

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM JUNE 6, 2023, REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: JOSEPH HARTZELL, present; TURNER SEIBLES, present; LINDA KIRK, present; STEVE VOLPE, present; LEAHMANDA BARNES, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

J. HARTZELL/J. THOMAS TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2023, AND THE MAY 17, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

D. LAGORGA AIRBRAKE AVE: 708 Middle Avenue is really bad; the weeds are overgrown, and the porch is caving in.

K. MAXWELL: Al can you check that out and get back to me tomorrow?

M. FITE PAT MEWS DRIVE: 124 Pat Mews Drive has only been mowed once this year and I've seen our code officer drive by. Also, I heard that the last time he cut the grass that Mr. Hussey rewarded him for cutting his grass.

A. HUSSEY: yes, if that's what you want to call it, he has mental issues and is always compliant when I address a situation, so I gave him a Gatorade and a honey bun.

M. FITE: the stop sign on the corner of Avenue U and Watkins is really faded and hard to see with all of the other signs in that area. Can they be rearranged?

K. MAXWELL: the other signs are County or PennDOT signs and we cannot do anything with those, but we will get a new stop sign.

J. CERESA SPRAGE STREET: Memorial Day service was fantastic but there weren't a lot of people. I have a garage on Morningside and there is a Mulberry tree that comes 9 ft over the road. I've seen the road crew up there, but they didn't go to the left of the road. In the past that area always got taken care of several times a year but this year they haven't been there at all. At the very end of Sprague Street, the last set of steps, the railing is rotted and there are other pieces missing.

G. JAKUB: Al can you go up and verify what is missing so we can have someone take a look at it? Also, Jim and I have spoken regarding an abandoned vehicle sitting near the last garage on Sprague. The back window is broken and there is garbage piled up around it. Tara is looking into it for us.

D. WALLS STATION STREET: I was wondering if there is anything that can be done about the trains idling behind the home, sometimes they are filled with garbage and sit there for hours.

G. JAKUB: I have a contact that I will reach out to, but I cannot promise you anything.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK: for the month of May Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 44 calls and had 24 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 8.5 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 10.3 minutes. Steve Shurgot is retiring after over 40 years of service. Alan Hitchins and Jeremy Goldstein will be taking over his responsibilities.

The Fire Department responded to 40 calls, 12 in town, 27 out of town, 4 work details, 4 trainings, and 19 maintenance hours.

Unfortunately, Chief Farally is unable to attend tonight, he had an accident earlier today while apprehending a suspect and was getting checked out.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: We just received the invoice for the trees that were removed on Avenue U.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: I will ask everyone to refer to my report.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. HARTZELL: Everyone has a copy of his report and can see that he has been pretty busy. One summer helper started yesterday, and we have one other that we are waiting on the drug test to come back. Dom is on vacation this week.

ENGINEER -B. BRANTHOVER: the demolition of 530-532 Airbrake has been completed. Ice Plant Hill is still in the works, the plan is to finish up the design and meet with the County, North Versailles, East McKeesport and someone from the Borough to discuss what will be going on. There is an issue right now pertaining to one of the lines and the repairs that may be needed. East McKeesport doesn't want to fund the project and then be responsible for repairs forever.

J. HARTZELL: BACK IN 1978 THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT THAT STATED THE North Versailles Sanitary Authority would take care of those lines. I have a copy that you can take a look at.

B. BRANTHOVER: The GEDTF paving money that was going to be used for the catch basin and Commerce is still held up and waiting on contracts. The 2023 GTRP grant for park improvement has been submitted for phase 1 electrical upgrades. Right after we submitted this were informed that we were awarded \$35,023 from CD-49 for park improvements. We do not want to mess with the electrical since we put the other grant application in, but we can probably do the pavers stones with this funding. The 2022 LSA grant which will be used on Patton Street and a portion of Marguerite is in process, but we are waiting for approval to do bids. Act 152 is now open and we have a list of 10 properties that I can submit if council agrees.

J. THOMAS: I thought there was going to be a certain amount of money given to each municipality?

B. BRANTHOVER: I thought that was the way it started but now it seems that things are changing. You can apply for all of them and reduce the scope you do not get the funding. I reached out to Peoples Gas, and they will be paving Watkins, Middle, and State.

J. THOMAS: can you take a look at the hump in Welsh Avenue that has formed on the 300 Block of Welsh Avenue?

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C. LANG: this area was in the slide plane from the Orient slide. We had core samples done and Dave has said that the slide was undermining the road. The curbs are pushed out and the retaining wall is cracking. The repair for the slide included drainage on Orient and Wood Street along with the demolition of 2 homes on Wood.

B. BRANTHOOVER: I will take a look at it and get some information together.

COG REPORT – T. SEIBLES:

J. HARTZELL: The county has money that they are giving in a Whole Home Repair Program grant to residents, COG is discussing the paid fire service merger. The old Pennsylvania COG has disbanded, and they are putting together a new one, they hired a part time office staffer and a part time code officer. There was a guy from the Allegheny Places that came to talk about the Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan. They want public officials to take the survey so they can begin to work on their comprehensive plan. They will be off for the rest of the summer.

UTILITIES – L. BARNES: I wanted to know if we could add information to our newsletter about reporting streetlight outages.

C. LANG: I can and there is also a website that anyone can go on to report this information.

L. BARNES: We also have a lot of lights covered with trees; shouldn't Duquesne Light be cutting these trees back?

J. HARTZELL: Al can you look at these [properties on the 600 Block of Airbrake, their back yards are overgrowing into Middle Avenue. Last month you mentioned a program that Duquesne Light was doing to replace the old lights with LEDs at no cost.

L. BARNES: yes, this is free and all you have to do is call it in and they will replace it.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: nothing

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$156,232.09 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, AND \$7,857.50 FROM THE PLGIT SEWAGE FUND. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: a few other figures that I like to share for year to date are:

RAD - \$56,817.00
Deed Transfer - \$2,290.06
EIT - \$58,282.96
LST - \$7,092.56
Real Estate - \$27,9203.41
Delinquent Real Estate - \$20,047.72
Delinquent Garbage - \$2,885.01

RECREATION – S. VOLPE: we are going to have a meeting soon for the National Night Out and Josh can give some other information.

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J. LAFACE: we are hoping to have some movies in the park and I'm going to work with Caroline to get it posted in the newsletter. Also, for National Night Out I wanted to know if the police are going to want to have the event in Pitcairn this year since we had it here last year?

G. JAKUB: no, they will supply officers for us and for Pitcairn if they do an event.

PLANING – T. SEIBLES:

K. MAXWELL: since this is Turners first meeting, we will catch him up on everything.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

K. MAXWELL: We have the Planning Committees Comprehensive Plan that was sent to all of council for review. If you have any questions, please ask now.

J. HARTZELL: it says that the resident took a survey, how many residents did you poll?

J. TOMASIC: most of them were verbal and there were around 48 I would say.

J. HARTZELL: 48 out of the whole town and several of the ones you named do not even live in town.

J. LAFACE: we sent handwritten letters to Caroline and Kelly to distribute to every one of you on council.

K. MAXWELL: I never received a letter.

C. LANG: I never received a letter either.

J. LAFACE: I sent it in March or April.

J. HARTZELL: I just want to know what questions were on the survey.

J. LAFACE: there was no survey, you're talking about the planning process, and I invited everyone to a workshop, and we talked about feedback that Joyce has compiled over the last several years. A part of the plan includes a survey in the future.

J. HARTZELL: some of this plan we know is needed but it takes funding to fix things.

J. LAFACE: how do we get money anyways, like the money to tear down these homes?

J. HARTXELL: that is all done by grants.

J. LAFACE: basically investments, so we want to use some of that money to start programs like a Blight task force to put together a list of these homes, the Borough does not have a list with this information, so we are trying to use this plan to help out with some of these initiatives.

Reverend from St John Baptist Church: Right outside the church on Bridge Street our sidewalk is in falling apart so we are asking for the Borough to fix this.

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J. HARTZELL: we do not repair sidewalks, our Ordinance states we are only responsible for repairs curb to curb.

K. MAXWELL: at this time, I would ask for a motion to table this for further discussion.

L. BARNES/J. HARTZELL TO TABLE THE PLANNING COMMITTEES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB: I will talk to the Chief regarding the stop signs, we have had a discussion in regard to the stop sign at the bottom of Ice Plant and determined that sign will need to be moved. The officers have been giving warnings but will be giving tickets as well so the officers will be moving around to different locations. Also, the cameras in the park have been repaired.

L. BARNES/S.VOLPE MOTION TO ADJOURN at 8:02 p.m.