

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE OCT. 6, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Smith at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

M. TRKULA / REV. D. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPT. 1, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITION & MEMORIALS

MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: how long does it take to repair a gas leak? They are working on the line outside of my house and the smell is so strong that I cannot keep the windows open or sit out on the porch.

MS. S. SMITH: Joe will contact them in the morning to see what is going on.

MRS. E. BARRET, HERMAN AVE.: in 1934 action was taken to vacate Herman Avenue to build the school and the Airbrake dedicated a triangle portion between Westinghouse Avenue and Commerce Street to be used as a park. Now it is becoming a place where dogs run free all day and all night and the owners do not pick up after them. You have an ordinance that no dogs are allowed in the park and no one enforces it.

MS. A.M. TUCKER, LYDIA ST.: I called the police about a car to be tagged and towed that was not inspected and had no registration but they never showed up. The Mayor also has a list of cars that are not inspected that need towed. What is going to be done with these cars? Parking is limited on Card Avenue and now they are bringing in cars that are illegal.

MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.: are the delinquent taxes and garbage ready to post. There was an old one hanging on the board in the hallway but it is gone. Can you put an updated one up?

MS. S. SMITH: we will get that information together and post it on the board.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a request for a handicap sign at 115 Caldwell Avenue. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted.

S. SHURGOT / W. PRICENER TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 115 CALDWELL AVE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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2. Received a request for a handicap sign for 324 Commerce Street. All the necessary paperwork has been submitted. There is already a blue line painted there from a previous sign.

S. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 324 COMMERCE ST. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. The Police Pension CD is up for renewal on Oct. 16th.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON NOT TO RENEW THE CD BECAUSE THE INTEREST RATE IS ABOUT THE SAME AS THE SAVINGS ACCOUNT AND TO PUT THE MONEY INTO THE POLICE PENSION SAVINGS ACCOUNT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. Received an engagement letter for our cable franchise renewal from the Cohen Law Group.

J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO TABLE THIS MATTER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. We have two resolutions that need to be passed tonight for our CD-42 pre-applications. The first one is the resolution requesting \$32,000 to demolish four properties and the second resolution is for Amanda Settelaar to submit the applications through COG on our behalf.

S. SHURGOT / J. THOMAS TO APPROVE BOTH RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEMOLITION PROJECTS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: for the month of August the fire department responded to 20 calls, 9 were in town and 11 were for mutual aid. They also had 17 hours for training. For the month of September they responded to 19 calls, 9 were in town and 10 were for mutual aid. There was 11 hours of training.

Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 153 calls for the 3rd qtr. with 108 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.1 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.45 minutes. For one half of the year they responded to 317 calls with 199 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.5 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.55 minutes. For ¾ of the year they responded to 470 calls with 307 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.25 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.75 minutes.

OFFICER SLIVKA: for the month of September the police responded to 200 calls and made 7 arrests. A summary of some calls are: 4 assaults, 1 child custody, 4 criminal mischief, 2 disorderly conduct, 12 disturbances, 10 domestics, 4 drug investigations, 5 harassment, 5 juvenile complaints, 3 K-9 narcotics search, 2 man with a gun, 3 motor vehicle violations, 3 neighbor disputes, 3 overdose, 10 parking complaints, 2 retail theft, 2 suspicious incidents, 5 terroristic threats, 9 thefts and 2 landlord ordinance.

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MR. S. SHURGOT: Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services will be giving free flu shots on Tuesday Oct. 13th from 3-7 pm here at the borough building.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – W. PRICENER: Dave Buskirk worked a total of 49 hours in September.

- He met with Louise concerning citations to be issued and followed up on inspections.
- Checked various properties for property maintenance violations.
- Attended Magistrate hearings for citations issued.
- Attended summary hearings at Judge Gallo's courtroom for Kerrigan appeals.
- Inspected and issued occupancy permits for the following rental properties.
301 Welsh Ave., 209 Welsh Ave. second floor, 409 Patton St., 215 Bridge St. Apt. 6, 526 A Middle Ave., Units 26, 35 and 45 at the Parkhouse Apartments, 111 Middle Ave., 100 Avenue U Apt. 9, 142 Watkins Ave. and 518 Middle Ave.
- Inspected and issued occupancy permits for the sale of the property at 334-336 Wood St. and 119 State St. units A, B, C & D.

