

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2011 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President S. Shurgot at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: MICHAEL TRKULA , present; JAMES FILIA, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; GREGORY JAKUB, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present.

M. TRKULA / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: before we get into the Petitions and Memorials, Council would like to recognize four police officers who saved the lives of a family on Patton Street.

Mr. Shurgot presented thank you plaques to the following officers. Officer Kirk Kotchig from the North Versailles Police Department; Officer Eric Lakin from the North Versailles Police Department; Officer Travis Pomaibo from the North Versailles Police Department and Officer Dan Pici from the Turtle Creek Police Department.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. J. BAUER - STATE STREET: we are tired of being harassed by the club across the street from us. We are entitled, just like everyone else, to park our vehicles in front of our place.

MR. S. SHURGOT: cars can park anywhere, there is no specific spot for the residents. I know everyone would like to park right in front of their place.

MRS. J. BAUER: the club doesn't want us there now. They have destroyed our truck.

MR. S. SHURGOT: have you seen them do it.

MRS. J. BAUER: no.

MR. G. JAKUB: did you file a police report.

MRS. J. BAUER: no. they were there and rode past the building and did not want to accept a report. They told me that I had to talk to the Chief.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: do you know what officer told you that.

MRS. J. BAUER: no.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: give me the date and time and I will go back and check the log to see who was on duty.

MRS. J. BAUER: they stuck a screwdriver in the gas tank on our truck and we lost all of diesel.

MR. D. MILLER: there is a one ton weight limit on the streets.

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MRS. J. BAUER: that area is zoned light industrial over there.

MR. D. MILLER: you are using it as storage.

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: I believe, but I would have to check the zoning ordinance, but you can use it for storage in a light industrial area.

MRS. J. BAUER: we have had nothing but trouble since the club was built.

MR. S. SHURGOT: they went through the proper channels before they built it.

MRS. J. BAUER: there is a retired cop who goes over there, Jack Mason, who gives them all this information.

MR. G. JAKUB: Chief, can you verify if a report was filed and investigate this situation.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: I will check to see if there was a complaint filed.

MRS. J. BAUER: If there is a weight limit on the streets where can we park our truck. I will be here tomorrow to look at the ordinances. Did the Engineer do a study to post the weight limits.

MR. J. FILIA: you can present your plans to Council for a curb cut to park your truck on your lot. I don't know how it is zoned but you may have to go before the Zoning Board to get a variance to park your truck.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we have given you ample time to present your concerns. We have mentioned a few remedies that you can take. All the ordinances are posted on our website and if you do not have access to a computer you can come over here and check our ordinance book.

MRS. T. HICKMAN- AIRBRAKE AVE.: my concern is about the graffiti in town. It is not on borough property, it is under the bridges. Someone should get rid of it.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we are going to be meeting with the county, the school district and the other four municipalities in the school district to discuss various items. Mr. Martoni is supposed to be there and we will bring it to his attention.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT - AIRBRAKE AVE.: we still have that truck problem that I mentioned last month. Dorr's parks two trucks on Second Street and it is hard making the turn.

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will send them a letter asking them if they could park them somewhere else.

MR. T. FRYDRYCH - WELSH AVE.: how many dogs are allowed in a single family residence.

MR. S. SHURGOT: two, then they would have to get a variance to have more.

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MS. S. SMITH: I believe that there is a charge of \$15 per animal after two.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT: I forgot one other thing. There is a person who has a pit bull puppy and he lets it run through the playground. Sometimes the dog darts across the street. Don't you have to have the dog on a leash. Nothing is ever said to him.

MR. S. SHURGOT: I am not certain, but I don't think that you have to have a dog on a leash if it obeys your commands.

MRS. S. ZIBRAT: this dog doesn't obey any commands, it is only a puppy.

MR. J. MASON - PAT MEWS DRIVE: I like to thank the guys for cleaning up Lester's lot. They did a great job. Now if we can only keep it cut. I noticed that someone is starting to dump there again.

MR. S. SHURGOT: If you see someone dumping get the plate number and call the police.

MR. D. COHEN - AIRBRAKE AVE.: the property next to us, which is owned by West Penn Properties, seem to rent out to anybody without doing a background check on them. I have called the police several times about the noise and the garbage that they throw everywhere. They have been cited twice that I know of. There are garbage bags all over the place and no one cleans it up.

