

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE FEB. 7, 2012 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: 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 / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JAN. 3, 2012 MEETINGS AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. A. BRUCE, AIRBRAKE AVE.: what is the status of 710 Middle Avenue. Do they have any work papers.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: Mr. Mitchell who owns the property at 710 Middle Avenue filed an appeal and everything is on hold. We had a hearing on January 25th and he told the Judge that he more time and that he has already put money into fixing up this property. The Judge gave him six months to bring the property up to compliance with the codes. We will monitor his work and Dave will give him a list of what needs to be done.

MR. D. MILLER: Mr. Mitchell is there working and he needs nothing from the borough to do cosmetic work.

MRS. J. HOLBY, THIRD STREET: I have lived in Wilmerding for nine years and I would like to know what is going on with the property at 220 Third Street. There have been numerous domestics there, trash is piled up on their porch and some of the windows are boarded up. Something needs to be done with this property. Also the house at 223 Third Street, where the fire was, also needs to be cleaned up. They just threw everything in the yard and left it there. If they can't do any work inside they at least make it presentable on the outside. These houses are not safe for the children in the neighborhood. These people do not care about their properties and I was willing to help them clean up the outside but they refused my help. I hope you can do something about this.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Dave, have you cited these people.

MR. D. MILLER: yes. The Magistrate has not set a hearing date.

MR. S. SHURGOT: are they both owned or are they rented out.

MR. D. MILLER: they are both owned and they have not responded to the citations. On the house where the fire was I have no report from the Fire Marshal.

MS. A. TUCKER, LYDIA ST.: we have a parking problem up on Card Avenue. There are 17 houses and only 18 parking spaces. The people at 220 Card Avenue have 9 vehicles. Is there anything that you can do about that. Most of the license plates are out of state.

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CHIEF V. DiCENZO: as long as the plates are legal there is nothing we can do.

MS. A. TUCKER: there are 20 people living at 220 Card and they have ladders hanging over their trucks. They moved in to the apartments without having them inspected.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: once they move in there is nothing you can do except report them to Dave. In my opinion if you see them moving in you can stop them.

MS. A. TUCKER: does anyone follow up on these complaints.

MR. D. MILLER: I do. If I issue them a citation are you willing to testify that you saw them move in. We rely on people telling us if someone moves in.

MS. A. TUCKER: the stop sign at the bottom of Lydia Street, the kids don't move and they are laying in the middle of the street. The stop sign was put in to protect the kids. There was one kid laying in the middle of the street.

REV. D. REEVES: the parents have to work with us.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: last night there were kids playing in the street in the 500-600 block of Middle Avenue. It was dark out and you could hardly see them. Also, when are they going to tear down the houses.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we were told in the middle of January that they are making the necessary one call. If you see markings on the street then you know that they are about to start.

MR. T. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: can you do something about the acoustics in here. It is hard to hear what you are saying.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are looking into something.

MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: I would like to commend the firemen on their efforts during the two fires that they responded to. They did an excellent job. I would also like to reprimand Council for not taking care of the graffiti that is all over town. It just makes the town look terrible. We can call every weekend on the moving vans that are here on Middle and Airbrake.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a notice on the annual COG dinner to be held at Banquet's Unlimited on Feb. 24th. The cost is \$50 per person.

J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO SEND ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, THE MAYOR AND THE SECRETARY IF THEY WANT TO GO. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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2. received a notice that the Allegheny County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #91 will be honoring Officers Erick Lakin, Kirk Kotching and Travis Pomaibo at a dinner on Feb. 24th at the East Pittsburgh V.F.W. They are being honored for their quick actions on the morning of June 14, 2011 at a house fire on Patton Street. Tickets for the event are \$30 per person and they are available from any lodge representative.

MR. S. SHURGOT: that is the same date as the COG dinner.

3. received a letter from the Allegheny County Chief Executive asking us to join them in opposing the court-ordered reassessment by passing a resolution asking the court to stop this reassessment and calling upon the Governor and General Assembly to impose a moratorium on singled-out court-ordered reassessments until there is a statewide law that provides for uniformity among all counties.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE COURT-ORDERED REASSESSMENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. Allegheny County has just updated their Hazard Mitigation Plan and they are asking us to pass a resolution adopting their plan. The last update we have is from 2007.

J. MASON / D. REEVES TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO PIGGY BACK ON THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. received a letter from Allegheny County Emergency Services informing us that our Emergency Operations Plan needs updated. The last update they have on file is from May of 2006. We have to update this plan every two years.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE OUR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. received a request for a handicap sign at 274 Welsh Avenue. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted for your review.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO APPROVE A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 274 WELSH AVE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - M. TRKULA: Eastern Area ambulance responded to 49 calls in January. There were 39 transports and the average response time for emergencies was 6.8 minutes and for non emergencies it was 8.4 minutes. The fire department had 11 calls in January with 81 man hours. They had 3 training sessions and they were assisted by other companies 8 times while they assisted other companies 4 times. Currently 1 members is taking essentials at the Allegheny County Fire Academy.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: for the month of January the police responded to 160 calls with 7 arrests. A summary of the calls are; 2 burglary calls, 4 criminal mischief, 4 disabled vehicles, 10 domestics, 3 harassments, 2 neighbor disputes, 7 suspicious activities, 4 thefts and 2 traffic accidents.

There were several incidents and all of the agencies worked will together.