The report from Louise for September .

- To date collected \$23,030 in rental licenses, still \$315 outstanding. Unable to finish issuing the 2015 rental licenses because of the time involved to prepare for the 37 cases for court on September 29th.
- We had the appeal hearings downtown with Judge Gallo concerning the 37 appeals for Kerrigan. The Judge heard 8 cases and informed the attorneys to try and work things out and then go back to court on Dec. 1st. I was working on these appeals the whole month of September and didn't have much time to do anything else. I now have to prepare for court on Nov. 18th at the Magistrate's office for 22 more cases.

MR. M. TRKULA: I don't understand why she had to prepare for these cases when they were scheduled for May. Everything should have been done for the May hearings and all she needed to do was update any files.

MR. W. PRICENER: I agree, why should it take a whole month if they were ready for May.

MR. M. TRKULA: also, when someone moves in and they get an occupancy permit, can we give them information on how high the grass is supposed to be, snow removal and when garbage should be put out. Some sort of welcome package with all this information on it.

MR. S. SHURGOT: about seven years ago I tried to do this and sent letters to the businesses to give the new residents information on their business and also put in the information that you mentioned. Only two businesses responded.

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PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: the guys are picking up trash daily around the park and business district, cutting grass, sealed the entrance ramp to the building, leaf removal, cut a tree that was lying on the street on Card Avenue, got bids for a new salt spreader, planted mums, assisted Likar checking the roof around the hose tower and A-1 Sewer with the roof drains, attended the sewer audit with the County Health Department, cut the grass on the vacant properties, prepared the equipment for winter, cleaned the catch basins and painted the crosswalks at the lights at the end of the bridge.

We have two quotes for a new salt spreader for the pick up and they are both stainless steel. The first one is from Push N Pull for a dumpster dog salt spreader at a cost of \$8,602 and the other quote is from Zoresco for \$8,696. We may be able to sell the old spreader, which came with the truck, for about \$2,000.

MR. M. TRKULA: what would the cost be to repair it.

MR. W. PRICENER: about \$500 - \$600 to get it to run.

W. PRICENER / J. THOMAS TO PURCHASE THE SALT SPREADER FROM PUSH N PULL FOR \$8,602.

MR. J. THOMAS: the difference in cost is about \$94 but Zoresco is closer.

MS. K. PETERSON: is there money available to buy this.

MR. J. THOMAS: there was money budgeted for this.

MR. S. SHURGOT: it is not just a salt spreader, it is going to make our pick up a dump truck. Do we really need this?

ROLL CALL: K. PETERSON, yes; REV. D. REEVES, yes; M. TRKULA, yes; S. SHURGOT, no; W. PRICENER, yes; J. THOMAS, yes; S. SMITH, yes. MOTION PASSED, 6-1, TO PURCHASE A SALT SPREADER FROM PUSH N PULL FOR \$8.602.

MR. W. PRICENER: Sandy and I attended a meeting at Pitt for our town wide clean up. This was a mandatory meeting to get the Pitt students to come out and help clean up the town. There are certain things that we need to do to get the students and they will be sending out a bus with the students and two or three advisors.

W. PRICENER / K. PETERSON TO GET TWO DUMPSTERS FOR THE CLEAN UP ON OCT. 24TH.

MR. M. TRKULA: are you going to put a dumpster on the north side.

MS. S. SMITH: we will put them in a prominent location.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL FOR TWO DUMPSTERS, 7-0.

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COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: I was out of town for the meeting.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: I sent a photo of the “G” to Metal Photo to see what they can do. I also found a “G” at Michaels but it is made from wood.

MS. S. SMITH: we had a tree cut down that was laying across Morningside Ave. We also had the tree by the flag pole at the triangle by Banquets Unlimited trimmed.

UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: we would like to extend the new street lights all the way up Station Street.

MS. S. SMITH: we can’t do it this year but we will try to do it next year.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: the Planning Committee would like to meet with the Emergency Management Committee to update our evacuation plan. With Ice Plant Hill closed what is the new route to get out and also what do the residents need to pack.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: there are four properties that we are considering for demolition. The property at 349 Welsh Ave. is now out of bankruptcy and we can now proceed with tearing it down. We have ordered a title search for this property. We also ordered a title search for the property at 345 Welsh Ave. Title searches were done for 401 and 409 Welsh Ave. and we will have a public hearing for the demolition of these properties on Nov. 10th at 7 pm.

I received deeds from Mr. Beisler, the solicitor for the school district, for properties on Sprague Street. We approved these back in June but he says that the county wants them re-done.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO EXECUTE QUIT CLAIM DEEDS FOR TWO PROPERTIES ON SPRAGUE STREET TO R. J. COMUNALE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

At last month’s meeting a motion was made to approve a sub-division for Alfieri’s property pending approval of the Engineer and Solicitor. We have both reviewed it and have approved the latest revisions and therefore we are recommending approval.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO APPROVE THE SUBDIVISION OF THE ALFIERI PROPERTY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

There is a portion of Lydia Street that still remains borough property. Council has requested that we prepare an ordinance vacating the remaining portion of Lydia Street. The adjacent owners are the same person, Steve Volpe, and we would have to conduct a public hearing before we can vacate this street.

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MS. K. PETERSON: what happens if Mr. Volpe does not want to take possession and his property sits above this street. Who would clean the snow and maintain it.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: once we vacate the property it is no longer our responsibility, technically it is his property. Property owners on each side of the road take possession but in this case Mr. Volpe owns both sides.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the garage at 501 Westinghouse Avenue failed the inspection so how did he move in. I thought that we were supposed to tell him to cease and desist from operating his business.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I was told that it was a valid pre-existing condition and the use is still the same. If he does not have an occupancy permit then he can't run his business. I thought a cease and desist letter went out to the owner.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS.

MR. M. TRKULA: what are these bills from King-Kirsch for?

MR. J. THOMAS: for the fire truck inspections.

MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS, 7-0.

RECREATION – S. SHURGOT: we will be having a Halloween parade on Saturday Oct. 31st starting at 2 pm followed by activities for the kids from 2-4 pm. Trick or treat will be from 6-8 pm on the 31st. We will start up the movies again in November but they will be held inside.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: our meeting with North Versailles concerning a new police contract has not been going well. We have sent letters to other municipalities to see if they were interested and there are two that are interested and we will be meeting with them. We are still in negotiations with North Versailles.

MR. W. PRICENER: I have been talking with Food Bank and they are still interested in coming to Wilmerding with fresh fruit and produce. They will be bringing in a smaller truck and they are looking at starting sometime in December.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: there is a house on Airbrake Avenue that has a dish on their wall and a extension cord from the house connected to it. Would this be in violation of our mini tower ordinance.

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MR. G. EVASHAVIK: no, it is a violation of the electrical code.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I will get the address and give it to Louise so Dave can take a look at it.

MR. W. PRICENER: we have a opening on the Zoning Board and Mr. Dave Markoff, from 529 Westinghouse Ave. has shown interest in serving on the board.

W. PRICENER / M. TRKULA TO APPOINT DAVE MARKOFF TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ED DEENIHAN WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON DEC. 31, 2016. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. S. SMITH: we saw a presentation on a new code / occupancy permit / rental license program and everything is automated. This would bring all the files together. We are waiting on a cost for this.

MR. W. PRICENER: there are form letters already made up and this would save time and effort and it would be more efficient.

MR. S. SHURGOT: has the school district given you any more information on the gas drilling.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: I have not had any response from them.

MR. W. PRICENER: is there any recourse that we can take.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: we have to wait and see what the properties are and if we have any interest.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA: we have Mr. Kerrigan who pays no attention to the occupancy permit procedure. He moves people in there without an inspection and the biggest problem is that Mr. Kerrigan appeals the citations that are issued.

I had the privilege of hosting the Mayor's Association meeting at Banquets Unlimited on Sept. 29th and I invited two other people to join me. I gave each attendee a pamphlet, "Welcome to Wilmerding" and in it were pictures of then and now. The speaker for the evening was a retired Secret Service Agent who now operates his own security business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.