

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2019 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.

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

**REV. D. REEVES / P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2019 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**S. SHURGOT:** due to the meeting change we are going to let the Solicitor give his report so he can head to another meeting.

**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** the deed was prepared for the property along St. Joseph Drive. It was signed by the council president tonight and I will have it notarized and send it back to Caroline. She will then contact him and he must sign and take it to be recorded. He must verify this once it has been done and it will be a taxable property. The only other item I have was a request from the attorney of Red Knot Life, which is an entity that purchased a lot of properties and has asked for tax relief. I responded at the request of council indicating that we are unable to give any tax breaks or forgive delinquent taxes as that would be special treatment. The response was sent on July 8<sup>th</sup> and I have not heard anything back.

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**J. MAURIZZI, OWNER OF ANGIE'S RESTAURANT ON MIDDLE AVENUE:** the building on my side of Middle Avenue has been condemned or something. The building is under investigation and now it is starting to lean onto our building. The chimney has fallen in and I am concerned and just want to know what the process is from here.

**S. SHURGOT:** if the building inspector looks at the house and deems it unsafe we will send out our engineer to look at it. If he believes it is condemnable we will approach the property owner and see what they can do or we will put it on the condemnation list but right now there is no extra money for condemnation so it could be like that for years.

**J. MAURIZZI:** so you don't even get the \$8000.00 a year anymore?

**S. SHURGOT:** no they took that away

**G. JAKUB:** and they added a new charge to test for asbestos and soon they will add to test for lead based paint. What used to cost \$8000.00 will now cost more like \$12000.00

**S. SHURGOT:** if it's deemed unsafe we can have the engineer come to take a look at it and upon his recommendation we can condemn it and put some pressure on the homeowner.

**P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO HAVE THE ENGINEER INVESTIGATE ALONG WITH AL TO DETERMINE IF THIS IS A CONDEMNABLE STRUCTURE. MEMBERS VOTED, 7-0.**

**J. GIRAD, 348 STATION STREET:** I'm not sure what council can do about my situation but I wanted to enlighten you about what's going on with Station Street Condos. There is no more association. It's not

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

mismanagement it is a matter of people not paying the monthly fee for insurance and landscaping. The insurance on the property has been canceled because the premiums are not being paid. When I moved in there were strict bylaws that you had to follow but now there is nothing.

**LT. MCCLELLAN:** we took a complaint on this and they have a president who is collecting the fees. We checked into the financials and all the money is there, the problem is no one is paying.

**J. GIRAD:** I understand this is a civil matter but I thought you may be concerned because this is happening on the main street. The bylaws also had a strict policy against renting your unit. Now there are several rentals. I thought the bylaws were a binding contract. I also have a concern with the trees and I was told that the Borough planted those.

**S. SHURGOT:** we would have to look at the drawings but I believe they were planted by the developer and would be the responsibility of the homeowner.

**J. HARTZELL:** I believe when they were first draw up that it said you can't rent those units, you must live in them for at least 10 years. Maybe you can have Greg look over the old deeds.

**S. SHURGOT:** but now its past 15 years so does that change it.

**J. HARTZELL:** well if it's a new owner then they would not be able to rent, they would have to live in the property.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The CIAC in conjunction with Compass Bank would like plant trees along the 200 and 300 block of Westinghouse Avenue, across from the park.

**P. SHURGOT:** when they originally planted was there anything saying that the CIAC was going to maintain them?

**C.LANG:** no not that I'm aware of.

**J. THOMAS:** we only discussed the height of them not the maintenance of them.

**E. BARRETT:** they will be ornamental trees.

**J. HARTZELL:** isn't that private property, in front of the apartment building don't they own to the curb?

**P. SHURGOT/REV. REEVES TO RECEIVE AND FILE UNTILL INVESTIGATED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

2. Doris Killing resigned from the zoning board. This resignation will leave a vacancy on the zoning Board.

**S. SHURGOT:** I feel we should send her a letter thanking her for her time and advertise for the vacancy.

**P. SHURGOT/K. PETERSON TO ADVERTISE FOR THE VACANCY ON THE ZONING BOARD. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

3. Council has been invited to the open house at the Wilmerding Community Center

**K. PETERSON TO RECEIVE AND FILE.**

4. Invite from Allegheny County & Western PA Association of Township Commissioners for the Fall Conference of Townships, Boroughs, & Authorities held in Erie.

**J. THOMAS TO RECEIVE AND FILE.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK** – the EMS for July responded to 50 calls and had 32 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.3 minutes and for non-emergences was 9.5 minutes.

The fire department did not send their report due to the change in the meeting dates, they were unaware it was Monday. I would like to thank them, they were a big help with the "Sound the Alarm" event that we had. They partnered with the Red Cross, Al Hussey, Crime Watch, Allegheny County Police and Eastern Area. They installed 118 smoke detectors and gave out 33 that were not installed.

**LT. MCCLELLAN:** for the month of July we had 375 events which included 3 abandoned vehicles, 9 animal complaints, 1 burglary, 1 criminal mischief, 13 domestic disputes, 2 DUI, 3 vehicle crashes, 4 thefts, 127 traffic stops, and 1 warrant. There were 28 arrests made that included 2 narcotics, 3 DUI, 2 fugitive, 3 simple assault, 1 theft, 1 public intox, 1 habitual offender, 3 accidents involving injury, 2 disorderly conduct, 3 PFA violations, and 1 resisting arrest. We also did a traffic survey on Station Street due to numerous complaints of speeding. I tracked around 200 cars and the average speed is 26 mph.

**L. KIRK:** crime watch we will be doing a bake sale at Nation Night Out.

**PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT:** We have posted on the sign and on Savvy Citizen that we are hiring a laborer but I feel we need to advertise more. To put it in the post-Gazette and on Monster the cost would be around \$800.00. The other option is Craigslist for \$25.00 but I'm not sure that is the way to go.

**L. KIRK:** have we tried Indeed

**P. SHURGOT:** yes and it was terrible. No one that applied the last time had any experience.

**K. PETERSON/L. KIRK TO ADVERTISE ON CRAIGSLIST FOR \$25.00.**

**P. SHURGOT:** I would like a roll call vote for the \$25.00 advertisement on Craigslist.

**L. KIRK – YES**

**K. MAXWELL – NO**

**S. SHURGOT – NO**

**K. PETERSON – YES**

**P. SHURGOT – NO**

**REV. REEVES – YES**

**J. THOMAS – NO**

**L. KIRK:** what about the Times Express?

**P. SHURGOT:** Caroline please get prices for that.

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

**K. PETERSON** – Can we check into a vocation school or Bidwell?

**P. SHURGOT:** Tony does not need a student come winter. He needs someone who has some experience.

**K. PETERSON:** I'm not talking about a student but someone who has graduated.

**K. MAXWELL:** I think we may need to change the ad and hire a Full time employee; nobody wants a part time job like that.

**P. SHURGOT:** it is in the budget for a Full time laborer.

**S. SHURGOT:** that's fine but where are we going to advertise it. There are no papers anymore so you have to pay the cost to advertise online.

**J. THOMAS:** I think we need to look into the idea of contracting out the work.

**S. SHURGOT:** I understand that but we can't just have 1 guy for all the responsibilities. Let's have Caroline research a couple things and see what we can come up with.

**P. SHURGOT:** they have been cutting grass, cleaning up trash, painting stop bars and Tony inspected the inlets so we could move forward with the 2019 Inlet repairs. There are five (5) that we are looking into fixing. One (1) at Station Street and Herman, one (1) at Card avenue and Station Street, two (2) at Marguerite and Frank, and one (1) on Orient Avenue.

**J. GIRAD:** can you make sure that the contractor does not park on the sidewalk; they did that in the past and damaged my sidewalk.

**J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO ADVERTISE FOR THE REPAIR OF 5 INLETS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**ENGINEER – A. PRINCE:** There were two (2) items that Dave spoke of when he gave his report. A motion would be I order for soil and Rock testing in the amount of \$16,466.00 which is the starting point for the repairs on Orient Avenue.

**P. SHURGOT/K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE OF \$16,466.00 FROM PA ROCK AND SOIL AND HAVE THEM PERFORM THE SOIL TESTING AND ENGINEER DESIGN FOR THE ORIENT AVENUE SLIDE STABILIZATION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**A. PRINCE:** The bids were opened today for the Herman Avenue Sewer Separation Project; the low bid was from Soil Construction in the amount of \$160,880.00. We recommend that the Borough awards this project to Soil Construction.

**P. SHURGOT:** Is there going to be a timeline for this project?

**A. PRINCE:** Usually they will give an estimated length for the project. I will double check on that and make sure it is added.

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

**P. SHURGOT/K. PETERSON TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM SOIL CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,880.00 PENDING QUESTION REGARDING THE LENGTH OF THE PROJECT AND THE ADDITION OF A FINE IF THE PROJECT IS POSTPONED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**G. JAKUB:** is there anything further with the paver stones on Herman Avenue.

**S. SHURGOT:** That is the Grow Project and is has been put on hold for the time being.

**COG REPORT – K. PETERSON:** NO REPORT

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK:** Pat Mews Playground project will be getting done soon, the concrete in the maintenance garage was inspected and he gave a quick report on that, the sidewalks on Westinghouse Avenue have been looked at to see if we are going to do the Belgium block or go with concrete and I asked Dave to take a look at that for a possible grant. The WCC fitness equipment has been delivered and they are having an open house on August 24 from 2pm to 6pm. St Joe's Lodge replaces the tree in the park that was destroyed by one of the storms.

**UTILITIES – K. PETERSON:** No report

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / K. MAXWELL TO PAY ALL AUTHORIZED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO ACCFEPT THE SHACOG SALT BID FROM CARGILL AT \$82.24/TON. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** They were out from Duquesne Light for the LED conversion, we changed the plan a little bit, and we will be doing 6 on Sprague Street coming down from the North Versailles line, 2 on Summit, and 2 going down the hill on Station Street. I would like to meet with the finance committee so we can decide who to take to court for the garbage. Also, I would like to thank Nancy Ronallo for purchasing the new flag for the Fire truck.

**RECREATION – K. MAXWELL:** National Night Out is tomorrow, Spitfirez will start serving food at 5, Kona ice will be her, there will be a bounce house, games, and Jimmy Bacco will be the DJ. I am still working on getting food trucks for Octoberfest but most of them are booked. The Fire Department was supposed to work with me but it may not happen, we will still be doing Halloween and something for the kids.

**PLANNING – REV. REEVES:** there was no meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**P. SHURGOT:** there is a sewer on the corner of the alley and Herman Avenue by the school, can we add that to the project.

**J. THOMAS:** yes, it needs done.

**P. SHURGOT/J. THOMAS TO ADD THE INLET ON THE CORNER OF THE ALLEY AND HERMAN AVENUE TO THE 2019 INLET PROJECT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

**MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB:** NOTHING

**K. PETERSON MOTION TO ADJORN AT 8:01 P.M.**