MRS. M. COHEN - AIRBRAKE AVE.: I talked to Louise about garbage at the corner of Middle and First. There are about twenty garbage bags there and they have been out since Sunday. They are also parking in front of our garage because the landlord told them they can park wherever they want.

MR. S. SHURGOT: the garbage bags are there because the resident passed away and the relatives live out of town and they could only do it on a weekend.

MR. M. TRKULA: we are going to paint a yellow line in front of your garage.

MRS. M. COHEN: is someone giving them the ordinance when they move in. How long do I have to wait before anything is done.

MR. G. JAKUB: after the second violation they are given a notice that one more violation then they can be evicted.

MR. D. MILLER: no one brings the tenants over here. It is up to the landlord to tell the tenants.

MRS. M. COHEN: the landlords are not enforcing the rules. How can you have people living there that are not on the lease.

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CORRESPONDENCE

1. received a notarized letter from Mrs. Donovan requesting that the trash fees for 504 Middle Avenue be waived. It has been vacant for several years and is only used for storage. The inside is gutted to the studs and there are no utilities. There is no intentions to remodel this unit at this time and rent it out.

MR. D. MILLER: I don't think the zoning allows for the use of a storage unit.

M. TRKULA / J. FILIA TO RECEIVE AND FILE.

MR. J. THOMAS: I understand what Dave is saying. The Solicitor stated the ordinance allows a property to be exempt if the owner sends an affidavit explaining the circumstances.

PREVIOUS MOTION WAS RESCINDED.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO SEND A LETTER TO MRS. DONOVAN THAT THE PROPERTY WILL STILL INCUR THE GARBAGE FEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. an ordinance providing for the filing of written reports of the elected Tax Collector. This ordinance has been advertised.

M. TRKULA / G. JAKUB TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE FOR THE TAX COLLECTOR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. an ordinance for your consideration establishing a process for enforcing distraints to enable the borough to collect real estate taxes, establishing a civil penalty for tenants in possession who refuse to comply with a dstraint notice.

MR. N. EVASHAVIK: this ordinance authorizes the borough to collect rent from a tenant. The tenant would send the money to the borough instead of the landlord. This ordinance is the same one they are using in Turtle Creek and it puts teeth in the dstraint statute.

G. JAKUB / K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE THE ORDINANCE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. a resolution to adopt procedures for the procurement of professional services for the police pension plan. Also, with that there is a conflict of interest policy.

G. JAKUB / J. FILIA TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. received a letter from Wilmerding Renewed asking if they can be included in the Borough's blanket of liability coverage. They would pay the difference for the added cost to the policy.

K. PETERSON / G. JAKUB TO RECEIVE AND FILE.

MS. S. SMITH: can we discuss this at our workshop.

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MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE AND DISCUSS AT THE WORKSHOP, 7-0.

6. received a letter from the Wilmerding Fire Department explaining their goals and thoughts. They have taken a pro-active approach by having more training and completed several accredited classes with more to follow. They also have in house training every Tuesday and Thursday. They want to keep an open relationship with Council and ask that at any time you have any questions to ask any line officer. They are extending an invitation to Council, after the meeting, to come down for an informal "open house" with a question and answer session to follow.

J. THOMAS / J. FILIA TO RECEIVE AND FILE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

7. received a letter from Mayor Pomposelli resigning the position of Mayor due to health issues and for the best interest of the community. He would like to extend a thank you to each Council member for the pleasure of working with them and also to the constituents of the borough for their support.

S. SMITH / K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MAYOR POMPOSELLI AND TO SEND HIM A THANK YOU LETTER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - J. FILIA: Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 57 calls for the month of June with an average response time for emergencies of 6.9 minutes and for non-emergencies of 7.75 minutes. For the second quarter they had 304 total calls with an average response time for emergencies of 6.7 minutes and for non-emergencies of 8.1 minutes. For the first half of the year they had 453 calls with an average response time for emergencies of 6.95 minutes and for non-emergencies of 7.75 minutes. Chief DiCenzo will now give the police report.

CHIEF V. DiCENZO: for the month of June there were 218 calls with 17 arrests. A summary of the calls were: 4 burglary calls, 2 civil complaints, 5 criminal mischief, 11 disorderly conduct or loud noise, 14 domestics, 2 drug investigations, 14 juvenile related calls, 2 public intoxication, 4 thefts and 2 warrants served.

MS. S. SMITH: Chief, I would like to remind you and your officers that August 2nd is our night out activities in the park starting at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS - G. JAKUB: no report.

ENGINEER - D. GLENN: we have resolutions for COG for the CD 38 projects. The projects are for 6 catch basins for \$20,000; the Ice Plant Hill retaining wall for \$55,000; street reconstruction of Westinghouse Avenue, Middle Avenue, Avenue U, and Airbrake Avenue for \$288,000; retaining walls on Middle from Middle to Short and on Sprague Street and Card Avenue for \$780,000 and for the demolition of ten properties for \$55,000.

G. JAKUB / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTIONS FOR COG TO SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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MR. D. GLENN: there are three inlets that need repaired and we need authorization to request proposals. The inlets are located at Airbrake and Fourth; Maple and Second and Frank and Marguerite.

J. THOMAS / J. FILIA TO HAVE THE ENGINEER REQUEST PROPOSALS TO REPAIR THE INLETS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. D. GLENN: Council needs to pick at least five sites from the demolition list.

UTILITIES - K. PETERSON: no report.

COG REPORT - G. JAKUB: no report.

SOLICITOR - N. EVASHAVIK: no report.

PERSONNEL - J. FILIA: the ninety day probation period has ended for Brandon. I think that we should hire him as a full time employee with single health benefits and \$1.00 an hour raise.

J. FILIA / K. PETERSON TO HIRE BRANDON STEININGER AS A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE WITH THE SAME BENEFITS AS THE OTHER FULL TIME EMPLOYEES HAVE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0 WITH M. TRKULA ABSTAINING.

FINANCE - J. THOMAS:

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

J. THOMAS / G. JAKUB TO HIRE MICHAEL SOROCHAK, CPA AS THE AUDITOR FOR THE 2010 BOROUGH AUDIT AT A FEE OF \$3,500. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY - M. TRKULA: we got a few bids on a new garage door for the public works department and the lowest bid was from Slack Doors for \$2,300. To repair the door it would cost us \$900.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO PURCHASE A NEW GARAGE DOOR FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FROM SLACK DOORS FOR A PRICE OF \$2,300. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MS. S. SMITH: Mike, where are the tee shirts for the street department that were not distributed.

MR. M. TRKULA: they are downstairs.

RECREATION - S. SMITH: we are working on the National Night Out which is August 2nd in the park beginning at 7:30 p.m. That is the same day as the council meeting and we have to move the time of the meeting up.

S. SMITH / G. JAKUB TO MOVE THE AUGUST 2ND COUNCIL MEETING TO 6 PM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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PLANNING - K. PETERSON: no report.

MS. S. SMITH: have we heard anything else on the wind turbines or the solar panels.

MS. K. PETERSON: we are still working on it.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE - J. THOMAS: Keystone Collections will be collecting the wage tax for the southeast area of Allegheny County beginning in 2012. They had a poor response from the businesses.

OLD BUSINESS

MS. S. SMITH: in lieu of the Christmas lights for the poles I was checking on prices for banners to be put up. There is one company, Riley's who did the one's in Pitcairn. The cost for thirty 18 by 36 banners with the hardware is \$2,677.50. The other quote I received was for \$2,686.91. The banners are screen printing on vinyl. We can start out with one season. The cost per banner is \$36.25 with the biggest cost being the brackets. We can discuss this further at the workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. S. SHURGOT: we will be meeting with the County, the School District and the four municipalities to discuss the maintenance of vacant properties. Right now we are trying to set up a date when everyone can make it. We are looking at July 28th, in the evening, or th 29th in the afternoon.

MR. J. HARTZELL: the company that is going to do the retrofit for the building where here today getting a final count. They are looking at the middle of September to start the work. There is no cost to the borough.

MR. K. PETERSON: I tried to organize a town wide garage sale for the George Westinghouse Days but I started too late. We did have some people take part and they told me it was very successful for them. One person made about \$300 that day. I am going to try and get something for September and try to make it an annual day and a half yard sale. I will be getting flyers out to all the homes and they will contact me so I can keep a record of who is participating. I may ask for donations for the advertising and the sale would take place in front of their own house.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.