

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

REV. D. REEVES / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEB. 7, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: at this time I will turn the meeting over to our Solicitor, Mallory Gold, who will conduct a hearing for 70 Morningside Avenue.

MS. M. GOLD: at this time the Secretary and Engineer will be sworn it to give their testimony. We will label the Title Search as Exhibit "A", the condemnation notice as Exhibit "B" and the Secretary's Certification as Exhibit "C".

At this time we will take any comments from the citizens in attendance pertaining to why we should or should not demolish the structure at 70 Morningside.

There were no comments from the audience.

P. SHURGOT / L. KIRK TO CONDEMN AND RAZE THE STRUCTURE AT 70 MORNINGSIDE AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR PREPARE AN ADJUDICATION FOR 70 MORNINGSIDE AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. M. GOLD: at this time we will conclude the condemnation hearing.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

MR. J. CERESA, SPRAGUE ST.: the house next to me, 14 Sprague Street, was torn down and I try to cut what I can. Right now the sidewalk area needs cut. I was here back in December and I was promised that the borough would cut the grass at least three times a year. I believe it was only cut once.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the borough has no problem cutting the grass and weeds but that property is owned by the three taxing bodies and we should all share the cost of taking care of that property. We will try to cut it as often as possible when the weather breaks.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: we will discuss all of the vacant properties with the school district and county to help maintain them.

MRS. E. BARRETT, HERMAN AVE.: the statement I made last month was the lights around the circle from Westinghouse to Commerce and not the street lights. Those lights around the park are very dim and they barely give off any light. Also, can we have a financial report on the Wilmerding Days?

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MR. S. VOLPE, CARD AVE.: I would like to thank Council, the Mayor and everyone that supported the sale of the school by writing letters and attending the meetings.

MR. S. SHURGOT: your efforts and support also helped.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: for the month of February Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 41 calls and made 22 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.2 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.4 minutes. In February the fire department had 28 calls, 15 were in town and 13 were out of town. They had one work detail and 2 training sessions. They also had members participate in a fire watch at 318 Middle. I will let Inspector Kearns give the police report.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: for the month of February we responded to 402 events and made 28 arrests. There were 7 animal complaints, 4 assaults, 5 criminal mischief, 2 disorderly conduct, 6 domestics, 4 missing persons, 2 vehicle crashes, 3 vehicle thefts, 4 PFA service, 1 sex assault, 12 thefts, 104 traffic stops and 6 warrants. There were 5 DUI arrests, 1 retail theft arrest, 6 narcotics arrest, 2 public drunkenness, 1 PFA violation arrest and 3 aggravated arrests.

MS. L. KIRK: the fire truck is going to need springs and they have no estimate of the cost.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: I would like to thank Inspector Kearns and his men for doing the park and walk.

MS. S. SMITH: the Citizens Police Academy which will begin the end of March is full.

MR. S. SHURGOT: at this time I would like Linda Kirk and Inspector Kearns to come forward. Eastern Area Pre-hospital Services is proud to present an A.E.D. to the borough and to the County Police.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: the guys painted speed lines in town, helped with the tree removal in the park which helped reduce the cost, measured the distance from Keystone Tire to the park on Airbrake Avenue, worked on the sewer reports, posted the signs for the demolition hearing and boarded up 652 Middle Avenue.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – D. GILLILAND:

The trench alongside Ice Plant Hill has been installed and is collecting water as designed. The inlet that receives this water at Westinghouse and Ice Plant needs cleaned out.

We have exhausted all possible sources of water leaking into the public works garage from outside with no conclusive evidence of a source. We are now turning to the internal plumbing to search for a leak. Mr. Glenn has arranged for a waterline inspector to come and perform sonic testing to listen for leaks in the building at no cost.

The hose tower roof project has been completed.

COG opened bids for the CD 42 demolition projects on March 4th for the following sites: 401 Welsh Ave., 409 Welsh Ave., 345 Welsh Avenue as an alternate and 349 Welsh Avenue also as an alternate. The low bid was received from Lutterman Excavating in the amount of \$10,000. The grant is for \$8,405 and the borough would be responsible for \$1,595 if you wish to complete the project in its entirety.