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MS. S. SMITH: the street department picks up bikes, does the police department refurbish them and then give them away.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: the City of Pittsburgh was refurbishing them and giving them to different charities. They got overwhelmed and they do not take them any more.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - D. MILLER: there was an incident on Welsh Avenue and they were both rental properties. One of them was supposed to be empty. I will be issuing a citation for 270 Welsh Avenue.

PUBLIC WORKS - J. MASON: there is a pest control coming up in March and I would like for our employees to attend if they want to. It runs from March 8th to April 26th from 8:30 am to noon.

J. MASON / K. PETERSON TO SEND OUR PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES TO THE PEST CONTROL CLASS, IF THEY WANT TO GO.

MR. J. THOMAS: what is the cost.

MR. J. MASON: it is \$60 per man plus their hours and parking.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. MASON: I was looking into purchasing a time clock for our hourly employees to keep an accurate time of when they come and go. It would be a finger print time clock and it would go directly into the computer. The cost is about \$550.00.

J. MASON / TO PURCHASE A FINGER PRINT TIME CLOCK.

MR. J. THOMAS: it is not cheap for the amount of employees we have and the cost.

MS. S. SMITH: is there a maintenance program on this.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO TABLE THIS UNTIL OUR WORKSHOP ON THE 21ST. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. MASON: we constructed a salt storage shed on Pitcairn Street. We need to ratify the phone vote. The cost is between \$4,000 - \$4,500.

MR. J. THOMAS: we have not received any invoices yet but the cost is somewhere between \$4,000 - \$4,500.

MS. K. PETERSON: is a roof included for this cost.

MR. J. MASON: no. we are going to need a roof and also to extend the pad. We will be getting quotes on these.

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J. MASON / S. SMITH TO CONSTRUCT A SALT STORAGE SHED AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER

1. we are in the process of obtaining proposals for the electric project in the park and should have prices for the March meeting.
2. the CD 37 demolition project should be underway within the next week and completed within two weeks.
3. we received two proposals for the cleaning and televising of sewers from Station Street through WABCO. Two proposals were submitted. One was from State Pipe Services for \$11,250.00 and the other proposal was from Insight Pipe Contraction for \$38,000.00.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID FROM STATE PIPE FOR \$11,250 FOR TE CLEANING AND TELEVISIONING OF THE SEWERS WITH THE MONEY COMING OUT OF THE SEWER FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT - J. MASON: there was no meeting. They had election of officers which will be installed at the banquet.

UTILITIES - REV. D. REEVES: no report.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: COG submitted two documents concerning the UCC Appeals Board. There was no ordinance attached. COG would set up and run the appeals board. The appeals board is made up of professionals and you have the right to appoint someone if they meet the requirements. Also fees have to be set. This has to be done by ordinance.

PERSONNEL - S. SMITH: no report. We will be meeting before our next meeting.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: we are not paying the Waste Management bill due to a discrepancy in the invoice for January. The number of units was reduced from 932 to 882 and we were invoiced for 932. We will pay the new invoice when it comes in and it should be about \$600 less.

We have not received our report from Maiello for January. In December they collected \$1,229.43 in delinquent garbage and \$1,686.52 in delinquent real estate. The total collected for 2011 in delinquent garbage was \$14,454.53 and for delinquent real estate it was \$23,807.57.

J. THOMAS / M. TRKULA TO HIRE MIKE SOROCHAK TO DO THE 2011 AUDIT AT A COST OF \$3,500. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO TRANSFER \$80,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND INTO OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - K. PETERSON: no report

MS. S. SMITH: is the Wilmerding sign part of property. The lights are out on the sign.

MR. J. THOMAS: I talked to the gentleman who does our electrical work and he told me that the lights are damaged. He suggested that we put vandal proof lights on top of the sign. He estimated that the cost to do this would be about \$1,000.

MS. S. SMITH: I remember that Jim Filia said he would talk to the C.I.A.C. to see if they could help us.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: I gave my report at the workshop.

PLANNING - REV. D. REEVES: I gave my report at the workshop.

TAX COLLECTION - J. THOMAS: as of January 1, 2012 Keystone Collections will be collecting the 1% wage tax from the working public. They are also collecting the Local Services Tax which is \$52.00. We sent a letter to our previous collector informing them of this and to turn over any records that they may have. With the new law the employer has to take it out of their pay check.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: when was the website last updated. I did not notice the minutes from January on there.

MR. S. SHURGOT: it was just updated.

MR. J. HARTZELL: Mrs. Holby told me that she read the minutes and wanted to know if all the meetings start at 6:30 p.m. because that is when the January meeting started.

MAYOR'S REMARK'S - D. PARISI: I spoke to the Fire Chief and told him what a great job the fire department did on the house fire on Caldwell

MR. J. THOMAS: the EMS did a great job checking on the firemen.

MAYOR D. PARISI: there is a light pole on Clara Street, between Westinghouse and Marguerite, that Duquesne Light never took out when they put a new pole in.

On Clara Street, when you turn right into Bank Way, the garbage truck backs in and it is not wide enough and they destroyed the curb. This was brought up a few years ago and nothing came of it. It is an ugly mess.

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Sixty percent of the residents don't know who is on Council. At least once a year we should send out a newsletter with the dates of the meetings and the events that we have. Can Council look into this to see what can be done.

MS. K. PETERSON: everything is on line.

MAYOR D. PARISI: not everyone has a computer.

MS. S. SMITH: at the event in August I introduce everyone that is there. Also, our Memorial Day services has grown. There was also a list of the events sent out with the garbage bills.

MR. J. THOMAS: when we offered the discount on garbage, there was about 10% to 15% who took advantage of it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.