

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Smith at 7:15 p.m.

MS. S. SMITH: council met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss engineering problems.

ROLL CALL: KAREN PETERSON, present; REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; MICHAEL TRKULA, present
STEPHEN SHURGOT, absent; 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 AUGUST 11, 2015 MEETING AS
PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

MRS. S. ZIBRAT, AIRBRAKE AVE.: what is the status on the police talks? Are we getting our own police force or
has that been put aside.

MS. S. SMITH: all that I can tell you is that we have had two meetings with North Versailles.

MS. A. MALLICK, COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: we are looking at Wilmerding as being one of our thirteen initial
stops for the mobile food bank. We are looking at stopping here one a week for twelve months. Our proposed site
would be in front of the school on Herman Avenue. We would be here for about an hour and everyone is welcome
to take part. We are looking at starting sometime in November and we accept food stamps/EBT/SNAP,
WIC/FMNP, cash and credit cards. The date and time of our stop has not been determined. The majority of the
items would be produce and we will be creating food equity by providing fresh affordable produce to families that
have the highest need and lowest access to these items.

MR. S. SHURGOT ENTERED COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:21 P.M. AND WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR.

MS. S. SMITH: it seems that Council is in favor of this. Mr. Pricener will be your contact from Council and you can
coordinate the set up with him.

CHIEF MATRAZZO: my concern would be the buses. I believe that the Port Authority should be notified that the
street would be closed during the time the truck is here.

MS. A. TUCKER, LYDIA ST.: there is a stop sign at the corner of Lydia and Card coming from Brown Street. Is
there a way that you can put a reflective strip on it or flashing lights? No one seems to stop there.

MR. W. PRICENER: we will look into it.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, providing for additional means of enforcing it various
ordinances and providing for the imposition of fines. This ordinance pertains to the International Property
Maintenance Code and other Codes and Ordinances regulating activities in the borough.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: at this time we will conduct a public hearing on this proposed ordinance. This
ordinance provides that a notice be given in the form of a ticket with the notice of violation on it. The
violator would pay the fine, which is \$25 for the first offense, and then take care of the violation.

MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.: who would pay the fine, the owner or the renter or both?

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MR. G. EVASHAVIK: both the owner and tenant would be responsible.

W. PRICENER / S. SHURGOT TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL MEANS OF ENFORCING VARIOUS ORDINANCES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Notice that the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the pension plan is zero.
3. Notice that the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan is \$5,259. This amount must be deposited into the plan by Dec. 31, 2016.
4. Received a request from the EA Touchdown Club for a donation to support the football program.

REV. D. REEVES / K. PETERSON TO DONATE \$50 TO THE EA TOUCHDOW CLUB.

ROLL CALL: K. PETERSON, yes; REV. D. REEVES, yes; M. TRKULA, no; S. SHURGOT, no; W. PRICENER, no; J. THOMAS, no; S. SMITH, no. MOTION FAILED 5-2 TO DONATE \$50 TO THE EA TOUCHDOWN CLUB.

5. Received a request from the Turtle Creek Watershed Association for a donation to conduct educational and scientific investigations and informing the general public on the importance of water quality.

S. SHURGOT / M. TRKULA TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. Received a request for a handicap sign for 618 Airbrake Avenue. All the necessary paperwork was submitted.

K. PETERSON / M. TRKULA TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 618 AIRBRAKE AVE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 50 calls for the month of August and made 34 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.8 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 9.1 minutes. I did not receive a report from the fire department; Chief Matrazzo will give the police report.

CHIEF J. MATRAZZO: for the month of August we responded to 214 calls and made 10 arrests. A summary of the calls are: 5 burglaries, 6 criminal mischief, 1 disorderly conduct, 12 domestics, 5 drug investigations, 1 hit and run, 4 juvenile complaints, 2 loud music, 1 missing person, 1 neighbor dispute, 4 parking complaints, 1 public intoxication, 9 suspicious activity, 8 suspicious person, 3 terroristic threats, 2 theft from vehicle, 7 traffic accidents, 2 wanted person and 5 tow tagged vehicles.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – W. PRICENER: for the month of August our Code Officer worked a total of 49 hours and performed the following. He met with Louise concerning citations to be issued and follow up on inspections. Checked various properties for property maintenance complaints, attended two Magistrate hearings, inspected and issued occupancy permits for 436 Card Ave. for the sale of the property, inspected and found deficiencies for units 22, 26, 34, 43 and 45 in the Park House building, 670 Middle Avenue, 309 Welsh Avenue, and for 124 Pat Mews Drive, inspected and issued occupancy permits for the following rental properties, 42 Sprague Street, 437 Patton Street, 146 Watkins Avenue, 318 Middle Avenue Apt. 2B. Met with the Borough Engineer at 114 Caldwell Avenue to examine the violations and drafting a Notice of Violation to the property owner. Re-inspected and issued occupancy permits for the following rental properties; units 22, 34 and 43 at the Park House Building, 309 Welsh Avenue, 124 Pat Mews Drive and 670 Middle Avenue. An occupancy permit was denied for 501

