

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Stephen Shurgot at 7:05 pm.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** Council met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personal issues.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice President.

**ROLL CALL: KAREN PETERSON, present; REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; MICHAEL TRKULA, absent; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present; WILLIAM PRICENER, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; SANDRA SMITH, absent. MAYOR HENRY SLACZKA was also present.**

**REV. D. REEVES / W. PRICENER TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**MS. D. LAGORGA, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** the property at 704 Middle has been cited before and nothing is being done because the owner is in jail. Is it going to stay like that forever? There is garbage all over and the grass and weeds need cut.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** if the property is occupied we can cite the tenants to clean it up.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we will work on that.

**MS. D. LAGORGA:** also, at 710 Middle Avenue the weeds are coming over on to the sidewalk. Who is going to take care of the weeds? This is the house that was torn down. Also, this same guy owns 715 Middle Avenue and it is the same way. What can be done to cut the weeds and grass?

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** even though it was demolished, the property owner is still responsible to maintain his property.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** can we send him a citation.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** the citation is ready to go.

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**MRS. M. COMUNALE, MIDDLE AVE.:** the house next door to me, 754 Middle Ave., has grass over 3 feet tall. There are rats coming over on to my property and I can't sit on my own porch. I have been complaining since April and Louise said that she would send the Building Inspector over to check it out. The ordinance says that the borough would cut the grass and bill the property owner. How long do I have to wait before something gets done?

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**MS. K. PETERSON:** he has already been cited.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** let her know when the hearing is at the Magistrate's so she could testify about the conditions.

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**MR. S. VOLPE, CARD. AVE.:** on the section of the road at the top of Lydia Street I was told to remove the stone from the side of the road. Why isn't the borough maintaining this roadway? The rocks wash down that road and onto Card Avenue.

**MR. W. PRICENER:** we will talk about it at the workshop.

**MR. S. VOLPE:** also, at the end of Card Avenue, by Brown Street, the catch basin needs cleaned. There is water running into the street.

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**MS. A. TUCKER, LYDIA ST.:** at 244 Card Ave. there is high grass and I told Louise about this two and a half weeks ago and nothing has been done. She told me that she would send a letter out. I gave her the name of the owner who lives out of state. How long is this going to take before the grass gets cut?

**MS. K. PETERSON:** the owner has talked to Louise about this and he will get someone to cut it.

**MS. A. TUCKER:** also, there are cars parked on Card Avenue where the inspection sticker has expired. Can we call the police about this or does someone on Council have to do this. I talked to an officer and he told me that he would talk to the owner to remove it.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** if you see something you certainly can call the police.

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**MR. T. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.:** how many of you have rode around town and made notes of all the things that are wrong and need to be addressed.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** I usually do then I call Mike about it.

**MR. T. FRYDRYCH:** just walk around town and you will see all the high grass and weeds. Also, what is the procedure on paying for the walking trail? Why did you pay them \$35,000 for the work that was not done properly? Go and take a look at it, it is a crime to pay them for that piece of garbage.

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**MRS. J. TOMASIC, WESTINGHOUSE AVE.:** the gentleman had the grass cut at the Odd Fellows Hall and he attempted to cut the tree that is going through the fire escape. He could have cut the tree to the first step of the fire escape but he didn't.

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**MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** is there a report from the inspector about 612 Airbrake Ave.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** it has been inspected but Louise does not have the paperwork back.

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**MS. N. RONALLO, PAT MEWS DR.:** Louise told me that she needs help and that she can't do all this work herself.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** she told me she feels overwhelmed. She is preparing for court and cannot get her regular work done.

**MS. N. RONALLO:** someone needs to go around town and take a look at the high grass and weeds and all the garbage that is lying around.

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**MR. A. HUSSEY, FIRE MARSHAL:** the garage at 501 Westinghouse Ave. is doing everything I asked them to do and they are doing everything correctly. About the cars in the lot, it is a towing business.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** there was a question about zoning. It has always been a gas station or service station so it is grandfathered in. It pre-existed before the change in the zoning classification.

**MR. A. HUSSEY:** you are always trying to bring business in, you don't want it to sit empty. On the tree issue, he took care of the high grass but he had trouble getting a tree contractor. I told him to get a certified professional company. The tree was removed as required to the height as specified in the International Building Code.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** what is the status of the Park Building?

**MR. A. HUSSEY:** he is waiting for the insurance company. I told him to take care of the doors first then the windows.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. We have a resolution, NO. 2015-3, that was tabled last month concerning the cooperation agreement for the Keystone Communities Planning Grant.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** I spoke to Jack Nolan about the cooperation agreement and he told me that there was no cooperation agreement just a resolution. He did give me a copy of the subcontract agreement and he said there is no agreement with the DCED, but that would be the second step. I had one issue with the agreement and it stated that the borough would pay \$25,000 to Mr. Nolan but we had that changed so the borough would not have to pay any money unless it gets the grant.

**K. PETERSON / W. PRICENER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2015-3, AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF A COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE PA. DCED FOR A KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES GRANT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

2. The other resolution that was tabled, 2015-4, concerns the filing of a proposal for \$25,000 grant with the PA. DCED.

**K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A \$25,000 GRANT WITH THE PA. DCED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

3. Received a notice of the joint Fall Conference to be held at Seven Springs from Sept. 24 – 27.

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

4. Received a notice from SHACOG that the price for rock salt this year will be \$69.29 a ton. In order to receive this price we have to contact Cargill and tell them we want to participate in the SHACOG price.

**K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SHACOG ROCK SALT BID AT \$69.29 A TON. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

5. Received a request from the Borough Association asking for our support in Senate Bill 3 for the legalization of medicinal cannabis in Pennsylvania.

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

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6. Received a notice from Waste Management asking if we want to participate in our final option year for garbage pickup. The rate for 2016 will be 10.66 per unit per month.

**MR. D. GILLILAND:** you can either go with the option year or bid it out.

**J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO GO WITH THE OPTION YEAR FOR 2016. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

7. Received a letter from Evening Star Personal Care Home about the unkempt property at 114 Caldwell Avenue. They are requesting that Council review and enforce any and all borough ordinances relating to yard maintenance.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** that property has already been cited. He usually waits until the last day and then he cuts it.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – S. SHURGOT:** for the month of June the fire department responded to 25 calls with 9 being in town and 16 out of town. Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 57 calls in June with 34 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.7 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.5 minutes. For the second quarter they had 159 calls and made 100 transports. Their average response time for the second quarter for emergencies was 7.3 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.6 minutes. For the first half of the year their total calls were 317 with 199 transports. Their average response time for the first half of the year was 7.5 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.55 minutes.

**CHIEF MATRAZZO:** for the month of June the police department responded to 190 calls and made 9 arrests. A breakdown of the calls: 3 burglaries, 4 criminal mischief, 14 disturbances, 11 domestics, 2 hit and run, 7 juvenile, 9 loud music, 2 motor vehicle violations, 1 overdose, 5 parking complaints, 2 retail theft, 3 suspicious activity, 5 thefts, 4 traffic accidents, 3 unwanted persons and 2 landlord ordinance complaints. We received a complaint about a truck parked on Airbrake and we are working on getting it towed.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR –W. PRICENER:** the building inspector, Dave Buskirk, worked a total of 47 hours in June. He met with Louise concerning citations to be issued, follow up inspections and code enforcement duties in the borough. Received and returned phone calls to schedule inspections and answer questions regarding inspections. Checked various properties for property maintenance complaints. Prepared and delivered citations to the Magistrate's office. Inspected and issued occupancy permits for rental properties at the following addresses: 215 – F Caldwell, 510 Glenn St., 632 Middle, 420 Middle, 107 Westinghouse, 207 Marguerite, 318 Middle Apt. 2-B, 526 Westinghouse, 610 Brown St., 59 Sprague St., 627 Lydia St. front and 105 Laurel-Square. Inspected and issued temporary

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occupancy permits for the resale of the following properties: 349 Marguerite, 412 Welsh and 317 Welsh. Issued temporary occupancy permits for the following rental properties: 119 State St. Apartments A, B, C and D and for 127 State St. Apartments A and B. Visited and did a walk-through of 501 Westinghouse. The building is being used as a repair garage and towing business. I was told that it is zoned residential but it is obvious that this property has never been used as a dwelling. I will have to review borough records and see what the history of the property is. I was told that the current occupant is parking cars on another property not in control of this occupant. He was not aware of that and I informed him that if this is the case then it is a private property issue between him and the other property owner.

