

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2012 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 6:10 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: MICHAEL TRKULA, present; REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; SANDRA SMITH, present, JOHN MASON, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR DOMINIC PARISI was also present.

S. SMITH / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 3, 2012 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. H. SLACZKA, CARD AVE.: I would like some clarification on Ordinance 979. Are the landlords obligated to maintain the exterior of their property in good condition, more than just cutting the grass. There are several boarded up houses across the street from me and no one is taking care of these properties. Does the inspector allow someone to move in when the exterior is not up to standards.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: Ordinance 979 makes reference to the adoption of the Property Maintenance Code and it addresses the general conditions of what has to be maintained.

MR. H. SLACZKA: the landlord is getting income from these properties, shouldn't he maintain them up to code.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I can understand there are safety issues and cosmetic issues but there is a timetable on when it needs to be in compliance.

MR. H. SLACZKA: you need to make the landlord do what needs to be done to make it look decent.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: you would need to talk to Dave Miller about those issues. We may be able to go after their assets.

MR. H. SLACZKA: take a look at the 100 block of Card Avenue, it is a shame the way they let those houses deteriorate.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the same thing happened up where I live. The new owners said that they were going to move in but someone else moved in who they said was a relative.

MR. H. SLACZKA: we need to take a very aggressive approach on these property owners.

MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.: a few weeks ago we all received letters about the weeds and there are still some houses that haven't done anything to correct this. What is being done to the people that are not complying with the letters to cut the weeds and grass. It has been weeks since they received the letters and it gave them ten days to cut the weeds. What is the next step.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: there is a police officer assigned to see that the properties are maintained and the weeds and grass are cut. If you have the addresses you can give them to the Chief or stop in and see Louise and she will get in touch with the officer.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: I understand that but no one follows up after the letters are sent.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are not as bad as some of the other towns. We are trying to do the best that we can.

MS. D. LAGORGA, AIRBRAKE AVE.: what is the status of 710 Middle Avenue.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I will give you an update under my report.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a request from the East Boro's Hall of Fame to place an ad in their banquet book.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO PURCHASE A QUARTER PAGE AD FOR \$25.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. received a letter from Compass Savings Bank to discuss the opportunity to form a public-private partnership to promote the amenities and future potential of our town. This forum could not only include the borough leaders and local business entities but also the non-profit community groups.

K. PETERSON / REV. REEVES TO HOLD THE MEETING ON TUESDAY AUGUST 21ST AT 7 PM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. received a request from the East Allegheny Soccer Boosters to place an ad in their program.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PURCHASE A QUARTER PAGE AD FOR \$15.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION - S. SMITH: as you all know we are having our night out over at the park tonight. There will be food, prizes and entertainment so bring a chair.

PERSONNEL - S. SMITH: we have finalized the Public Works Handbook with the changes we made at the workshop.

MS. K. PETERSON: I have not see the handbook with the changes. Do we need to adopt it this evening.

MS. S. SMITH: everyone received a copy of it.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE PUBLIC WORKS HANDBOOK WITH THE CORRECTIONS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0-1 WITH K. PETERSON ABSTAINING.

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PUBLIC SAFETY - M. TRKULA: everyone has a copy of the Fire Department report and Eastern Area's report. The Chief will give us the police report.

CHIEF V. DICENZO: for the month of July there were 245 calls with 8 arrests. A brief summary of the calls are 5 animal complaints, 1 burglary call, 5 criminal mischief, 10 disorderly conduct, 6 domestics, 3 drug investigations, 9 juvenile related calls, 2 public intoxications, 12 suspicious activities and 2 thefts.

PUBLIC WORKS - J. MASON: phase one has been completed on the salt bin. The concrete pad was poured and we will have the blocks moved on August 17th. We will be getting proposals for the roof and the will open them on August 31st. It will take at least two months to finish this project.

With the rough weather we have been having our guys have their hands full. Right now they are painting lines and curbs and they are doing a good job.

ENGINEER - D. GILLILAND:

1. the electric in the park has been completed and inspected. All the outlets are now operational. Each outlet is now a GFI in accordance with the current electrical code.

2. bids will be opened in September for demolition. The properties that will go out for bid are 715 Middle, 14 Sprague Street, 74 Morningside and 428 Airbrake.

3. we have received two quotes for repairing the lighting at the Wilmerding sign. The first quote is from BC Electric for \$4,500 and the other quote is from Banks Electric for \$4,218.20. They are both different because they are not doing the same thing. One is using fluorescent lighting and the other one is using goose neck lighting. We are still waiting on a third quote.

4. your semi-annual progress report for the ALCOSAN Consent Order has been completed and submitted.

5. as part of the consent order we must remove storm water from the sanitary system. We are now aware of an interconnection between storm and sanitary systems at Caldwell and Pitcairn Streets. We would like council's authorization to solicit quotes to seal this illegal connection. The cost is estimated at \$5,000 to \$7,000.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO HAVE THE ENGINEER SEEK QUOTES TO SEAL THE CONNECTION AT CALDWELL AND PITCAIRN STREETS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REORT - J. MASON: COG has bought a new vactor.

UTILITIES - REV. D. REEVES: we are still getting information for electric discount programs.

PLANNING - REV. D. REEVES: they had a meeting today with representatives from Congressman Doyle's office and Senator Brewster's office. I was unable to attend and I will give a report at the next meeting.

There are two big trees at 401 Caldwell Avenue that the limbs are dead and they are falling everywhere. Can we send the owner a letter and tell him that he has to take care of this.

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SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: 710 Middle Avenue. We had a condemnation hearing for this property and the owner was present. It was voted on to condemn the property and raze the building. The owner appealed our decision and on June 27th we had a hearing before Judge Luty. The Judge ruled in our favor to proceed with the razing of the property. The owner appealed the Judge's ruling and now everything is on hold. We cannot tear the building while it is under appeal. He claims that no one has been there to inspect the property and that he has done work to fix it up. This is going to take a long time before a hearing is scheduled. We can send him a certified letter to have him call Dave Miller to sent up an inspection for the inside of the property. If he is serious about fixing it up then he will have a lot of time to make the corrections. He has claimed to the court that he has no funds to appeal these hearings and the courts have agreed with him. So it does not cost him anything to file an appeal but it is costing the borough money to defend this.

MS. K. PETERSON: if the court considers him not to have any funds to file an appeal, how is he going to make repairs.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: as of July 31st 91% of the budgeted real estate tax has been collected.

The wage and tax and the local services tax are coming in over expectations.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - K. PETERSON: no report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

MAYOR'S REPORT - D. PARISI: following the massacare in Colorado I felt that the borough should do something to show our respect to the families that lost a loved one. I had the flags lowered to half mast. I also called COG and Amanda told me that she would get the word out to the other municipalities to ask them if they would lower their flags. I also asked the Post Office and WABTEC if they could lower their flags. I asked if they would keep them lowered until July 31st. It seems that everyone went along with this.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.