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Westinghouse Avenue. The report from Louise is that the computer has been updated to Windows 10 thanks to Steve Shurgot, the rental license fees collected for 2015 is \$23,030 and there is still \$315 due from various landlords. Received another payment for the 2014 rental license. Picture ID badges for borough employees were taken and forwarded to Steve Shurgot to be printed up. The windows in the Park House Building have been replaced except for the one in the door. We have several cases to be heard at the Magistrate's office on Sept. 23rd at 8:30 am and any resident who can attend is welcome. We also have court scheduled for Sept. 29th downtown starting at 8 am.

MS. K. PETERSON: why was the occupancy permit denied for 501 Westinghouse Avenue?

MR. W. PRICENER: I am not sure; he does not address that in his report.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I did not update Windows 10, I just updated the windows.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: the guys are picking up trash daily, cut the grass, replaced signs, painted curbs, handicap spaces and crosswalks, cleaned up the leaves and around the catch basins.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

MS. S. SMITH: the engineer gave his report at the workshop. The first thing is that there were two bids received to replace the door on Commerce Street. The lowest bid was from Brunner Home and Business Improvements for \$5,592. The other bid was received from AGL Enterprises for \$5,850.

W. PRICENER / REV. D. REEVES TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE COMMERCE STREET DOOR TO BRUNNER HOME AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENTS FOR \$5,592.

MR. S. SHURGOT: is it going to be the same as downstairs.

MS. S. SMITH: it is going to be glass.

MR. M. TRKULA: is there a time limit on when it has to be done.

MS. S. SMITH: we can set a time limit if you want to. How is ninety days after the necessary paperwork is submitted?

W. PRICENER / REV. D. REEVES TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD THAT THE PROJECT IS TO BE COMPLETED NINETY DAYS AFTER ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK IS SUBMITTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. S. SMITH: the other item is the televising of the roof drains to determine where the water is coming from and going to the public works garage. We received a quote from A-1 Sewer Cleaning for \$300 for the first hour and \$175 for each additional hour. They estimate that it would take about four hours to inspect the roof drains for a total cost of \$825.

S. SHURGOT / K. PETERSON TO AWARD THE ROOF DRAIN PROJECT TO A-1 SEWER CLEANING AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$825. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: they do not meet in the summer. Our next meeting will be in September.

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BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: we have already discussed the door and the issue with the water getting into the garage.

UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: the new lights have been installed on Station Street and it is a lot brighter.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we are still looking for members to join the Planning Commission.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:

1. I reviewed a subdivision request for the Alfieri Funeral Home submitted by Nicholas Bellich. They are requesting to subdivide two lots. The engineer also reviewed the plan. Since the funeral home is extended on to the adjacent property and this plan does not reflect an easement to allow the owner of lot #2 egress to maintain his building, the engineer has recommended that an easement be provided for maintenance.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO GRANT THE SUBDIVISION ON THE CONDITION THAT AN EASEMENT IS PROVIDED TO ALLOW THE OWNER OF LOT #2 MAINTENANCE SPACE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Ordinance #504 vacates Lydia Street but not the whole portion. It has been discussed to vacate the remaining portion of Lydia Street. The engineer would have to prepare a plot plan showing the area to be vacated. When a street is vacated the borough ceases to maintain it and the owners on each side of the street maintain ownership of that street.

W. PRICENER / J. THOMAS TO HAVE THE ENGINEER AND SOLICITOR TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO VACATE THE REMAINING PORTION OF LYDIA STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. The bankruptcy that was started in June of 2014 has been dismissed for the property at 349 Welsh and we can now proceed with the condemnation of this property. I was told that there is a new owner of this property and he intends to demolish the building.
4. If Council wants, we can start the condemnation process for 401 and 409 Welsh Avenue.

J. THOMAS / S. SHURGOT TO HAVE THE SOLICITOR DO A TITLE SEARCH AND START THE PROCESS FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF 401 AND 409 WELSH AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

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

RECREATION – S. SHURGOT: the August movie night was well attended. I am requesting \$400 for the Halloween festivities.

M. TRKULA / W. PRICENER TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR HALLOWEEN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

MR. M. TRKULA: do we have an ordinance requiring people to take their garbage off of their porch and put it out for pick up.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: there is something in the International Property Maintenance Code.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA: on September 29th we have hearings downtown and we are encouraging everyone to attend and show force that we are not going to take this anymore. Also, on September 23rd we have hearings at the Magistrate's office and we need people to attend these hearings and show community support.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm