

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

**ROLL CALL: REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; LINDA KIRK, absent; SANDRA SMITH, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was absent.**

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** the Mayor and Ms. Kirk are at a meeting on the charter school.

**REV. D. REEVES / P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS**

**MRS. E. BARRETT, HERMAN AVE.:** in February you mentioned increasing the compensation of the Tax Collector. What did you do about that?

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we will put that in next year's budget. You can only increase the compensation for the Tax Collector during an election year.

**MRS. BARRETT:** I was wondering if you could put a satellite office in the borough building for those of us who pay the taxes ourselves because his house is not that accessible.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** he told us that if you told him you were coming he would come out to meet you.

**MRS. E. BARRETT:** I went there during his hours and he wasn't even there. It is hard to go there and pay the taxes. I have no alternative but to mail them in and enclosing a self-addressed stamp envelope to mail my receipt back to me, which is ridiculous. You have the option of giving him space in the building.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** we have the option but are not required to do that. He is not an employee of this borough and this Council has no direction over him. He is elected, independent of this Council. We cannot tell him how to do his job.

**MRS. E. BARRETT:** also, what are you going to do about the parking situation and getting that amendment to the police? It is now on Facebook and the police are getting a bad rap about this. They are taking pictures of all the cars parked the wrong way and that the Allegheny County Police are doing nothing. The parking ordinance is 285.41. I have been asking about this for three months in a row and you have to do something about this because their hands are tied. Right now there are cars parked on Westinghouse against the flow of traffic. You are not giving the police the ammunition they need to keep this town free of accidents.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** it is a State Law that they have to park with the flow of traffic.

**MRS. E. BARRETT:** you need revenue and you are passing it up. Monroeville's fine is \$35, Turtle Creek is \$25, East McKeesport is \$25 and North Versailles I believe is \$35. You are asking \$5.00 for a parking violation, that is what is stated in Chapter 285.41.

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**MS. D. LAGORGA, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** across the street from me at 708 Middle Avenue there are kids going in there and I have called the police. They broke the locks and the two back windows to get in. I do not want to call the police every time I see them going in there. What can we do about this house?

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we can have it boarded up.

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**MR. S. VOLPE, CARD AVE.:** the sale of the school should take place this week or next. We settled on a figure of \$375,000. I see that I made the paper again. Way back when Buskirk was here I paid for two occupancy permits and no one ever came to inspect them. I got approached by Cindy Matijevic and she got the same notice I did about peeling paint. In his report he wrote up eleven people about peeling paint in the middle of winter.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** we talked to him about the timeliness of that letter in the middle of winter.

**MR. S. VOLPE:** do they get paid on the amount of notices they write up or by the hour.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** they get paid by the hour.

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**MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.:** in front of 277 Welsh, can something be done about the way the curbs are painted yellow. Can you get rid of the one in front of 277 Welsh so more people can park there, it is way too long?

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**MRS. T. HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** I am very disappointed and your lack of interest in getting rid of the graffiti in this town. It has been on Avenue U over on the bridge pillar, and it gets updated every once in a while. There is also some on the wall going out Watkins Avenue to the tri-boro. There are some on garages up above that area on the very last street that faces the tri-boro. Lately, there has been graffiti on the overpass above Patton Street. I am even disappointed in the fact that the brand new bridge in Turtle Creek on Greensburg Pike has graffiti on it. Two weeks after that bridge was opened there was graffiti and there continues to be graffiti. No wonder the people on the other side of town do not take care of their places because we do not take care of our town. You do not want to say it is Allegheny County property, but it is, but it is our town. When people come in to our town they look at that and they think what a slum unkempt town this is. The guard rail at the bottom of First Street still has not been fixed. Over at the corner of Maple and Middle there is a garbage dump and it gets bigger and bigger. These are things that do not take that much money to clean up. It is about time that we start cleaning up this town. There is one other thing I have to tell you about, it is the school on Westinghouse Avenue, whether it is day care of pre-school I don't know. Do you know they had a lesson where they went outside and on their building and put graffiti and it isn't chalk because it rained the last two months and it is still there?

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**MR. P. LIVERATTI, AIRBRAKE AVE.:** how many of you travel Airbrake Avenue. There are so many holes there that need patched. The one by the red light is very deep.

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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Resolution in support of radar to be used by the local police departments.

**K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

2. Resolution in support of increasing the prize amount on the small games of chance.

**J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

3. Received an application for a handicap sign for 145 State Street. I have received all the necessary paperwork and everything is in order.

**K. PETERSON / P. SHURGOT TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 145 STATE STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – S. SHURGOT:** the fire department responded to 17 calls in March. 8 calls were in town and 9 were out of town. Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 38 calls in March. They made 27 transports and their average response time for emergencies was 7.4 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.9 minutes. For the quarter they had 134 calls and their average response time was 7.0 minutes for emergencies and 8.7 minutes for non-emergencies.

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**INSPECTOR KEARNS:** for the month of March there were 383 events in Wilmerding. A summary of the calls were as follows: there were 8 animal complaints, 7 assaults, there were 54 assists to other police departments, 4 criminal mischief, 2 death investigations, 12 domestics, 5 DUI, 1 fugitive arrest, 2 missing persons, 5 motor vehicle crashes, 4 motor vehicle thefts, 5 narcotic investigations, 3 overdose, 1 robbery, 11 thefts, 7 traffic complaints, 78 traffic stops, and 8 welfare checks. There were 30 arrests for March with 6 being for DUI, 5 for narcotics, 1 retail thefts, 1 robbery and 2 thefts. For abandoned vehicles to keep you up to date for the year, we have identified 25 vehicles since the first of the year. 7 were moved voluntarily by the owner, 6 were towed, 3 are now legal on the streets, he is working with 4 of the owners, 2 were on private property and 3 are pending further action.

**MR. J. HARTZELL:** prior to the meeting Sable Kennels was here to discuss their duties for animal control. As you know we have not signed a contract with them because we had some questions.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** they do not pick up wildlife and they have other means to remove skunks and raccoons. She will give us the numbers to contact them and we will put it on the website.

**K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH SABLE KENNELS FOR ANIMAL CONTROL AT A RATE OF \$85 A MONTH AND \$25 FOR ANY AFTER HOURS CALL OUTS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** the meeting for March was canceled.

**PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT:** last month they cleaned out the office and garage, they did their weekly and monthly maintenance on the vehicles, they worked with the fire department and electrician to get the compressor to work.

**MR. J. THOMAS:** the issue with the compressor is becoming a money pit. The problem is that it is 60 years old and we got parts to get it running again, and then we got the electrical issue because it is a three phase motor. To bring a three phase line into the building you are looking at thousands of dollars. We are thinking about getting a smaller compressor because it is not used that often. It is still a work in progress.

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** they put up the sign for the walking trail and it is by Pete Liveratti's house. They put up no loitering signs around the park and they fixed six stop signs that needed done. There are 7 stop signs that need new aluminum and 9 that need new facing. We have a quote of \$274.65 to get those done. They did fill some pot holes this week and they will continue doing this with the nice weather coming up. They started sweeping the streets around town and installed the AED box in the hallway and they changed all the smoke detector batteries in the building.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT – D. GILLILAND:**

We are going to have the floor drains inspected, at no cost, in the DPW garage to check for leakage.

The COG has issued the contracts for the CD 42 demolition projects at 401 and 409 Welsh Avenue. Lutterman Excavating is expected to begin work the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are in the process of getting contracts, bonds and insurance to begin the work on the Wall Street Porous Pavement Project. Work should start within a month and be completed within two weeks.

**MR. J. THOMAS:** is our road department permitted to go on State and County property to remove the graffiti.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** no. You would need their consent before you go on their property. I think the County would give you permission but the State I am not sure of.

**MR. D. GILLILAND:** you are correct; I don't think we can without their permission. I can contact PennDOT to see what their procedure is.

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**BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH:** since we fixed the problem around the hose tower I contacted Charlie Thomas who did the painting and repairs in the stairwell twice before and I am waiting to hear back from him. I hope to have that done in the next couple of weeks.