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J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID FROM LUTTERMAN EXCAVATING FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 401 AND 409 WELSH AVENUE AND FOR THE BOROUGH TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR SHARE OF \$1,595 TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

We have submitted two grant applications for the Wall Street Porous Pavement Project, a CITF for \$150,000 and a GROW Grant from ALCOSAN. Bids for this project were opened on March 3rd. The low bidder was Vigliotti Landscaping for the total price of \$138,579.95. It is expected that the project could be eligible for funding from 25% to 85% of the total cost.

MRS. P. SHURGOT: is there a time table on how long they have to complete the project.

MR. D. GILLILAND: there is a deadline in the specs and I am not sure of the time frame.

MAYOR G. JAKUB: why would you tear up a good road and put bricks in.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we looked at various locations and this seemed the most appropriate street for this project.

P. SHURGOT / L. KIRK TO AWARD THE WALL STREET PROJECT TO THE LOW BIDDER, VIGLIOTTI LANDSCAPING, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$138,579.95 CONTINGENT ON RECEIVED FAVORABLE REFERENCES AND INCLUDING A REASONABLE PENALTY FEE FOR EVERY DAY AFTER THE DEADLINE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: they discussed the code enforcement program.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH: the hose tower roof repairs are completed. Signs will be put up within the next two weeks about tractor trailers parking on Avenue U. Trees were cut in the park and it looks wonderful and it also helps the police that area better.

MR. J. THOMAS: the seals were replaced on the air compressor and now we have to contact an electrician because it has a three phase connection. The fire department garage door was damaged and we had to replace two panels. We have an estimate for a new operator and we turned this in to our insurance carrier.

UTILITIES – K. PETERSON: ALCOSAN has a new program that will assist people with a low income in paying their sewage bills.

MR. J. THOMAS: there are 20 lights around the park and they have either 70 or 100 watt bulbs in them. I left a message with Earl Elder from Duquesne Light to see if we could put LED lights in those fixtures and he hasn't gotten back to me yet. Also, the floods light are out at the school and they need replaced.

MS. K. PETERSON: I will contact Tom Barnishin to see if they can put new bulbs in.

SOLICITOR – M. GOLD: no report.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

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J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT TO UPGRADE THE FEES FOR BUILDING INSPECTION PERMITS TO COINCIDE WITH WHAT CEA IS CHARGING PLUS A \$20 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

RECREATION – P. SHURGOT: we will have the Children’s Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 15th at noon in the park.

P. SHURGOT/ S. SMITH TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTER ACTIVITIES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we discussed solar panels and there are some residents that are interested in getting them installed.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: we were approached by the owner of Keystone Tire that a roofing company wanted to move into their building. They received some bad information that type of business couldn’t move in there. They are now looking at putting a marijuana growing facility there. It is zoned industrial so that type of business could go in there. We did have the public works measure the distance between there and the park and it is 960 feet and that type of business cannot be closer than 1000 feet from a park. McKeesport and Braddock have also been approached to put that type of business in their community. We just have to wait and see where this goes.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: Assistant Superintendent Bryant is working with the Y to keep our teens active. Pastor Reed and the C.I.A.C. have donated funds for this program.

S. SMITH / REV. D. REEVES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THE CODE OFFICE WILL NO LONGER HANDLE ANY CODE ISSUES. ALL CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WILL BE HANDLED BY COG AND THE CODE OFFICE WILL ONLY HANDLE RENTAL LICENSES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

S. SHURGOT: I forgot to mention that prior to the meeting Council met in Executive Session to discuss a personal matter.

MAYOR’S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I attended an Emergency Management meeting tonight and they told us that we need to find additional emergency shelters.

S. SHURGOT: EAPS purchases the old fire department utility vehicle and we are equipping it with heating and cooling tents. We are going to have an open house to show how they work on March 22nd at 6 pm at our Turtle Creek base.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm