

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:14 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss contract proposal.

ROLL CALL: REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; MS. KAREN PETERSON, present; MS. LINDA KIRK, present; MS. SANDRA SMITH, present; MRS. PAULA SHURGOT, present; MR. JOHN THOMAS, present; MR. STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

REV. D. REEVES / P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2016 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

PASTOR REED, HOLY ANGELS CHURCH: I here as the Executive Director of the C.I.A.C. Our organization provides affordable housing. One of our new programs is that we are buying properties and it is going to cost more to rehab them than what the value actually is. We are trying to make these homes owner occupied instead of a rental property. Our concern is the difficulty in trying to sell that property when all the other houses near there are in need of repairs. I have photo's that show garbage, weeds, windows open and even the back door was open on one house. We provide our own money to rehab these homes and we are asking if you can help us clean up that area.

MR. M. JAKUB: a lot of them are absentee landlords. The ones that we do cite they pay the fine and do nothing with the property. The public works department will be cutting the grass at these properties. If you ever see a vacant house with an open door please call the police so they can investigate.

MR. S. SHURGOT: in 2014 Waste Management notified the homeowners that they will no longer pick up garbage in the alley. I think that in the two years there are probably new tenants up there and our code office will send them a notice on where to place their garbage for pickup. We can do some exterior work but we cannot go into the property. The owners are not responding to the citations and I will contact the District Attorney tomorrow to see what we can do legally. The county has a vacant property program that the owner next to a vacant house can buy the property at little cost so there is not an eyesore next to them.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: it is not only Card Avenue, every street looks like this. When is Council going to show some guts and go after these people for what they are worth and get it done. This has been going on now for a few years and you keep telling us that we are going to have a solution but nothing is ever done. Don't put this off any longer.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Sheriff Sales cost roughly \$5,000 to \$8,000 per property just to sell it and hopefully you have someone who is willing to buy it. We do not want to become land owners and we are doing everything in our power.

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MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.: what is going on with the property at 428 Airbrake Avenue? It has been vacant for a long time and nothing is being done with it.

MR. J. THOMAS: the owner fled the country and we cannot tear it down because it is an end unit.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: do you have a current list of the people who owe delinquent taxes and garbage.

MR. J. THOMAS: I will talk to you after the meeting about this.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: what about the businesses that owe taxes?

MR. J. THOMAS: we can talk after the meeting.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: what are you going to do with the property at 652 Middle and 532 Airbrake? They are in such bad shape that they are ready to fall apart and the windows are wide open.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Dave, can you take a look at those properties to see if we can condemn them.

MS. A. TUCKER, LYDIA ST.: what is the time limit to tear houses down? I am talking about the ones on Welsh Avenue that burned down.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we only have so much money to tear down houses. The one at the end of Welsh on Wood Street, the owner tore it down with his insurance money, the way it is supposed to be.

MS. A. TUCKER: what about the weeds that are hanging over onto the side of road, they are scrapping the cars.

MS. P. SHURGOT: they will be cutting them down.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a request from E.A. Soccer about a golf outing fund raiser they are holding. They are asking if we are willing to sponsor a hole at this event. The cost would be \$50.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO SPONSOR A HOLE FOR \$50. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: for the month of March Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 60 calls and made 49 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.4 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.2 minutes. For the 1st quarter they responded to 157 calls with 107 transports.

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Their average response time for emergencies was 7.2 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.0 minutes. For the month of March the fire department responded to 28 calls, 12 were in Wilmerding and 16 were out of town.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: for the month of March the police responded to 246 calls and made 8 arrests. A breakdown of the calls are: 4 burglaries, 10 criminal mischief, 9 disturbances, 18 domestics, 5 drug investigations, 2 hit and run, 10 juvenile complaints, 6 loud music, 3 missing persons, 3 neighbor disputes, 2 overdose, 6 parking complaints, 7 suspicious persons, 2 terroristic threats, 1 traffic accident, 3 wanted persons and 17 tow tagged vehicles. We are tow tagging more vehicles and if you see someone removing the tow tag let us know and we can charge them with disorderly conduct. We will tow cars every five days.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – S. SMITH: for the month of March Dave Buskirk worked a total of 42 hours. He prepared and delivered citations to the Magistrate’s office. Inspected and issued occupancy permits for the following rental units; 1108 Airbrake Avenue, 210 Marguerite Avenue Unit 2, 506 Middle Avenue, Unit 26, Unit 35 and Unit 44 in the Park House, Unit 41 in the Faller Building, 270 Welsh Avenue, 128 Card Avenue, 117 Middle Avenue, 148 State Street and 614-614A-and 616 Middle Avenue.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: we have received three quotes for a new mower. Norwin Rental is \$8,799; Fletcher’s is \$8,318.88 and Penn Hills Rental for \$9,600. These quotes are for a 52” Toro and they all have a three year manufacturer’s warranty and a one year warranty on the battery.

P. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO PURCHASE A MOWER FROM FLETCHER’S FOR \$8,318.88. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: the “G” on the building is fixed, the old jail cells were cleaned out and they found some old sewer maps which we now have on file and they hung pictures in the hallway. They said that they can sell the old mower for \$800 to Baron Landscaping.

P. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO SELL THE OLD MOWER TO BARON LANDSCAPING FOR \$800. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: we received two applications for summer employment. We are going to bring back the two summer workers from last year and we are going to hire one more. The committee will interview the two applicants. Fixed the stop signs and one way signs.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:

1. The Ice Plant Hill Agreement has been reviewed and it is satisfactory. The borough will sign off on it tonight and forward it to the county for their signatures.
2. The application for the loan to pave the streets the streets is nearly complete.

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S. SMITH / P. SHURGOT TO HAVE THE ENGINEER ADVERTISE FOR THE STREET PAVING PROJECT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO AUTHORIZE THE PROPER BOROUGH OFFICIALS SIGN OFF ON THE ICE PLANT HILL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: no report.

BOROUGH PROPERTY –S. SMITH: the lock on the door downstairs is on order. Once that comes in then we will issue keys to the proper people.

We will be trying to sell the old salt spreader.

We would also like to sell the old compressor.

We already approved the sale of the old riding lawn mower for \$800.

We are also going to sell the old push mower and buy a new one.

We are going to get a set of shelves for public works.

I would like to get the stairwell fixed before it gets worse.

UTILITIES – K. PETERSON: we will be reviewing the electric bills to see if we can get a lower rate.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will be meeting with Susan Glenn on August 19th to discuss the garbage contract.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: everything was covered in the workshop.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

MR. J. THOMAS: the borough real estate taxes have been sent out and the discount ends the end of May.

We are going to pursue some properties that are delinquent in both garbage and real estate taxes. We are going to have to expend some funds to do this.

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RECREATION – P. SHURGOT: we had 65 kids for the Easter Egg Hunt and the majority of them were from Wilmerding. I will turn over all the receipts to Mr. Thomas. Our next event will be Memorial Day and we are looking at having movies in the park this summer.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: the 5 year plan is almost complete. There are a few members taking classes on the duties of the Planning Commission. The instructors are willing to come out and talk to us.

MS. S. SMITH: who is all going to these classes?

REV. D. REEVES: Pauline, Joyce, Ben and myself.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: at the last meeting I made a motion to go to Seven Springs, I would like to amend that motion to read that the three members are going that the budget amount be divided equally.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO DIVIDE THE BUDGET AMOUNT FOR THE CONFERENCES EQUALLY AMONG THE THREE MEMBERS THAT ARE ATTENDING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT: when is the Green Grocer in town?

MS. S. SMITH: they are here on Fridays but they are at the hi-rise. They will move back to the park weather gets nicer.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: we are going to be making a change in our code office on May 1st. COG will be taking over the inspections.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS THAT EFFECTIVE MAY 1ST OCCUPANCY PERMITS WILL INCREASE TO \$60.00 FROM THE CURRENT CHARGE OF \$55.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I would like to talk about 501 Westinghouse. I don't know a property in town that looks worse. It looks like we have a junk yard in town. There are U Haul trucks parked everywhere, there are cars all over the sidewalk. There are 30 to 60 tires piled up in the back. This gentleman used to have his business on Airbrake Avenue in Turtle Creek.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the issue is, is he violating any ordinances? You can make an ordinance but you can't make it retroactive. We are going to have a brand new code office and you can have him go there and check the property again. It sounds like it needs another look.

MR. S. SHURGOT: is there a limit on what he can use it for.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: he does not have a permit for a junk yard if that is what he is doing.

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MS. K. PETERSON: I think we should meet and talk to him as a Council and tell him our concerns.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I have neighbors calling me from Glenn Street about the tires stacked up in the back of the garage. There are about twenty cars from Frank Tylka's yard all the way around the building. You cannot even walk behind the garage. There are five U-Haul trucks parked all over the lot and there is also a flatbed truck in the lot. You cannot even walk on the sidewalk. I am going to call Larry tomorrow and tell him either the tires are removed or I am calling the Health Department.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: under your ordinance, when you give an occupancy permit you only give it for one business. It seems to me that he is running multiple businesses there. Do you have anything on square footage for something like that?

MAYOR G. JAKUB: there was a fire in the 600 block of Middle Avenue and the police called me over to take a look at the inside of this house. The place was in deplorable condition. The Fire Marshal took pictures and gave them 10 days to get the place cleaned up. Also, the county sent me a letter saying that we are one of only a few boroughs that meet all the mandates for emergency management through the year 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm