

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM JUNE 4, 2024, REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:03 pm.

Council met in an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: JOHN MARCOZ, present; TURNER SIEBLES, present; JOSEPH HARTZELL, present; STEVE VOLPE, present; LEAHMANDA BARNES, absent; JOHN THOMAS, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

J. MARCOZ/S. VOLPE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2024 MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

DAVE GAMBRIDGE, PATTON STREET: I am the owner of Davkel Properties and own the house at 315 Patton Street. Last month my attorney was here to discuss what is going on with that property, but I wanted to also give an update. Around 11 months ago, State Farm determined that re-building on the property did not meet code requirements, so I had to hire an insurance adjustor and an attorney to review that. We have been dealing with Big's Sanitation and their attorney and we finally have a summary filing and an affidavit in front of a Common Pleas judge. I'm hopeful that within 6 weeks this will be resolved. As soon as this is resolved I will contact Mr. Hussey and we can move forward but I cannot do anything while in court with Big's. Al has been very helpful in the whole process and has said he will continue to help until this is resolved.

G. EVASHAVIK: I understand your litigation but technically that is not an excuse to have continuing code violations. This council has been very patient, but we need action in getting that structure down for the reasons you stated.

D. GAMBRIDGE: we are hopeful that the judge will work on this and that we can put this behind us. If I could tear it down tomorrow I would but I have been given legal advice that my hands are tied until the court proceedings occur.

KAHLIL SANDERS, 1 2ND ST – I would like to start an initiative for Airbrake Park to clean it up and replace the basketball courts. The kids got creative and brought their own basketball hoop down, but I would like to talk about adding some lights to the playground area and the basketball courts.

K. MAXWELL: there is no lighting in the park because it closes at dusk.

KAHLIL: I also worry about the open area along the water.

K. MAXWELL: There used to be nets there but there was a lot of neighbor complaints for garbage, profanity, drinking and drugs. There was also a drive by shooting so that's why those were removed. The playground was redone a few years ago and we just applied for a grant to extend the fence.

KAHLIL: so, what are the chances of getting those back?

K. MAXWELL: at this time, we have no intent of putting those back.

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G. JAKUB: unfortunately, it was not the 10–12-year-olds causing trouble, it was the older teenagers and young adults. We have no way to control the situations that happen there.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. We need to ratify an email vote to hire Jakob Lewis, William Costello, and Aidan Smith-Stiegerwal for Public Works summer laborers at a rate of \$10.00 per hour.

S. VOLPE/T. SIEBLES TO HIRE THE 3 SUMMER LABORES AT A RATE OF \$10.00 PER HOURS. MEMBES VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

- b. We need to ratify an email vote to participate in the Cohen Law Verizon Franchise Audit at a cost of \$4400.00.

J. HARTZELL - MOTION

J. THOMAS: roll call vote

**J. MARCOZ – YES
T. SIEBLES – YES
J. HARTZELL – YES**

**S. VOLPE - YES
J. THOMAS - NO
K. MAXWELL – YES**

MOTION PASSES 5-1.

- c. Ratify an email vote to send Tyler for his spray license at a cost of \$60.00 plus learning materials.

T. SIEBLES: what chemicals does he use, is it just round-up?

C. LANG: No, the chemicals that are used are stronger and require a BO number and a certified person to spray.

J. HARTZELL: when they kill those water weeds, they just leave them there and it looks worse then when they are alive, they need to cut them and clean them up.

S. VOLPE/T. SIEBLES TO SEND TYLER FOR HIS SPRAY LICENSE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 5-1.

- d. Determination of salt for the 2024-2025 winter, we currently have 100 tons that needs to be taken from the 2023-2024 season.

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO ORDER 100 TONS OF SALT PER OUR PURCHASE ALLIANCE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

C. LANG: I notified all of you about the cameras. The cameras themselves work but the box does not, it sits in a reboot mode, and it has been recommended that we just purchase a new box. I will follow up with pricing.

G. JAKUB: we are having issues with 2 cameras in the park as well.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – T. SIEBLES: for the month of May Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 55 calls and had 31 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 10.2 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 13 minutes. The fire department responded to 36 calls, 11 in town and 25 out of town. They had 4 work details, 5 trainings, and 18 maintenance hours. There were 4 members that attended and completed Firefighter 1 training. Everyone has copies of the police report and the code report. I would like to announce that Mr. Hussey will be stepping down due to a conflict of interest.

CHIEF FARALLY – We were involved in a police chase; we served a warrant yesterday and just found out that the individual is currently in custody.

SGT. ROSS – we had 74 call last month and issued 62 citations from the DOT officer. There were extra patrols for traffic enforcement and at Westinghouse Arts.

G. JAKUB: there have been cars parked around trying to enforce the stop signs and speeding.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: I will ask everyone to refer to my report.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. MARCOZ: To add to the code enforcement, Tyler issued 36 courtesy notices and all 36 of them have been taken care of. Public Works has been cutting all of the Borough properties, they prepared for Memorial Day, cut vacant lots, cuts weeds on Morningside, and Orient, started on the bathroom, cleaned up the tree wells, and trimmed trees along the walking trail. They are going to have East McKeesport come down with the brush hog to trim back the weeds along Airbrake.

J. HARTZELL: There is still a lot of garbage and garbage cans along Middle and Airbrake. Also, they need to cut the public steps that are really overgrown.

ENGINEER -B. BRANTHOVER: Nagy has been out working on Commerce, we submitted the GTRP grant for fencing at Airbrake and the WCC, I received the information for the upcoming condemnation hearings and inspection reports are completed.

G. EVASHAVIK: the title searches just came in and I say we should advertise and schedule the hearing for 6:30 at the July meeting.

B. BRANTHOVER: The reports are done; we have brought on a Code Enforcement office similar to what Al has done. We have not put out information regarding it yet, but I will be sending that soon. We have been contacted by COG to prepare bid documents for the park improvements that were awarded in the amount of \$70,046. We are working to get the electrical and Belgian block removal scope of work together. I also looked at the patch on Caldwell and have been able to determine that it was from WPJWA, they will be repairing soon.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: There are 12 towns included in the Audit so there is a 20% discount leaving the price at \$4400.00. They are looking for members for the UCC appeals board, and as of June 3rd Turtle Creek has joined the Code Enforcement program.

BOROUGH PROPERTIES & UTILITIES – S. VOLPE: Nothing for utilities and Mr. Marcoz reported that they have started the bathroom. I think the Public Works needs to get out and fill some potholes.

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J. MARCOZ: Tyler was waiting on the summer helpers and would like to focus on some of the alleys that haven't been touched in years.

S. VOLPE: what is this letter from Heather Kane?

C. LANG: just a letter that was sent regarding us putting a playground in our park.

S. VOLPE: Who maintains the trees along Westinghouse?

K. MAXWELL: the CIAC is supposed to but they are unable to take care of them so Public Works has been caring for them.

S. VOLPE: I know some towns rent a lift once a year to trim back some trees and I spoke to them about the trees in the center and he said that he had it approved by the council.

J. HARTZELL: can we move those trees to the WCC?

K. MAXWELL: we do not own the parking lot so I'm not sure if that's possible.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: I spoke about the condemnation hearings and that was all I had.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,854.34 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, AND \$105,647.33 FROM THE PLGIT SEWAGE FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

J. HARTZELL: can you put down what the bills are for in the description?

C. LANG: no, it does not show up.

K. MAXWELL: I can attest to that. Since she switched during the year some of the stuff from the old program will stay on the reports but once a new year starts that will all leave, and reporting will look different.

J. THOMAS: a few other figures that I like to share for year to date are:

RAD - \$52,782.82

Deed Transfer - \$1997.31

EIT - \$68,030.12

LST - \$5,934.73

Real Estate - \$299,318.99

Delinquent Real Estate - \$11,134.78

Delinquent Garbage - \$8,445.75

J. HARTZELL: your figures do not match what is on the profit and loss.

C. LANG: John and I will go over this before the next meeting.

RECREATION – L. BARNES: absent

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OLD BUSINESS:

K. MAXWELL: I sent Dennis an email after the last meeting, and he asked if we want them to remove them. He feels that they will look beautiful, but I feel that he just overstepped his approval. We previously spent several thousand dollars to have trees removed and to fix the grass in the park.

J. MARCOZ/T. SIEBLES TO HAVE CIAC REMOVE THE 2 TREES THAT WERE PLANTED IN THE PARK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-1.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: nothing.

J. THOMAS/S.VOLPE MOTION TO ADJOURN at 8:12 p.m.