

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 6:59 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

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

REV. REEVES/P.SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

J. HARTZELL, CALDWELL AVENUE: Coming down Ice Plant Hill, not sure if it's the Boroughs or the County's but can you put a sign "opposing traffic does not stop". Cars coming down and they don't stop.

G. JAKUB: I think that part is North Versailles. The building stops with us.

S. SHURGOT: Dave can you send a notice to the County asking for that.

D. GILLILAND: yes

P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVENUE: what's the status of our 2 big buildings in town?

S. SHURGOT: the one building was up for sheriff sale but postponed till December 5th and there is no update one the building on Middle Avenue.

P. LIVERATTI: what is the borough doing with it, can we do anything?

S. SHURGOT: we've done everything we can do legally, isn't that correct solicitor.

G. EVASHAVIK: that is correct unless the borough wants to condemn them and come up with the money to tear them down.

S. SHURGOT: we've done everything, put them on notice, they have postponed 2 sheriff sales. There was a gentleman looking to buy it but he couldn't get funding. The street can be opened when someone buys the buildings and make the repairs. There is a very serious threat of the fire escapes falling off and there is not enough clearance to open the road up. We will have our guys pick up the bricks in the alley.

T. FRYDRICK, WELSH AVENUE: can you tell me what happened at the magistrate's office with 277 Welsh Avenue. What was the outcome and why was it postponed to give her more time?

S. SHURGOT: We presented pictures of the dangerous conditions with the porch and everything. This is the 2nd time the landlord had illegal occupancies there and it was a threat to life and safety. The last time the magistrate fined them \$50.00 and this time it was \$100.00

T. FRYDRICH: why did they give them an extension?

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S. SHURGOT: we are going to cite them \$100.00 every day they don't get the permit. I don't know what happened at the magistrates and why she did that but we are not happy.

T. FRYDRICH: is it legal to pass an ordinance that requires a person to evict people out of the property without an occupancy permit immediately rather than have it drag on.

G. EVASHAVIK: no

T. FRYDRICH: why do other towns have ordinances like this?

G. EVASHAVIK: you would have to show me the ordinance so I can see exactly what it is. We can regulate properties and structures with zoning. When there's a violation the tools we have in place are to issue citations. They have a right to go to court and be heard and receive a fine. That is the legal process we have in Pennsylvania.

T. FRYDRICH: you can't put an ordinance on the books that would stop that.

G. EVASHAVIK: no we have an ordinance that mandates them to come in and get an occupancy permit which solves the same problem.

T. FRYDRICH: if they don't have it then why can't they be evicted?

G. EVASHAVIK: the landlord can evict anytime they want to.

T. FRYDRICH: can we as a council evict them or go through the state or county.

G. EVASHAVIK: no.

G. JAKUB: didn't Jeannette go through something like that and they had a lot of problems trying to make landlords do things. It was against their legalities of being a landlord.

G. EVASHAVIK: it's against your property rights. Again we can regulate zoning and us but in terms of telling a landlord how to run their business we don't have a right to do that as long as they comply with the requirements. We fine them up to \$600.00 a day when they are not complying but the fine doesn't stick.

T. FRYDRICH: can you tell me what we collected off that property in fines over the last 2 years.

S. SHURGOT: \$150.00

G. EVASHAVIK: the ordinance says you can be fined up to a certain amount and cited every day. The magistrate is the one who determines the fines.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Wilmerding Volunteer Fire Department held a boot drive on Sunday, November 12, 2017. The funds will be used for equipment updates and maintenance. An additional boot drive will be held in December at a date to be determined at the next meeting. The funds for that will be donated to the food pantry.
2. PennDOT will be resurfacing a portion of Rout 130, Tri Boro Expressway. The project will begin approximately 500 ft. east of Monroeville Avenue in Turtle Creek and extend to Trafford Veterans Memorial

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Bridge. The construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2018 and conclude in the fall of 2018. They will be milling and resurfacing the roadway, minor drainage repairs, guide rails updates, signing and pavement markings updates and other miscellaneous construction.

