

WILMERDING BOROUGH
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2023, MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:03 pm.

K. MAXWELL: council met in an executive session to discuss personnel.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

L. BARNES/J. HARTZELL TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2023, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

NANCY RONALLO - PAT MEWS DRIVE: I just want to thank Joe Hartzell for taking care of the graffiti under the bridge. I'm sorry for all of that on Facebook but wanted to just say that you are the only one I see driving around checking things out.

JOHN BUCKAVAK – PAT MEWS DRIVE: There has been nothing done with the field behind Watkins that I told you about last year. I took a drive on this side of town and from Miller to 2nd Street there are 21 houses with overgrown grass. The Alley behind Watkins still has 2 abandoned vehicles parked into the alley because the hedges are so overgrown where they are parked. The weeds are so overgrown in that alley as well and the house on the corner has carpet on the back roof that has been there over a year.

K. MAXWELL: I will take a ride around town with Al this week. Some of those properties are vacant and we can't find owners. Leins cost us money that we will never recover.

N. RONALLO: you need to go down Lilac Alley, the garbage is gross and the whole alley stinks.

J. BUCAVAK: I would like to thank the Chief for working on cleaning up my neighbor's property.

CHIEF FARALLY: I will look into those 2 cars.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Ratify an email vote to initiate an insurance claim at the WCC for a tree that fell into power lines.

J. HARTZELL/S. VOLPE TO RATIFY THIS EMAIL VOTE FOR THE INSURANCE CLAIM AT THE WCC. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- b. We received a letter from David Markoff who is interested in filling the open position on the Zoning Hearing Board.

J. HARTZELL/S. VOLPE TO ADD DAVID MARKOFF TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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- c. Application from Wilmerding Historical Society to use the Park on August 26 for a Flea Market and book sale.

L. BARNES/L. KIRK TO APPROVAL THE USE OF THE WILMERDING PARK ON AUGUST 26, 2023. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- d. Mortgage satisfaction for property at 326 Station Street

G. EVASHAVIK: Wilmerding Borough was a participant of a 3rd party mortgage program for the townhomes on Station Street. I checked everything out and this has been paid off and now this property is for sale so council needs to vote to satisfy this.

S. VOLPE/ J. HARTZELL TO APPROVE THIS SATISFACTION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 326 STATION STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- e. We received insurance renewals for our Liability at \$32253.00 and Workers Comp insurance at \$13021.00.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO RENEW BOTH POLICIES AT THE QUOTED PRICES OF \$32253.00 FOR LIABILITY AND \$13021.00 FOR WORKERS COMP. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- f. Letter from Deborah Wolski who is interested in filling the opening on the Planning Committee.

J. HARTZELL/L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE LETTER FROM DEBORAH WOLSKI AND AWARD THER THE VACANT SEAT ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

- g. Resolution of Wilmerding Borough stating that we would like to be included in the Allegheny County Community Development Block Grant and Home Improvement Partnership Programs for the years 2024,2025, and 2026.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AND CONTIUE IN THE CD GRANTS AND THE HOME INVENSTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR 3 YEARS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK –EMS for August shows 42 calls and 26 transports. The average emergency response time of 8.7 minutes and non-emergency 11.0 minutes. Fire department responded to 31 calls, 14 in town, 17 out of town, 2 work details, 4 trainings, and 19 maintenance hours.

CHIEF FARALLY: there were a total of 112 calls, 92 of those were in Wilmerding. The dog has been out working a lot, we are working on abandoned vehicles and just cleaning things up.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: The WCC had some storm damage in July that took out some electrical lines for the parking lot, a fence, and a railing which we turned over to insurance. We received a bill for the electrical work that had to be completed in the amount of \$975.00 and we are waiting to hear about the fence and the railing.

J. THOMAS: do we have a deductible?

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C. LANG: yes, it is \$1000.00.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: absent, everyone received his report.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. HARTZELL: Everyone received the report, and we have 1 application for a temporary employee, I would like to set up to interview him at the workshop which is next week.

ENGINEER – B. BRANTHOVER: The GEDTF will be advertised soon. I'm preparing the specs and bid documents and hopefully the bid will be advertised and opened in September. The CD49 Wilmerding Park Improvement grant, we are still waiting for details from COG, but we recommend replacing the Belgian block around the monument with these funds. The 2022 LSA grant contracts have been signed and we are preparing the specs and bid documents for advertisement. The plan is to do the reduced scope on Patton and a portion of Marguerite. CD50 grant needs to be discussed and the Pre-Applications are due to COG by September 11. Last year we applied for Wilmerding Park improvements, VFD driveway and Wall, Street Reconstruction, and the Handicap ramp. I will need to know what council would like to try for this year. I recommend that we remove the park improvements since we have applied for another grant and have money to spend right now. I spoke with Molly and she feels that street signs may be eligible for this grant so we can try for those and add catch basins. The Act 152 demolitions will be automatically added to this grant as well. The LSA grant will be open for applications also, but we have till November 30th for that.

J. THOMAS: can we re-apply for a road that we have received money for, like Patton to finish it?

B. BRANTHOVER: yes, we can apply for a second grant since the 1st was not enough for the entire scope. I also worked on a problem at 760 Airbrake with a backed-up sewer issue. I've been in contact with North Versailles to have their camera and vac truck come down. Hopefully this will be resolved next week, and I am working on an RFP for the catch basin at 215/217 Card Avenue that is collapsing so we should be able to take care of that next month.

K. MAXWELL: is there any update to the run-off at the WCC?

B. BRANTHOVER: we have a phase of the project out for bid, but we need to get into the parking lot and inspect those lines that we have found that no one actually knew about.

J. HARTZELL: the issue on Airbrake, could that be caused because the catch basins over there are filled?

B. BRANTHOVER: I mean it could, I would have to take a look at those.

J. HARTZELL: who is in charge of the directional signs that we have at the Bridge?

B. BRANTHOVER: I believe those would be the County, but I will look into it.

COG REPORT – T. SEIBLES: no meeting till September

UTILITIES – L. BARNES: I received a list of streetlights from Caroline and there are a few out that I am aware of. Are the lights in the park a result of the bad electrical in the park?

C. LANG: no those are separate from our power in the park.

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L. BARNES: Ok also there are a lot of houses that have overgrown trees, and they are covering the streetlights. This needs to be resolved.

K. MAXWELL: Duquesne Light comes around every so often and cuts the trees away from the lights. We are not capable of doing that ourselves unless we pay someone to come out.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: nothing

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / L. BARNES TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$132,364.24 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, \$2,740.00 FROM THE PLGIT SEWAGE FUND AND \$6,171.43 FROM THE PLGIT MOTOR LICENSE FUND. ALSO REMOVING THE ASPHALT BILLS FROM THE GENERAL AND PAY THOSE FROM MOTOR LICENSE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS: to go over some other collections for the year:

- RAD - \$84,703.84
- Deed Transfer - \$13,731.81
- EIT - \$75,053.89
- LST - \$7,161.08
- Current Real Estate - \$338,366.65
- Delinquent Real Estate - \$23,819.93
- Delinquent Garbage - \$8,007.70

Caroline added the information from MBM that I moved into an excel spreadsheet so you can look and see who you would like to take to court.

RECREATION/PLANNING – S. VOLPE: We had a good turnout for National Night Out. I want to thank Pitcairn police, Wilmerding Fire Dept, AIU, Wilmerding Council and public works, Westinghouse Arts Academy, Holy angels church, Wilmerding Historical Society, and CIAC. We food from Keystone Catering and Kona Ice. There will be a movie night on August 24th, and I want to thank Josh and Debbie for all their help in these events.

PLANNING – T. SEIBLES: meeting was cancelled.

OLD BUSINESS: - none

NEW BUSINESS: - none

J. HARTZELL: the mayor asked to have that stop sign on Ice Plant but there is nowhere to move it. If we move it down, it will hit the catch basin and to rent the machine for 1 sign it is not feasible.

MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB: absent

S. VOLPE/J. HARTZELL MOTION TO ADJORN AT 7:53 P.M.