

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 13, 2012 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot.

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 PARI SI was also present.

MR. S. SHURGOT: council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss a personal matter.

M. TRKULA / REV. D. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCT. 2, 2012 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MR. P. CLAYTON, MARGUERITE AVE.: the house between our house and where the Tonaluka Club was is in bad shape. The owner moved out and it is vacant. We see people going in and out of there and we are just concerned.

MS. K. PETERSON: I am familiar with that house. The house is in foreclosure and everyone should be out very soon.

MR. S. SHURGOT: do we know who owns it.

MS. K. PETERSON: the bank supposedly took it over.

MR. S. SHURGOT: can we get the Building Inspector to take a look at it and see what needs to be done. He can send the notice to the owner and the bank.

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MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.: is there anything in your future plans on paving the roads. I know that Fifth Street and Airbrake Avenue needs attention and also Watkins Avenue. Is this something that can be a COG project.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are aware of it and we do apply for grants every year.

MR. D. GILLILAND: the grants for that type of project is being reduced every year. There is another program out there that you can apply for a loan and I believe that the interest rate is around 1.6% for ten years.

MRS. T. HICKMAN: whoever is taking care of the weeds at the end of Watkins Avenue is doing a tremendous job.

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MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: have there been any citations written for 324 Commerce Street on the trash that is laying all over the alley. It looks like a garbage dump.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I noticed that also. The Chief is not here tonight but one of the police officers is supposed to take care of trash and high weeds. Also, the elevator is not working in that building.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH: there is all kinds of trash and garbage in front of the building too. Doesn't any one clean up the sidewalk. It has been there for three weeks.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a notice from the Allegheny County Boroughs Association on their general membership meeting to be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Priory. There is no cost for the delegates but any other borough official that wishes to attend the cost is \$25 per person.

M. TRKULA / S. SMITH TO SEND THE DELEGATES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. received an application for a handicap sign for 400 Westinghouse Avenue. It was submitted by Reverend Thomas of Just Right Ministries.

MS. K. PETERSON: is it for him or for the church. If it is for him he would need a doctor's note or already have the placard.

MR. J. THOMAS: if it is for him maybe we can put a clergy parking sign up.

MS. S. SMITH: I am not sure why he wants it. The church entrance is on Clara Street and he wants to put it on Westinghouse.

MAYOR D. PARISI: from what he told me he wants it right behind Gerry Homitz parking space.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO TABLE THE APPLICATION UNTIL WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

3. received a letter from Geraldine Homitz to be reappointed to the Planning Commission.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO REAPPOINT GERALDINE HOMITZ TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. received a notice from the Allegheny League of Municipalities on their Bi-Annual Legislative Reception to be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Convention Center. The cost is \$65 per person.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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5. received a letter of resignation from Theresa Hickman from the Planning Commission.

S. SMITH / M. TRKULA TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF THERESA HICKMAN FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. received a letter from the fire department asking council to make a change in the rule and allow applicants to join the fire department based on the criminal background check since they are having a problem getting the results back on child abuse clearances.

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: you can change the regulations to make them probationary members until they receive the clearances.

MS. K. PETERSON: can they talk to Senator Brewster to see what the hold up is.

7. received a letter from the fire department requesting a meeting as soon as possible to discuss a few items.

MR. S. SHURGOT: can everyone check their calendar to see what is a good date for them. You can let me or Joe know what days you are available.

8. received a letter from North Versailles Township thanking us for attending an emergency meeting to discuss plans in the event of a disaster.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Chief DiCenzo took the bull by the horns and called this meeting in the event that we would get the storms from Hurricane Sandy. Fortunately we did not have to put any of the plans in place.

9. received a letter from Linda Kirk of 816 Airbrake Avenue expressing an interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO APPOINT LINDA KIRK TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - M. TRKULA: Eastern Area responded to 60 calls in October with 43 of them transports. Their average response time to emergency calls was 6.5 minutes and for non-emergency calls it was 6.9 minutes.

For the month of October the fire department responded to 32 calls. They were assisted by other companies 23 times and they assisted other companies 24 times.

Everyone has a copy of the police report. There were 213 calls in October with 16 arrests.

PUBLIC WORKS - J. MASON: we are still picking up leaves. We are also getting the trucks ready for winter.

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

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COG REPORT - J. MASON: no report.

UTILITIES - REV. D. REEVES: we are still receiving notices from the electric companies to switch suppliers.

PLANNING - REV. D. REEVES: no report, you have already acted on the appointments.

SOLICITOR - N. EVASHAVIK: no report.

PERSONNEL - S. SMITH: no report.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: for October our delinquent collector collected \$146.49 for garbage and \$735.50 for real estate taxes.

There has been \$277,271.80 collected for the 2012 real estate taxes which is 97.1% of our budget amount.

I am working on the 2013 budget and there are two items that are still undecided, the police contract and the new assessments for 2013. WABTEC assessment went from \$4,431,000 in 2012 to \$10,476,000 for 2013. They have appealed this assessment and their hearing is Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE THE DECEMBER WORKSHOP MEETING ON DEC. 18<sup>TH</sup> AS A GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. J. THOMAS: we will be continuing the discount on garbage for anyone that is current with their bill. The fee will be \$130 for the year instead of \$144 if paid by the end of January.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - K. PETERSON: I am going to check with Tri Eagle to verify that we are still under contract with them for the street lights.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: we had 32 children for our Halloween costume judging. This was done at the fall fest. I would like to thank Rev. Reeves for donating pumpkins for the kids to decorate.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. S. SMITH: the children's Christmas party will be on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm at Holy Angels Church.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE - J. THOMAS: Keystone is doing a great job in collecting the earned income tax and local services tax. We have seen an increase in the revenue since the employer is paying the tax.

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OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: received a request from St. Joseph's Apartments that they would like to combine two parcels into one. This is the same thing we did for the Caldwell Station Apartments. Council would have to approve a reverse subdivision to make it one parcel.

M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO GRANT THE REQUEST OF ST. JOSEPH APARTMENTS FOR A REVERSE SUBDIVISION AND MAKE IT ONE PARCEL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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MS. S. SMITH: have we heard anything from Duquesne Light about the Christmas lights.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I am trying to submit the application but I still need more information. How many lights are we going to put up. We talked about every other pole. I think that there will be a fee to put them up. We also have to put the wire and the plugs back on the poles.

MS. S. SMITH: can we get the banners up around the park before the holiday's.

MAYOR'S REMARKS - D. PARISI: I want to thank everyone who helped at the fall fest. It was very successful but maybe next year we can schedule it a couple of weeks earlier.

I was out helping on Halloween night and I notice that there was a lot of protection with the police, fire department and ambulance services going around town.

We had Veteran's Day services here yesterday and it was a nice turnout. I want to thank Sandy for getting everything organized.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm