

WILMERDING BOROUGH
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 10, 2021, MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

S. SHURGOT: Council met in a 45-minute executive session before the meeting to discuss a pending contract.

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOSEPH HARTZELL, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

J. HARTZELL/K. MAXWELL TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2021, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

NANCY RONALLO – PAT MEWS DRIVE – I have been complaining about weeds and garbage in Lilac Alley for over 2 months now.

S. SHURGOT: I contacted Mr. Hussey after we spoke and told him to contact the owners. Did nothing get resolved?

N. RONALLO: they just put more garbage out today and nothing was done with the weeds.

A. HUSSEY: I spoke with the owner and both tenants have moved out and they left everything in the units. They are working to get everything cleaned out and will work on the weeds as well.

J. HARTZELL: is there anything out that the garbage men will not take?

N. RONALLO: yes, there is a broken tv, part of a fence, some wood.

A. HUSSEY: I am working with the owner, and he is addressing the concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE

a. We need to ratify a vote that was done by email to approve Allegheny Global to do asbestos testing on 334 & 336 Wood Street and 403 Orient Avenue.

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOTTO APPROVE ASBESTOS TESTING TO BE DONE BY ALLEGHENY GLOBAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1250.00 FOR 334 AND 336 WOOD STREET AND 403 ORIENT AVENUE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

b. We need to ratify a vote to have Urban Construction dig out the pit on Orient Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$1200.00.

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO APPROVE URBAN CONSTRUCTION TO DIG OUT THE PIT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1200.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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- c. We need to ratify a vote to accept the annual Workers Comp premium of \$12,514.00 from AmTrust North America.

J. THOMAS: is that in line with the previous years?

C. LANG: the workers comp is a few hundred dollars lower than last year.

P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO APPROVE THE YEARLY PREMIUM OF \$12,514.00 FROM AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- d. We need to pass Resolution 2021-3 accepting Kelly Maxwell and Joseph Hartzell to the Allegheny County Southeast Tax Committee. They will be replacing Stephen Shurgot and John Thomas.

P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 2021-3. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- e. We received an application for a filming permit on Wednesday September 1, 2021, on Station Street.

L. KIRK: will school be in at that time?

C. LANG: yes, and I spoke with them regarding the school buses along with Port Authority.

JASON – LOCATION MANAGER – we are primarily talking about using Tom’s parking on the side of the store to film a scene. On the roadway it will just be safety concerns while filming for approximately 4 hours. We wanted to get Tom on board then we will be giving notification to all of the businesses once we get everything set in stone. It’s more about safety concerns and we will not really be closing anything down completely.

L. KIRK/P. SHURGOT TO APPROVE THE FILMING PERMIT GIVEN THEY PAY THE FEE AND CORESPOND WITH THE LOCAL BUSINESSES, POLICE AND PORT AUTHORITY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK – The fire department responded to 32 calls, 13 in town and 19 out of town. There were 3 work details, 4 trainings, and 20 maintenance hours. The EMS report for July was 41 calls with an average emergency response time of 6.5 minutes and an average non-emergency response time of 11.4 minutes.

LT. MCCLELLAN: They are still trying to fix our reporting system and took down 28 other departments I the meantime. There was a shooting on Patton Street that turned out to be a domestic and neither one of the parties was very cooperative.

J. HARTZELL: I would like to thank you for taking care of the car on Marguerite. I was wondering who issues parking tickets?

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: both our officers and AL.

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J. HARTZELL: we have a large problem with people parking wherever they want, on yellow lines, blocking driveways and so on.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: I can tell you that the officers are lenient on parking in the business district. They do not want to push patrons out.

J. HARTZELL: but we are losing money because of it.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: Everyone received a copy of my report.

P. SHURGOT: How long do you give for a follow up on a complaint?

A. HUSSEY: I base it off of the participation level but usually as long as they need. I'd rather not go to the magistrate. If I cite them then I lose that working relationship. I will call them after about a week and remind them.

