the letter that will be sent out for electricity discounts for the community.

MR. G. JAKUB: there was a map sent out to every resident a few years ago.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE - J. THOMAS: the committee finally signed an agreement with Keystone Collections to start collecting the earned income for the southeast district of Allegheny County beginning in 2012. Keystone is collecting ours now. There were some school districts and municipalities that did not like the format on how they were going to get paid.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: whatever happened to the paperwork on the grant for equipment.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I am working with Senator Brewstrer's office on this. The grant started with Senator Logan and four communities were promised grant money.

MR. G. JAKUB: if it was a CDBG grant there is no money to be seen.

MS. S. SMITH: I still have not heard anything on the camera's.

MR. G. JAKUB: we are not getting anywhere with this because there is no money available.

MS. S. SMITH: that money was supposed to come from drug money but they are using that money for salaries.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: the DA is setting up other accounts.

MS. S. SMITH: I talked to the DA at Seven Springs about this and he told me to give his office a call. I will follow up on that.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: the Wilmerding Preview is a huge resource of getting information out about trees, shrubs, sidewalks. I put a list of the meeting dates and that all the houses should have numbers on them for emergencies.

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MR. M. TRKULA: I think that we should send a letter to Jeff Filia for getting us some community service workers.

MR. J. FILIA: they cleaned up the walking trail without using any borough funds.

MS. S. SMITH: are they able to work Monday thru Friday when we have our other guys.

MR. M. TRKULA: yes.

MR. J. THOMAS: I think that we should send a letter to the school district requesting a meeting to address our concerns.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I already made up a letter to be sent.

MR. J. THOMAS: in order to reduce our street light costs I am proposing hat we take out ten street lights. I picked out the ten that I think that we do not need. They are on the George Street steps, the Frank Street steps, one behind the Sport's Page, two on Station Street, two on Maple Avenue in the 600 block and three in the 700 block of Maple Avenue. Our annual cost for street lights is \$76,000.

MR. J. THOMAS: we are working on getting an Auditor.

MR. J. FILIA: the handbook is for all employees not just the public works department.

MS. S. SMITH: it talks about the other employees also. Write down any changes in the book and we cana discuss them at our workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.