

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:15 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

MR. S. SHURGOT: Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

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

M. TRKULA / REV. D. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2014 MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

REV. M. THOMAS, JUST RIGHT MINISTRIES: I am here to talk about the parking space that you gave me on Clara Street. It is a handicap sign and I park my van there. I received a letter from the borough stating that I can no longer park my van there because it does not have a handicap placard. I use that van to pick up senior citizens every Sunday for services. I put cones out on Westinghouse Avenue so that I can have a parking space for myself. Since I received this letter stating that I can no longer park the van on Clara Street because of the handicap sign, can we replace that sign with a Minister Parking Only sign.

MR. W. PRICENER: did Council advise you that it is only for handicap parking when they issued the sign.

MR. J. THOMAS: if we put up the sign for Minister Parking, and I park in that space, is that legal for me to do that.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: if we get a complaint we would check to see who the vehicle belongs to.

REV. M. THOMAS: I park the van there when I am using it to bring in people for Sunday services.

MR. W. PRICENER: to park in the handicap parking space the van needs a handicap placard or plate.

W. PRICENER / S. SMITH TO REMOVE THE HANDICAP PARKING SIGN ON CLARA STREET AND REPLACE IT WITH A MINISTER PARKING ONLY SIGN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. D. AZIZ, JUST RIGHT MINISTRIES: the church would like to request the use of the park for a community day on Saturday May 17, 2014.

M. TRKULA / REV. D. REEVES TO PERMIT JUST RIGHT MINISTRIES TO HOST A COMMUNITY DAY IN THE PARK, MAY 17, 2014, FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

MR. S. SHURGOT: would you need the street blocked off.

MS. D. AZIZ: no, we are just using the park.

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MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.: what is going on with the Airbrake Walking Trail.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are going to talk about that later.

MR. P. LIVERATTI: what about 710 Middle Avenue, when are you going to start demolition.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are also going to talk about later.

MS. C. SONNIE, PAT MEWS DRIVE: update on the playground on Avenue U. On Sunday there was a girl with a BB gun there and the police were called. They came and took the gun off of her. Also, this past weekend there were two young children, between 9 and 12, climbing the fence. That same day there was a young boy urinating towards the townhouses. Is there any way that you can put lights up over there.

MR. W. PRICENER: we talked a little bit about it but we need to discuss it further.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a letter from Allegheny County requesting the municipality's participation in the Allegheny County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs for the next three fiscal years beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2018, (CDBG Years 41-43)

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO OPT-IN TO THE CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Received a letter from Duquesne Light on their LED Municipal Cobrahead Street Lighting Conversion Pilot Program. The program will allow municipalities to convert a minimum of ten contiguously installed 70 watt and/or 150 watt high pressure sodium fixtures to the equivalent 43 watt and 106 watt LED Cobrahead fixtures. The deadline for applications is July 15, 2014. The removal charge for the current fixture is \$109.00 per fixture and is required before the conversion can be scheduled.

W. PRICENER / S. SMITH TO REFER TO THE UTILITIES COMMITTEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. This year EMS Week will be celebrated throughout the country during the week of May 18-24. This year's theme is "EMS Dedicated for Life."

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF MAY 18 -24 EMS WEEK IN WILMERDING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. Received information on the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program. If the borough wants to participate in this program we would need to pass a resolution and sign a Cooperation Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and Wilmerding Borough.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VACANT PROPERTY PROGRAM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- Received information to allow local police departments to enforce speed with radar devices. If the borough is in support of this then we need to pass a resolution in support of Senate Bill 1340 and House Bill 1272 to enable municipal police to use the same motor vehicle speed timing equipment as the Pennsylvania State Police.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO PASS A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1340 AND HOUSE BILL 1272 FOR THE USE OF RADAR BY MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- Resolution supporting increased 2015 CDBG Program Funding for 2015.

K. PETERSON / J. THOMAS TO PASS A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR CDBG PROGRAM FUNDING FOR 2015. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- Received a letter of resignation from Ken Long as laborer from the public works department. The letter is dated May 3, 2014.

W. PRICENER / REV. D. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF KEN LONG FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 37 calls in April with 28 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.4 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.4 minutes. For the month of April the Fire Department responded to 14 calls with 4 calls in town and 10 calls out of town. Eleven members are attending State Certified classes. The chief will give the police report.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: for the month of April we responded to 219 calls with 5 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 6 animal complaints, 2 assaults, 9 criminal mischief, 17 domestics, 3 drug investigations, 10 juvenile related calls, 3 neighbor disputes, 1 public intoxication, 7 thefts and 6 traffic accidents. Police Week will be May 25 – 31. Also, I will be retiring on May 25th. It has been a pleasure working with you as an officer and as Chief.

MR. S. SHURGOT: thank you and we hope you enjoy your retirement.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: the hydraulic pump went on the riding mower and we are looking at \$2,300 to \$2,400 in repairs.

W. PRICENER / M. TRKULA TO HAVE THE RIDING MOWER REPAIRED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. W. PRICENER: we interviewed two people for summer work. They are Sean Marcoz and Justin Ford.

W. PRICENER / S. SMITH TO HIRE SEAN MARCOZ AND JUSTIN FORD FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AT \$8.00 AN HOUR SUBJECT TO THEM PASSING THE PRE-SCREENING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. W. PRICNER: since Mr. Long has resigned we are down to one man. Mike needs some help and I would recommend that we hire Tony Krisher subject to him passing the pre-screening.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO HIRE ANTHONY KRISHER AT \$10 AN HOUR UP TO 40 HOURS A WEEK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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MR. W. PRICENER: right now we have a loaner to cut our grass and we are also trying to fill all the potholes.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: May 2nd bids were opened for the Airbrake Avenue Walking Trail Phase 2. Bids ranged from \$37,099.35 to \$140,967.00. The grant is for \$36,000 or 80% of the project costs. Engineering, inspection advertising and the final audit costs can also be included which would bring the total cost to \$44,459.35. The grant funds to be used will be \$35,567.48 and the borough costs would be \$8,891.87. The low bidder for this project is East Coast Paving with a bid of \$37,099.35. They have performed trail work for us before and we would recommend that Council award the project to East Coast Paving.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO AWARD THE AIRBRAKE AVENUE WALKING TRAIL PHASE 2 PROJECT TO THE LOW BIDDER, EAST COAST PAVING, AT A COST OF \$37,099.35. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: no report.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: I received an e-mail that our contract is up for renewal on the borough's electricity. I will give this information to the Utility Committee.

UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: if you remember I said that the water company notified everyone that they would be billing monthly instead of quarterly. I called them and asked them where is my bill? They told me there was an error on their part that the call was just supposed to go to the Penn Hills area.

The Heritage Bus is now coming to Wilmerding and there is no charge to ride that bus. You would need to get a pass and that is based on your income.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: I will be going to the auction for the school on Monday.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: sent a letter to Verizon about the poles by St. Jude Church.

MR. D. GILLILAND: Verizon called us today and said that they would be out to take a look at it.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

One fifth of the real estate taxes have been collected so far and the Earned Income Tax is above last year.

J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO DONATE \$500 TO THE COMMUNITY DAYS FESTIVAL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

The flag in the park is in bad shape and we took it down. It is a fifty-five foot pole and there should be an 8 x 12 flag on it. We are concerned about the flag hitting the trees if we get one that big. We are going to buy a 6 x 10 flag for \$66.00.

RECREATION – S. SMITH: we had a successful Easter Egg Hunt and I want to thank the police department, the fire department, the EMS, Council and the Mayor for their help.

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S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE TO COVER THE EXPENSES FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

Memorial Day services will be held in the park on Monday May 26th starting at 8 am. Mr. Parisi will be the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Our guys went and picked up the flags for Memorial Day.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. M. TRKULA: I think we need to rethink about the dumpsters under the bridge. They were filled to the brim and there was garbage laying all around the dumpsters. Most of this stuff they will pick up with the regular garbage. I don't think our guys should be cleaning up all that garbage that was left on the streets. I think we should do away with the dumpsters.

REV. D. REEVES: the Planning Committee would like to know if there is some way we can get the bridge and the approaches painted.

NEW BUSINESS

REV. D. REEVES: I would like to hold my block party again this year on the first Saturday in August.

MS. K. PETERSON: I would like to hold a community flea market the weekend after the festival. Someone will be helping me with this. I will give you more information at the next meeting.

MR. W. PRICENER: I got a list of delinquent garbage bills and it is amazing how many outstanding bills there are. There are some people who have not making any payments on their garbage bill. I would like to know if we can publish the names of these people and also revoke their rental license.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: it is a public record and you can publish it, but you cannot revoke their rental license.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the Finance Committee is meeting with Maiello and they can get a list of names. Can we send out the distrant letters again for back taxes? It seemed to work the last time.

MR. S. SHURGOT: there will be a crime watch meeting on Thursday May 15th at 6 pm.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – JAMES WRIGHT: crime watch is a citizens group and the borough has no say in this. The police will cooperate with the group.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