P. SHURGOT: Okay so now you've been there twice and what comes next?

A. HUSSEY: I will continue to call them.

P. SHURGOT: I think if they have not resolved the problem after you spoke to them three times it is time to issue a citation.

A. HUSSEY: I will do that but then the problem will not be resolved. Those individuals will leave the problem until they have a court hearing because they get upset. I just want everyone to know that the issues will get worse, and I will lose that working relationship with individuals.

S. SHURGOT: we have a total of \$36.48 paid in parking tickets so why are we going to order more?

C. LANG: for parking monies from the magistrate, it is difficult to tell because we only get a partial payment on the fine that is given.

Council was interrupted and heckled by an unruly resident upset over the repair work on the Welsh/Orient slide. Council was forced to have this individual escorted out of the meeting by Inspector McClellan.

PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: They were busy cutting grass and spraying weed around town. They contacted Larry Urban and had the pit work completed. They replaced a pole in the park, took some classes, and cut back some weeds along the streets. We are having issues finding white paint, there is no paint in stock anywhere. I asked him to call Pitt Industrial and Caroline can give us an update.

C. LANG: I called them today and they said the same thing, there is no white paint to be found anywhere. It has not been available for several months.

S. SHURGOT: the problem is that they cannot get the chemicals to produce the containers that hold the paint.

ENGINEER – L. HEMPHILL: I just got this report as Dave has been in the hospital all day. The Welsh/Orient Slide CD portion has been awarded and should be underway in the next 2-3 weeks. The county is requesting new pictures of the homes that need to be torn down and once those are complete, we should be able to bid for the CITF portion. For the CD 47 Station Street sidewalk project we are still waiting on TCVCOG to get the grant agreement. The state Blight Grant asbestos reports have been completed and we are just

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waiting on the grant agreement. Bids were opened for the Morningside slide, and we recommend that the project be awarded to Lawson Excavating at a cost of \$88,025.00.

P. SHURGOT: is there a time frame for them to complete this project and if they go over are we awarded any compensation?

L. HEMPHILL: yes, there is a timeline in place, and it was included in the bid specifications, It also states that you will be compensated if the project goes over for any unseen reasons.

P. SHURGOT/K. BELIN TO AWARD THE MORNINGSIDE SLIDE PROJECT TO LAWSON EXCAVATING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$88,025 TO BE PAID OUT OF THE PLGIT SEWER FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

L. HEMPHILL: The utility patches on Sprague and Station were from WPJWA and are scheduled for permanent repair the week of August 1st. Peoples gas is looking at the patch at Morningside and Summit, but they said they have not done work there since 2012. We will continue to look into this. Ice plant hill drainage problems are under review. There was a meeting in East McKeesport on July 28th, but North Versailles, Allegheny County and Brandywine Agency did not show. There will be a follow up meeting later in August. Lastly, CDE 48 pre applications are due September 10th. The unfunded projects from last year were the municipal building ADA ramp, the VFD driveway and Retaining Wall and the retaining walls on Card & Sprague. Dave recommends applying for some paving to be done and also you can apply for your local share of the GTRP park grant.

C. LANG: I had sent out some emails regarding the CD 48 along with what we were discussing on the Keystone Communities Grant and the T-Mobile grant. I had sent everyone a copy of the project funded last year and most of it was road reconstruction, so Dave does suggest that we move forward with that. The walls on Card & Sprague are too expensive and he does not feel that we will be awarded that large of an amount.

J. THOMAS: What is the Boroughs local share?

C. LANG: for the CD grants it is zero.

S. SHURGOT: We agree to go with the street paving, the funding of the GTRP, and the ADA ramp at the Borough Building. We will then go through with the Keystone communities and the T-Mobile grant as Caroline is already working with Dave.

G. JAKUB: I had asked for you to take a look at the retaining wall next to the daycare center. They filled it in with stone but there is nothing supporting the weight of the parking lot.

L. HEMPHILL: I do remember going and looking at that, but I will talk this over with Dave and give you a recommendation.

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: NO REPORT but looking at this funding list from 2021 there are multiple communities that got approved for mor than one grant, did we not apply for anything?

C. LANG: last year we applied for the Station Street sidewalks, the VFD retaining wall and driveway, the retaining walls on Card and Sprague and the ADA ramp here at the building.

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BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: Davey tree was here today but had to stop due to the storms. He will give me a call tomorrow about returning to finish the job. I received a quote from Mike Smith to repair the railing on the steps from Airbrake to Middle and have it completed by the end of August.

J. HARTZELL: is he using the railing that is there?

K. MAXWELL: Yes, he is going to try and remove the broken pieces and fill in the holes then repair the railing. He may need to install brackets, but he is not sure.

K. MAXWELL/J. THOMAS TO HAVE MIKE SMITH REPAIR THE RAILING ON AIRBRAKE AVENUE AT A COST OF \$650.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: I had called but he is really busy so I will touch base with him again.

UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL: Caroline did you get the invoice for the streetlights.

C. LANG: yes, and Steve just signed the check.

J. THOMAS: We need to put the bid out for garbage.

J. HARTZELL: Is there any changes that need to be made?

S. SHURGOT: no one got back to Caroline's email.

J. HARTZELL/K. MAXWELL TO ADVERTISE GARBAGE CONTRACT WITH CHANGES DISCUSSED AND ADD E-WASTE AS A SEPARATE CHARGE TWICE A YEAR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: I have 2 ordinances to discuss. The first is Ordinance 1047 providing for the updating of standardized codes for buildings and construction in the borough: amending ordinance No 996:

J. HARTZELL/K. MAXWELL TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1047. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

G. EVASHAVIK: the second is Ordinance No. 1048 An ordinance providing for further implementation of the 2015 International Fire Code; providing for the authority of a fire marshal and fire code official; providing for mandatory annual inspections of commercial properties and multi-unit residential properties; definitions; providing for fees and penalties.

J. HARTZELL/K. MAXWELL TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 1048. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS: the way Caroline drew up this agenda sheet she is following new guidelines from the state that go into effect next month.

J. THOMAS / L. KIRK TO PAY ALL AUTHORIZED BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,918.80 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, \$5,468.75 FROM THE SEWAGE FUND AND \$5,347.37 FROM THE MOTOR LICENSE FUND.

K. MAXWELL: when is the last time we raised this?

J. THOMAS: ALCOSAN does it for them every year, but we have not done it for at least 5-7 years.

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RECREATION/PLANNING – K. BELIN: We had National Night Out last week, and I think it turned out well, we made about \$75.00 from Chinese Auction Baskets. Nothing for Planning.

OLD BUSINESS:

P. SHURGOT: The trees on Station Street are dead and the weeds and trees on Westinghouse are overgrown. Caroline, can you send them a letter regarding these matters?

C. LANG: The ones on Station Street should be removed soon but I will send a letter.

NEW BUSINESS:

J. THOMAS: during National Night Out one of the discs that cover the electrical in the park then adjacent to the lot in the Post Office there is a metal plate that covers some utilities. Tony called BC Electric about our issue and was able to find out that the sidewalk issue is theirs and they both will be replaced by Duquesne Light.

J. HARTZELL/L. KIRK TO FOLLOW THE CDC GUIDELINES ON MASK FOR ALL BOROGUH EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS TO THE BOROUGH BUILDING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

K. BELIN: there is an access panel on the corner of Card and Lydia, and it is cracked, can we have the Engineer go look at that?

MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I am meeting with a company called Pittmoss. They have a material to replace peatmoss and they want to do a marketing campaign with a small municipality. So, I'm going to meet with them. I am forming a committee with residents to do a town pick up on more of a regular basis and there will be some changes in the Castle environment. More to come next month.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: we will be reconvening the crime watch meetings the second Tuesday of the month as of October.

K. MAXWELL MOTION TO ADJORN AT 8:14 P.M.