

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE SEPT. 13, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 8:26 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

A moment of silence was observed for the men and women who gave up their lives ten years ago on the Sept. 11th attack on America. May they never be forgotten.

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

M. TRKULA / TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED.

MR. J. THOMAS: I have a couple of corrections. On page three, the two properties that R. J. Comunale, Baron Landscaping is buying, it states that one of the properties is 545 - A - 20. It should be 546 - A -20. Also, the inlets that were to be repaired, it states that it is at Maple and Fourth but it should be Maple and Second.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2011 MEETING WITH THE CORRECTIONS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MS. L. SCHIVAO, OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AT 410 AIRBRAKE AVE.: something needs to be done with the property at 412 Airbrake Avenue. It is owned by the three taxing bodies and the weeds are high, the garage door windows are broken out and the shingles are falling off of the roof. There are pine trees in front of the house that are coming over to my property. Also, there is no front railing on the porch. I have the house up for sale and no one wants to buy it because of the house next door.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we met with the school district and the county and we are trying to get a plan together that each one of us would take turns maintaining the properties that are owned by the three taxing bodies. We will take care of the weeds this time and I will contact the school district and the county about this property.

MS. L. SCHIVAO: the correspondence that I sent to you I also sent to the school district but not to the county.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the taxing bodies never wanted to own these properties, they got these by default because of back taxes that were owed.

MR. S. SHURGOT: when we met with the school we asked them to put these properties up for sale. This house is not on our list to be condemned.

MR. H. SLACZKA, CARD AVE.: the property that R. J. Comunale is buying on Sprague Street do you know who he is buying it from. It is not the Redevelopment Authority is it.

MR. S. SHURGOT: it is from the three taxing bodies.

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MR. H. SLACZKA: it is not anything that belongs to the St. Joseph Association.

MR. J. THOMAS: no. He needs those properties to put up a building.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the school district initiated this. They did a title search and we agreed with them to sell the property so that it can go back on the tax roles.

MS. A. M. TUCKER, LYDIA ST.: I know that you cannot put speed bumps in the street but is something that you can use to slow the cars down. On the first day of school cars speeding down Card Avenue onto Sprague Street where the kids get the bus. I had to stand in the middle of the street to make them slow down. Can the bus putt up closer to the intersection and can you put some speed limit signs up.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Chief, can we borrow the speed sign to put up there.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: you could if it was up and working. We are waiting on a part.

MS. K. PETERSON: can we get one from our representative.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: I believe that COG takes care of that and they are also waiting for parts.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will post some speed limit signs up there and maybe the Chief can have someone keep a watch on that intersection.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. the MMO for the pension plan was submitted for Council's review.

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

2. the Borough's Association Fall Leadership Conference to be held Oct. 21-23 in State College.

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

3. received an agreement from Equitable Energy for a one, two or three year agreement on the purchase of natural gas.

MR. J. THOMAS: the one year rate is the same as it is now. With this Marcellus Shale I think that gas prices will be coming down. I think that we should only sign up for one year.

MR. M. TRKULA: if we sign up for two years can we opt out after one year.

MR. J. THOMAS: I don't think we can.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO SIGN UP FOR A ONE YEAR AT \$1.90 PER MCF. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

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4. received a letter from the E. A. Touchdown Club asking for us to sponsor a banner to be hung at the stadium. Since we are a past contributor the cost to renew is \$50.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO RENEW OUR SPONSORSHIP WITH THE FUNDS COMING OUT OF THE PLGIT GENERAL FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

5. receive a request from 1012 Airbrake Avenue for a handicap sign. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted with the application.

M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 1012 AIRBRAKE AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0

6. received a request from 510 Glenn Street for a handicap sign. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted with the application.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 510 GLENN STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

7. received a request from 138 Watkins Avenue for a handicap sign. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted with the application.

K. PETERSON / M. TRKULA TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 138 WATKINS AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

8. received a letter from the East Borough's hall of Fame requesting a donation for an ad to be out in their banquet book. In the past we took out a ½ page ad for \$50. This money came out of the PLGIT General Fund.

K. PETERSON / J. FILIA TO PURCHASE A 1/4 PAGE AD FOR \$25. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

9. received a mortgage satisfaction for 322 Station Street .

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: this is for one of the townhouses under the third mortgage program. There is a balance of \$1,775 left on this. If the person resided there for five years then the mortgage would be exonerated., therefore the property is entitled to te satisfaction.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO APPROVE THE SATISFACTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

10. received a letter from the school district that they have put up Westinghouse School for sale. Beginning Jan. 1, 2012 the building will be closed to any use. They are offering the building to Wilmerding for \$1.00 if Council is interested.

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

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: for the month of August the ambulance responded to 36 calls with 26 transports. The average response time for emergencies was 6.1 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.2 minutes. I would personally like to thank the ambulance service for being there when I had the loss at my business. They did an excellent job. I did not receive the fire department's report. The Chief will now give us the police report.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: on Sprague Street, that is a state road and they have to put any signs up. They probably won't do it because they will say that the road is not long enough and there is no need for a speed limit sign.

MS. K. PETERSON: can we put a sign up before the street.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: it would not be enforceable. For the month of August there were 211 calls with 10 arrests. A brief summary of the calls, there were 5 animal complaints, 5 assaults, 3 criminal mischief, 3 disorderly conduct or loud noise, 12 domestics, 22 juvenile related calls, 3 traffic accidents and 1 warrant served. There was an ongoing investigation between North Versailles, Monroeville and the Attorney General's office for a house on Patton Street here they were dealing drugs. One arrest was made and he is currently in jail. There are other things going on that I can't discuss at this time. We received a lot of inquiries about the Sport's Page. We have nothing to do with it, it is in the hands of the LCB.

MR. S. SHURGOT: in looking through the ordinances, there is no speed limit listed for Sprague Street.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - D. MILLER: letters went out to the owners with high grass and weeds. There are several houses in foreclosure that the banks are taking back over but they tell us they do not own them. I think that they do not want to maintain the property.

PUBLIC WORKS:

MR. J. THOMAS: Sandy Smith wanted to know if we could purchase a baby swing for the Pat Mews playground.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

1. the final phase of TV inspections of sewers will be completed within 2 weeks.
2. the repair of a section of a collapsed storm sewer pipe on Miller Street near State Street has been completed.
3. the inlets at Airbrake and Fourth, Maple and Second and Marguerite and Frank will be started on Oct 17.
4. the Duquesne Light Co. grant application was filed for \$24,600. This is for a new electrical service and additional receptacles in the park. They asked for additional information which we will provide by Sept. 16.
5. the CD 37 demolition project will be advertised once the legal clearances are complete. These were for the properties that we had the hearings on tonight. They are 418 Westinghouse, 125 Watkins, 710 Middle and 715 Airbrake.

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6. your garbage contract expires on December 31, 2011. Let us know if you want to make any changes.

MR. J. THOMAS: Dave, can we meet because the number of pick ups has changed.

J. FILIA / M. TRKULA TO HAVE GLENN ENGINEERING ADVERTISE THE GARBAGE COLLECTION CONTRACT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

7. our office attended the FEMA workshop regarding the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps. FEMA has revised the Flood Insurance Rate maps for your review. There are three things that need to be done.

1. review the preliminary maps and provide comments regarding any corrections.
2. conduct an outreach program for those citizens that are affected by the changes in the floodplains.
3. adopt a new floodplain ordinance that meets the National Flood Insurance Program requirements or be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA has established a 30 day review period to review the maps and provide comments. The timetable for this review began on Sept. 7, 2011. If there are any corrections or comments that you notice please let us know so that we can submit them to FEMA. If FEMA does not hear from us within the 30 days then they will assume that everything is fine and will continue the process of finalizing these maps. Once FEMA has received the corrections and comments and the maps have been revised, they will issue a "Final Determination" letter with the effective dates of the maps. You are then required to adopt a new ordinance with the effective date inserted to validate this ordinance. The new ordinance will be submitted to FEMA for their review and "Final Determination". Failure to adopt a new ordinance will result in the following: no federal or state disaster assistance will be available, no flood insurance will be available to properties affected, no federal grants will be available and no individual mortgages will be issued.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I think we should have the Planning Committee here when we do this.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: no report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: I was asked to review the Amusement Fee Ordinance on when it is due and if there are any penalties. This is Ordinance 962 and it is supposed to be paid each year. The fee varies depending on the type of device. A fine is established and the fee is based on a calendar year. In my opinion this fee is due at the beginning of each year.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I know we have an ordinance on dumpsters. Would the bags that you can rent from Home Depot or Lowe's be considered a dumpster. People are getting these in place of a dumpsters.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I would have to look at the ordinance.

MR. D. MILLER: there is no definition for a dumpster in the ordinance.

MR. J. THOMAS: we would also need to establish a fee for these bags.

PERSONNEL - J. FILIA: no report.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

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MR. J. THOMAS: our delinquent collector, Maiello Brungo and Maiello collected \$3,484.09 in delinquent garbage and \$1,492.03 in delinquent real estate tax.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: no report.

RECREATION: no report.

PLANNING - K. PETERSON: no report.

TAX COLLECTION - J. THOMAS: the tax collection district passed the ordinance for the Earned Income Tax Collector and for the Local Services Tax.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. K. PETERSON: I had to move the yard sale to Oct. 1st. I will have flyers out within the next ten days.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. J. THOMAS: we received a letter from the Cohen Law Group that they will take a look at our cable right of way easement. There is no charge for this and they did some work for us on the Verizon contract. I think we should have them take a look at this.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - J. MASON: I have received calls from people that have lived in their homes for years and the properties around them are not being taken care of and it make their property look bad. Nothing is being done with these owners. What can we do to remedy this.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we have a property maintenance code that they have to comply with. These owners should have citations filed against them at the Magistrate.

MAYOR J. MASON: when they get a letter they only do half of their property.

MR. S. SHURGOT: then we need to send the Code Officer to these properties.

MR. J. THOMAS: Greg, have you gotten anything on Act 90. This deals with absent ee landlords.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I haven't seen it. You can file a judgement against the property owner if they ignore your notices.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are doing everything legally that we can do.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.