3. Port Authority is in the process of updating the bus stop signage along the 69 and P69 bus routes. Due to a lack of a good place for passengers to board and alight the bus on Airbrake Avenue, opposite of 1st Street they feel this stop needs to be eliminated. Unfortunately it will leave a big gap in the bus on Airbrake. They wanted to reach out to us to discuss any possibilities we may have to create a safe place for our residents. That is where the truck took out the guide rails.

J. THOMAS: Greg were you involved with the letter to the insurance company from the U-Haul that came down into the creek?

G. EVASHAVIK: I think the last comment I had was we needed to go back and get more information. I think I suggested that we go to the adjuster and get some more factual information.

L. KIRK: that's a school bus stop too!

J. THOMAS: does the Borough have any paperwork on that?

C. LANG: yes

A. HUSSEY: I have the police report if you need that.

G. EVASHAVIK: yes that would be helpful.

4. Handicap sign request for 122 Middle Avenue. I have all her paperwork in order

P. SHURGOT/ R.REEVES TO AUTHORIZE THE HANDICAP SIGN AT 122 MIDDLE AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

5. Turtle Creek Valley Cog asking for donation. They are a non-profit organization that encourages intergovernmental cooperation to more efficiently resolve municipal challenges. They are seeking sponsorship to support their initiatives that strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for residents.

S. SHURGOT: last year we donated \$200.00

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO DONATE \$200.00 FROM THE PLGIT GENERAL FUND TO TCVCOG. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

6. John Marcoz term on the zoning board is coming to an end on December 31, 2017. He would like to be reappointed for another 3 year term expiring December 31, 2020.

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO REAPPOINT JOHN MARCOZ TO THE ZONING BOARD FOR A 3 YEAR TERM, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

7. Decembers regular meeting rescheduled for Monday December 4th.
8. Decembers workshop on December 19th changed to a regular meeting to adopt the budget.

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P. SHURGOT/L.KIRK TO CHANGE AND ADVERTISE THE COUNCIL MEETING FOR DECEMBER 4TH AND THE WORKSHOP TO BE A REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 19TH, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: the EMS report was blank but the response time was great. Average emergency response time was 7-7 minutes and the average non-emergency response time was 10-6 minutes. The fire department had 30 calls for the month, 15 in town and 15 out of town. They had 3 work details including Halloween, 3 trainings, and 3 maintenance hours. The crime watch worked on the newsletter that will go out with the borough letter. We changed our meetings to the 2nd Monday of the month at 6pm in the downstairs community room. December 11 at 6pm will be a Christmas gathering and this month's topic will be safe package delivery.

INSPECTOR KEARNS: There were 370 events for the month. They included 1 arson, 45 assist to other police, 1 burglary, 1 death investigation, 7 domestic disputes, 3 DUI's, 5 fugitive arrests, 7 motor vehicle crashes, 9 narcotics, 2 overdoses, 71 traffic stops, 3 warrants, and 1 weapons. There were 31 arrests including 1 arson, 2 DUI, 11 narcotics charges, 2 thefts, and 4 warrant arrests. Also, the Allegheny County Police joined the South Hills DUI task force which is a means to funds for additional patrols for DUI's. We are utilizing it here so once a month there will be roving patrols that are paid for by the state grant. The 1st month we did it was October and there was an arrest. We will have another one in the next week which we will have an officer stay over to work midnight – 5am just for DUI's.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – TCVCOG: report was on the table.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: The public work went to a traffic sign class; they repaired the damaged stop sign on Commerce and Station from the hit and run. The police requested fees for the courts so they can add that onto the fines. They cleaned up leaves which they were doing again today, they helped with the Halloween parade, they got the plows ready for the snow, repaired the Christmas decorations for the park. They would like a power washer that was discussed at the workshop.

P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO PURCHASE A POWERWASER AT THE COST OF \$329.00 FOR PUBLIC WORKS, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0

P. SHURGOT/REV. REEVES TO RELEASE \$400.00 FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 9TH FROM 12-2 p.m. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: We have 8 properties to be demolished with the specifications completed we just haven't gotten approval from the county to advertise. COG will advertise one and we will advertise the other. We are close on the CITF one and the 2 for the COG depends on the county. The current garbage contract expires soon and a motion would be in order to continue.

J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT TO ENVOKE OUR SECOND YEAR OPTION WITH THE COST BEING THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

S. SHURGOT: the other day I noticed a white van going from the gas company going around to abandoned properties. Can we send something to Duquesne Light and Equitable Gas to see which houses they show have no electric or gas?

D. GILLILAND: I will get that together and send it out.

COG REPORT – KAREN PETERSON:

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S. SHURGOT: Karen was unable to make the meeting but said there's nothing new.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH:

S. SHURGOT: no report

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: I received a letter from a law firm that represents Verizon. The franchise agreement is expiring and they sent a lengthy contract but I recalled that in the past the COG has retained Cohen Law Firm. I contacted Amanda at COG to see if this was still in place and she said yes. The contract expires December 4th and they suggest we extend it by 30 days. I am not going to respond because if Cohen is representing COG they should be representing this Borough as well.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / REV. REEVES TO PAY ALL APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 5-0.

J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT FOR WILMERDING BOROUGH TO CONTINUE THE GARBAGE DISCOUNT THAT STATES ANYONE WHO HAS A ZERO BALANCE BY DECEMBER 31, 2017 CAN PAY THEIR 2018 BILL IN FULL AT \$130.00 BY JANUARY 31, 2018. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

E. BARRETT: will you be sending out bills this year, I haven't gotten one in the last 3 years.

C. LANG: if they have paid in advance for the full year then they will not receive a garbage bill just the letter being sent to explain the discount. The bills being sent out now are for the last quarter of 2017. If you pay 2018 in advance than you will have a credit when the 1st set of bills is sent out for 2018.

P. SHURGOT: can you adjust the letter being sent out.

C. LANG: the letters are being addressed to all residents not just those who have current garbage bills.

P. SHURGOT: so it will be on everyone's letter.

C. LANG: yes but what we can do is print out a receipt.

S. SHURGOT: can't we get a postcard to send saying that their garbage has been paid for the year. We will work on it.

J. THOMAS: at the workshop we discussed the employee who does not want health insurance so we were going to give him a little compensation for saving us some money.

J. THOMAS / L. KIRK TO PAY \$1200.00 A YEAR IN LIEU OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO BE PAID AT \$50.00 EACH PAY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

J. THOMAS: COG has talked about getting a street sweeper and I think that we should emphasize that we want a brush hog. Can we contact Amanda and tell her we feel a brush hog would be more beneficial to the communities than a street sweeper.

RECREATION – P. SHURGOT: I want to thank the police, Linda, Sandy and Steve, and the fire department for helping with the parade. The crime watch for giving additional candy and the police for the bags and candy as well. Reverend

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Reeves for getting some pumpkins. We had about 40 kids so they all got 2 bags. We are working on the Christmas party next.

PLANNING – REV. REEVES: They would like to know about the letter that was sent.

G. EVASHAVIK: I never got that letter. Tell Joyce to call me. So she wants to send letters to the land owners to see if they would donate the property to the borough, I just need the contact information.

REV. REEVES: we are also concerned about the bricks in the front entry.

P. SHURGOT: that was brought to Tony's attention he will look into fixing it over the winter months.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

S. SHURGOT: would everyone be available to have a budget workshop on Wednesday November 29th at 7:00p.m.

P. SHURGOT / REV. REEVES TO ADVERTISE THE SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP ON NVEMBER 29TH AT 7 P.M. MEMBER VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I did have a meeting with John Graff the gentleman who purchased the castle. He had a money issue and was trying to raise capital and as of this past week he is working with a financial institution that may give him a line of credit as early as December 1st. He will keep me updated but it appears that he is going to progress with this.

Meeting adjourned 7:37 p.m.