

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2024, REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by Vice President John Marcoz at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

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

L. BARNES/S. VOLPE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2024, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

KELLY JENKINS, CARD AVE: I am questioning the sign that is on Summit Street regarding No parking from November to April. I have a family of 6 and it is difficult to park on Card Avenue. I understand not parking there during bad weather, but it is 60 degrees in November, and I cannot park there so I was wondering if we could get a different sign placed. I am also getting bullied by a neighbor about it.

OFFICER CARUSO: I can tell you that we are getting call about this everyday and the sign does say "No Parking November 1st – April 1st. The other thing is the curb is yellow right after that, so you need to watch where the cars are being parked.

T. SIEBLES: they have one that says "No parking during snow removal"

L. BARNES/T. SIEBLES TO REMOVE THE CURRENT SIGN ON SUMMIT STREET AND REPLACE IT WITH A SIGN THAT SAYS, "NO PARKING WHEN SNOW REMOVAL CONDITIONS EXIST". MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. We need to ratify a vote for the GEDTF grant to replace 10 catch basins. We received dd\$50,000.00 and the lowest bid was from El Grande in the amount of \$65,750.00.

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO RATIFY THE VOTE TO AWARD THE CATCH BASIN PROJECT TO EL GRANDE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,750. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-1.

2. We need to ratify a vote to pay Dan Funk \$12,250.00 as a down payment for salt bin repairs.

J. THOMAS: THIS WILL BE REIMBURSED FROM OUR INSURANCE CORRECT?

C. LANG: yes

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO RATIFY THE PAYMENT TO DAN FUNK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,250.00, MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL,6-0.

3. Our 2025 Solvency fee for PA unemployment is \$278.19.

J. HARTZELL/J. THOMAS TO PAY THE 2025 SOLVENCY FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$278.19. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

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4. We need to pass 4 concurring resolutions for the CDBG Grants. 1st is \$18,3757 for the Wilmerding Community Center playground and fencing, 2nd is \$19,0247 for Street Reconstruction, 3rd is \$26,813 for catch basin repairs and the last is \$88,000 for the handicap ramp.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO PASS THE 4 CONCURRING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CDBG GRANT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – T. SIEBLES: no fire report, EMS responded to 57 calls and the average emergent response time was 9-4 minutes while the average nonemergent response time was 10.5 minutes.

OFFICER CARUSO: As for the tickets that have been issued should we disregard them at this moment? Also, Is State Street a One-way Street?

G. JAKUB: Yes, disregard them and I will discuss it with the chief.

T. SIEBLES: That is a 2-way from Watkins to Wilmerding Street, the brick hill, but everything else is a One-Way.

OFFICER CARUSO: the other issue I am having is behind Card, is that something that we take care of? People are complaining that others are blocking the entire alley.

G. EVASHAVIK: that is truly private property and there is nothing that we can enforce there. It was placed as a right of way, but we cannot enforce parking on a private road.

CODE ENFORCEMENT –

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO HIRE MELISSA SNYDER AS THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICER AT A RATE OF \$18.00/HR FOR 20 HOURS A WEEK. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

S. VOLPE: when will she start?

C. LANG: she will need to pass her background check and her drug test before starting. I will call her in the morning and set that up with her.

S. VOLPE: are we hiring her as an employee of the Borough?

C. LANG: That is the way I take it, I was not at the interview so I am not aware of what you discussed with her.

S. VOLPE: if we hire her as a 3rd party, she would need insurance but she would not have to go through the criminal background and drug test.

C. LANG: we would still have to wait for there to produce copies of her insurance that she would have to carry to do the job so either way it would still not be an immediate start.

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PUBLIC WORKS – J. MARCOZ: they have been cleaning up the town and cutting all of the grass. They also started leaf clean-up. There is a small hole in the bed of the pickup, and they have received quotes.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO HAVE TRUCK REPAIRED AT T&D FOR A COST OF \$183.85. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

ENGINEER B. BRANTHOVER: CD 49 park improvements should be completed, and all the invoices have been submitted to COG. We will be receiving the revised wiring schematics soon. The 2023 GEDTF was already covered and the 2024 LSA applications are due. We have decided to do Street Reconstruction, which will include Marguerite Ave from Westinghouse to Clara and Westinghouse from John to Station. We are also applying for the handicap ramp and ADA improvements which will include an automatic door on top of the ramp project. We found out that we have received a 2023 LSA to repair the Fire Department Driveway and retaining wall.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: **COG:** has been asked to move from their current location and is currently looking around. There is some space at the Monroeville Water building. More people are joining the Code enforce so the cost of it is coming. COG was notified that some of the DCED reports have been being sent back so you may want to check just to make sure. There was not enough to hold a quorum

C. LANG: now that everyone has started to question WPJWA we have been receiving more money . We are currently receiving 2 payments a month, but I will continue to watch this.