I talked to Dave this morning and I have no luck in getting a mason to do the pointing around the hose tower.

It has been brought to my attention that the trees along the Patton Street Bridge are dead and they need to be removed.

We also discussed last week the activities in the park. Steve and I met and came up with a set of park rules. We are thinking about putting a sign up with these 7 or 8 rules on it. What it covers is the basic things that we see happening.

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** we also need to post some speed limit signs and Mike is not sure what the distance should be between signs.

**MR. D. GILLILAND:** I will take a look at that and give you the information.

**MS. K. PETERSON:** the bricks on the entrance ramp are starting to crumble.

**UTILITIES – K. PETERSON:** the LIHEP program has been extended again. Some communities are having solicitors going around for electric and cable rates. If someone knocks on your door ask for ID and also ask them if they have a permit to solicit.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** we talked about getting clearances from the three taxing bodies for 401 and 409 Orient for demolition. I sent Consent to Raze to the County and the school. The County has responded and they have no objections. I have not had a response from the school.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**MR. J. THOMAS:** we received a proposal for a Lorex Video Surveillance cameras. The cost should not exceed \$3,000 to put cameras inside and outside the municipal building. We have the money in our PGLIT surveillance camera account.

**J. THOMAS / S. SMITH TO PURCHASE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR THE BOROUGH BUILDING AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000 WITH THE MONEY COMING OUT OF THE PLGIT SURVEILLANCE CAMERA ACCOUNT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** we have proposals for employee life insurance. We have to get out of our agreement with Prudential because they do not insure any group under 25 employees. The cost is about the same as we are paying now.

**MR. S. SHURGOT:** the Mayor and I received an e-mail today that they are moving forward with the \$10,000 grant for cameras around the park and business district. We have to purchase the cameras by the end of June.

**RECREATION – P. SHURGOT:** the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup> at noon in the park and registration will begin around 11:30 am. This is for children under ten years of age.

**PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES:** we are still working on the five year comprehensive plan for the borough. We had a speaker at the meeting to discuss Solar Energy. We also discussed the current houses for sale and the bridge needs painted.

**MS. S. SMITH:** I asked Greg to take a look at the agreement for the bridge and he said it looks like the on and off ramps are the borough's responsibility. We are also having Don Glenn take a look at the agreement since he was involved with this from the beginning.

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**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** can the Planning Commission work on putting together some guidelines for the row houses on Middle so that they all look alike. I am sure when they were first put up they all looked the same.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** I was approached by a boy who was going for his Eagle Scout Badge and he wants to replace the Wilmerding Signs coming into town. I need a letter from the borough that we agreed to have these signs replaced so the Boy Scouts will allow him to do this project. He wants some help on the design of the sign. If anyone has any ideas we can meet him here and go over it with him.

**P. SHURGOT / S. SMITH TO SEND A LETTER TO THE BOY SCOUTS FROM THE BOROUGH TO ALLOW SEAN MARCOZ TO REPLACE THE WELCOME TO WILMERDING SIGNS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**MRS. P. SHURGOT:** Joe, I will get you the name and address of the Boy Scout Leader where you have to send the letter.

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**MR. P. LIVERATTI:** how long is that building at 318 Middle going to be blocked off? Is there a time limit on this?

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** the problem is that it is the owner's responsibility to repair that. She has accepted the responsibility and she said that her homeowner's insurance is going to pay to repair the building. We don't care who is going to pay but it has to be done. In the meantime no one can occupy the building. The last I saw was that she said her homeowner's was authorizing a contractor to come in and make the repairs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR OUR THREE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES. THE PREMIUM IS UNDER A \$100 A MONTH. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**MR. S. VOLPE:** I have seen towns that have banners hanging from poles honoring their veteran's. Are you going to do something like that?

**MR. J. THOMAS:** the problem with us is that all of our veteran organizations have left town because of non-participation.

**MR. G. EVASHAVIK:** Duquesne Light will not let us put anything on their poles.

**MR. S. VOLPE:** can you trim the Christmas tree in the triangle on Airbrake and Middle so you can see the traffic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.