

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2023, REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; JOE HARTZELL, present; LEAHMANDA BARNES, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEVE VOLPE, present; KELLY MAXWELL. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB WAS ABSENT.

L. BARNES/S. VOLPE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2023, MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

a. We received 2 letters of interest for the vacant council position, John Marcoz and Turner Seibles.

K. MAXWELL: we can schedule for Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 6:30 and 7:00.

b. Westinghouse Arts Academy has requested to use the park on May 28, 2023, from 10-6 for Art in the Park.

L. KIRK: last year they had things lined up along the pathways and in the center. Can we tell them they cannot use the monument area since we will be prepared for our Monday service?

L. KIRK/J. HARTZELL TO ALLOW THE USE OF THE PARK FOR ART IN THE PARK ON MAY 28, 2023, WITH THE RESTRICTION DISCUSSED. MEMBERS VOTED 6-0.

c. Westinghouse Arts Academy has requested the use of the park for a Festival to be held June 22-June 25. They are requesting the closure of Westinghouse Avenue from Commerce to Herman from June 21-June 26 for a summer community arts festival.

L. BARNES: they need the whole road closed because of the size of the stage that is being brought in.

J. THOMAS: we always did that when we had Community Days, so I see no problem with it.

L. KIRK/L. BARNES TO ALLOW THE USAGE OF THE PARK FROM JUNE 22-JUNE 25 AND THE CLOSURE OF WESTINGHOUSE AVENUE FROM COMMERCE STREET TO HERMAN AVENUE FROM JUNE 21-JUNE 26 FOR A SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

d. We need to ratify the vote that was done by email to have Wreckcrew do the demolition at 530-532 airbrake Avenue. The cost of this emergency demolition was \$32,450.00.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO AWARD WRECKCREW THE DEMOLITION OF 530-532 AAIRBRAKE AVENUE ATA COST OF \$32,450.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

e. We received a resignation letter from Rev. Michael Reed who is stepping down from the planning Committee.

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J. HARTZELL/L. BARNES TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF REV. MICHAEL REED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: For the month of April Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services responded to 47 calls and made 31 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 7.4 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 12.4 minutes. The fire department responded to 33 calls, 11 in town and 22 out of town. They had 3 work details, 4 trainings and 12 maintenance hours.

DETECTIVE CARUSO: I would like to say that the Easter Brunch was very nice and the catering company was great. We had 94 calls, pretty much the same as normal. We have removed 2 cars and we have 10 more that will be removed soon.

J. HARTZELL: on Watkins Avenue can you look at a parking concern? The car is parked so close to the car in front that they cannot get out. Also, I received a complaint that the police didn't follow up on a call he made about a dog that killed a cat.

C. LANG: an officer went to the ladies' home twice, but she did not answer, the officer did leave his card.

DETECTIVE CARUSO: I also followed up because I was told there was a video but once again, she did not answer the door.

J. HARTZELL: My other complaint is regarding the parking on the yellow lines still. This is continuing to happen especially at Johnny's.

DETECTIVE CASUSO: I have been ticketing people and personally went through a whole book. I will continue to keep an eye on that specific area.

BOROUGH PROPERTIES – L. KIRK: We had to call Slack in to repair the upper garage door that would not close, the trees have been removed and pruned and our chairs are here.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: I will just refer to my report that is for February, March, and April.

J. HARTZELL: I've noticed that there are a lot of dumpsters on the streets, do we have permits for all of those?

A. HUSSEY: yes, all except the POD on Commerce and that has been removed.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. HARTZELL: aside from the normal duties they did put the chairs together. We received 3 applications for Summer work. We can set up to interview them on Tuesday as well.

ENGINEER – B. BRANTHOVER: the demolition of 530-532 Airbrake is underway, they have the building down and did the void inspection so that will be completed soon. As far as Ice Plant Hill storm water, the plan is to have a meeting with the County, North Versailles, and East McKeesport to discuss repairs needed to the stormwater line on Ice Plant Road. East McKeesport will fund the repairs but is concerned about future maintenance. The GEDTF grant for paving, we received \$50,000.00 for paving and Council decided to go with Commerce Street with the addition of the trench drain. I wanted to get a new cost for this, and the updated

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estimate came in at \$42,000.00 so there will be a little money needed from the Borough to complete the project. We are still waiting for COG to receive the contracts. The 2023 GTRP opened in February. I would like to get a vote but need to go over the scope; concrete prices have gone up so doing everything the cost of the full scope is approximately \$230,000.00. If we take out the interior sidewalks the cost would be \$130,000.00. I suggest that we do this in phases, sometimes these grant advisors like to see that.

L. KIRK/S. VOLPE TO APPLY FOR ELECTRICAL UPGRADES AND NEW LIGHT POLES, THIS WILL BE LISTED AS PHASE ONE, UNDER THE GTRP GRANT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

B. BRANTHOVER: we were awarded a 2022 LSA grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 which we discussed before the meeting. I have been talking to a representative a Peoples and I am working on getting the paving repaired on Watkins, Middle, State, and Lilac Alley.

COG – J. HARTZELL: We discussed the code enforce program and they are getting a student to help out and work on a handbook. They are trying to get non college bound students to work and gain experience in code enforcement. They have asked the county to increase the \$7500.00 stipend which has not been increased in years. There has been no response from Brewster’s office regarding the extra money the state has. There is a home repair program administered through Action housing and qualifying homeowners are eligible for up to \$50,000.00 in home repairs. They would like to do a feasibility study on merging fire services.

UTILITIES – L. BARNES: I’m still looking for a map with street names and addresses. They are continuing to install the LEDs in places that we do not have them.

J. HARTZELL: is that a free program?

L. BARNES: yes, I was told about it at the conference so I just need to know where we need them.

SOLICITOR – N. EVASHAVIK: I have nothing for this month.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO MOVE MONEY, IF NEEDED, AND PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$156,232.09 FROM GENERAL FUND, AND \$7,857.50 FROM PLGIT SEWAGE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

J. THOMAS: some other totals for you year to date we have collected \$65,024.93 in real estate taxes, \$11,793.02 in delinquent tax, \$1,336.90 in delinquent garbage, \$44,906.00 in RAD, \$33,033.76 in deed transfers, \$39,135.49 in EIT, and \$2,940.574 in LST.

RECREATION – S. VOLPE: who sets up for Memorial Day?

K. MAXWELL: the mayor and I will be there, I will go purchase flowers and have public works plant them, and Caroline has taken care of setting everyone up who usually attends.

S. VOLPE: I am working on setting up a meeting to start planning the National Night Out.

PLANNING –

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OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: absent

S. VOLPE MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:04 P.M.