BOROUGH PROPERTY/UTILITIES – S. VOLPE: roof is leaking in the hallway, and Caroline was going to call Likar and get a quote.

J. HARTZELL: CAN WE HAVE THESE LIGHTS IN THE PARKING AREA CHANGED OUT?

C. LANG: if there are half of them burned out then they may.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: We have a new ordinance to pass tonight. Ordinance 1057 is to terminate the Borough Police Pension due to the plan having no further participants or police department.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO PASS ORDINANCE 1057 TERMINATING THE CURRENT WILMERDING BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN. MEMBERS COTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

G. EVASHAVIK: Caroline asked me to review a few questions regarding the potential sale of Valley Auto parts being zoned industrial and the potential buyer is concerned that the usage will not fit their plan. They would like to install basketball courts and offices. I informed her that although our ordinance is very vague on this that there's a few options that they can do. They can approach council with the plans, going to the zoning hearing board or file for a variance. This would be at the discretion of council.

C. LANG: at this moment there is no information on this sale, so we do not need to vote as of yet.

J. THOMAS: Is this outfit a nonprofit?

G. JAKUB: Yes, I believe they are.

G. EVASHAVIK: That would be at the discretion of Allegheny County. Next, PAMS will no longer be collecting our Mercantile tax, so the borough will need to contract another company. Caroline asked about the hiring of an individual

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in the armed service and yes you do have to pay him up to 15 paid days per year. He is not required to use his vacation time or any sick time.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS /J. HARTZELL TO PAY ALL APPROVED BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$139,443.66 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, \$6,079.51 FROM PLIGIT MOTOR LICENSE AND \$106,296.31 FROM THE PLIGIT SEWAGE FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 6-0.

J. HARTZELL: Why is the ALCOSAN bill so high this quarter?

J. THOMAS: I think that is normal for this time of year. I was going to bring it up that we increase our surcharge but now I'm waiting to see if we get our money from them.

J. THOMAS: I will call Maiello and see if they will do the Mercantile tax.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO ENVOKE OUR FOURTH YEAR OPTION WITH BIG'S SANITATION FOR GARBAGE REMOVAL WITH AN INCREASE OF \$.10 TO US. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

J. THOMAS/ J. HARTZELL TO CONTINUE THE GARBAGE DISCOUNT FOR 2025 AT A COST OF \$160.00, SAVINGS IS \$20.00 AND THIS IS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE PAID IN FULL FOR 2024 GARBAGE SERVICE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO ADVERTISE THE 2024 BUDGET AT A TOTAL OF \$1,173,730.00 AND TO CONTINUE AT 13 MILS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0

J. THOMAS: some other numbers we collected....RAD - \$119,565.93, deed transfer - \$19,984.34, EIT - \$125,219.82, LST - \$12,708.80, Real Estate Tax - \$401,588.51, delinquent real estate \$433,181.04 this is approximately 91% of what we budgeted, delinquent garbage - \$30,111.52.

RECREATION – L. BARNES: I want to thank everyone that helped, I think it went very well, and we gave out everything we had. Next up is the Christmas event.

G. JAKUB: the school would like to help this year. Can we plan on possibly holding this on December 7th?

L. BARNES: that date sounds good to me.

OLD BUSINESS:

S. VOLPE: So, we do not do anything for Veterans Day?

C. LANG: The last time we did something for veterans' day was when the family center came here and made breakfast, and we only had 2 people show up.

J. HARTZELL: We never did anything in the park because of the weather, it was always here.

C. LANG: after that year with the family center and Pastor Reed we never did anything else. We usually set the whistle off, but it no longer works, I did try.

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NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: NONE

J. HARTZELL MOTION TO ADJORN 8:14 P.M.