Louise has collected \$22,850 in rental licenses for the year and the new balance is \$455. She is behind on issuing the Rental Licenses because of other more urgent duties that I have to attend to. We have been trying to solve the grass and weeds complaints filed by the residents. With the way it has been raining I am having a hard time keeping up with the grass complaints. If we get to the point that we cite them it usually takes 6 to 8 weeks for the process to be completed and a warrant issued for the offender. Also, residents have called and visited my office over concerns that the property owner is showing 220 Card Ave. to prospective tenants. No occupancy permit has been obtained or applied for this property. The Chief dropped off several 979 reports and I haven't been able to get through them all because I have to stop to take care of other duties.

**PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER:** the guys do their daily trash collection, have been cutting the water weeds on Orient and Wood St., weekly grass cutting and cutting the weeds along the curbs. They have patched pot holes and cleaned catch basins. Put up the pedestrian crossing sign at the walking trail. They have replaced several signs and did their weekly maintenance checks on the equipment. There is a lot of signage that needs replaced and the cost to replace these signs is around \$750 from U.S. Municipal which is the SHACOG price.

**W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO PURCHASE THE SIGNS NEEDED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:**

1. The demolition of 223 Third Street (Maple Ave.) has been completed.
2. I checked with the County today and they said that our GEDF Grant application is still in consideration. If the grant is approved we can then award the sole bid received and proceed with the repairs. If the grant is not approved then we will have to seek additional funds elsewhere.

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3. Brunner Home Repairs has completed the new door at the Station St. entrance. We also requested quotes from 6 firms for the Commerce St. door but did not receive any by the June 29<sup>th</sup> deadline. We recommend that you seek quotes a second time.
4. Lawson Excavating is scheduled to start the 2015 inlet repairs July 9<sup>th</sup>.
5. There is still a water issue in the public works garage. If you recall last year the approach ramp leading to the old ambulance garage was sealed along the perimeter. Also, last year I reported the cracks along the handicap ramp needed to be grouted and sealed, this has not been done. Upon completion of this item all surface cracks will have been sealed. The next area to explore is the roof drains. It is recommended that each roof drain be televised to determine if the problem lies within the internal drains.

**W. PRICENER / J. THOMAS TO SEAL THE RAMP AND TELEWISE THE DRAINS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO APPLY FOR A \$200,000 GRANT FOR STREET REPAIRS FROM THE PA. INFRASTRUCTURE BANK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0**

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** no report.

**UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES:** in the Borough's Magazine there was an article on fresh paint days. They would donate paint to help communities and organizations spruce up an area. The deadline for the grant is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY WILL APPLY FOR THE GRANT.**

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** as part of the Vacant Property Program the Redevelopment Authority is removing the liens for 353 Marguerite Ave. There is an appraised value of \$2,000 on that property and this money would go into a fund to be disbursed by the court. Since there is not much money there I would suggest that you file a claim as soon as possible to see if you are entitled to any of these funds. You should send this information to Maiello and have them file the claim. Also, we have signed the conveyance for the property on Sprague Street to Robert Comunale. If you recall this was done about four years ago and somehow the paperwork got lost at the County.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

Rev. Reeves and Sandy applied for the replacement of ten street lights on Station Street to LED. The cost to replace each one is \$109 and they have to be contiguous.

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We have a bill for tree removal on Morningside Avenue after the storm. We cannot make out the cost but it looks like \$825. If the cost is higher then we will have to table paying the bill until after the workshop.

**J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS AND THE TREE REMOVAL BILL FOR \$825. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.**

**MR. J. THOMAS:** the borough has received their rating from the Insurance Service Organization and it is a four. The rating is based on the response and equipment of the Fire Department and the water supply. This rating affects all the property owners on their insurance. The rating goes from 1 to 10 with the lowest being the best. Our last rating was a five so we have improved.

**RECREATON – S. SHURGOT:** at our last movie night we had 110 people attend and the next movie night is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm in the park. The movie will be Paddington. Our night out is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9 pm and the entertainment will be Kenny Blake.

**MAYOR’S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA:** I am happy to see that these towns in the Westinghouse Valley come together to revitalize this area. I think that this Keystone Communities Program will do that. I believe that this is a rebirth of the Model Cities Program in the 1970’s when eleven communities were involved in this program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm