

WILMERDING BOROUGH
MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:05 pm.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

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

J. HARTZELL/L. BARNES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2023, MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

JOHN BUKOVAK – PAT MEWS DRIVE: I just wanted thank council for getting the field cut behind Watkins Avenue. I also wanted to know if anyone was able to look at the houses along Middle and Airbrake?

K. MAXWELL: he went through most of them, and you can see several on his report. Some have cut their grass and he left the orange tags for the rest. With the creek bank, no one else was going to cut it so we sent the Borough workers to clean that up.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. We need to ratify a email vote to hire John Kozabal as a temporary employee at a rate of \$19.00/hr. with no benefits.

J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO RATIFY THE HIRING OF JOHN KOZABAL AS A TEMPORARY PUBLIC WORKS EMPOLYEE AT A RATE OF \$19.00/HR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

2. We have a handicap application for Marylyn Hartzell to be placed at 438 Caldwell Avenue.

J. THOMAS/L. BARNES TO PLACE A HANDICAP SIGN FOR MARYLYN HARTZELL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-0, J. HARTZELL OBSTAINED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY - L. KIRK – no fire or EMS report due to the Holiday.

DETECTIVE CARUSO: there were 106 calls, and the call volume is down. The Chief will be away September 12-19 for training with Max. We have towed 5 abandoned vehicles and there are 2 more that should be gone by the end of this week. We did a traffic stop on Middle that resulted in the removal of 300 stamp bags and we will be doing a photo shoot at the castle with the new car and Maxx. The National Night Out was a great event and the Backpack event that Pasquale’s did was fantastic, there were a lot of kids and residents out for both.

J. HARTZELL: Do you know the status of the large truck that has been parked on the road.

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A. HUSSEY: I talked with him last Saturday and he is talking with the school to see about parking in the castle lot.

G. JAKUB: read letter from Chief Farally regarding the Stop sign at Ice Plant and Westinghouse Avenue.

J. HARTZELL: there is a catch basin there and it is not feasible to rent a machine for 1 sign.

K. MAXWELL: can we mark where it would be moved to and then decide?

BOROUGH PROPERTY – L. KIRK: Update on the hollow tree in the park, I will get a quote to take it down and have the stump ground down. We also have quotes for the work that needs to be done at the WCC. The insurance info is in the packet and the deductible for repairs is \$1000.00

L. KIRK/J. THOMAS TO PAY THE ELECTRICAL REPAIR BILL FOR \$975.00 AND NOT TURN THE CLAIM IN TO INSURANCE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: Please refer to my report.

K. MAXWELL: do you have an update on the properties on Middle and Airbrake?

A/ HUSSEY: I will be looking at those again on Thursday along with Mr. Filia's vacant lot.

K. MAXWELL: if the lot is not cut by Friday can you please issue a citation to him.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. HARTZELL: everyone has a copy of the report. Please let me know if you are going to have them do something because he is telling me about stuff and I don't know what he is doing.

ENGINEER – BRAD BRANTHOVER: GEDTF paving for Commerce bids will be opened on the 12th at the COG. We are applying for a bunch of grants right now. Card Avenue inlet RFP's were opened today and we received 2 bids. One came in with an error in price so I am not sure if we need to rebid this or not.

G. EVASHAVIK: the bidder will need to submit a revised bid with a letter stating that there was a misprint on the original submission. You can vote now just stating that that "once the revised bid comes in"

J. THOMAS/L. KIRK TO AWARD THE RFP FOR CARD AVENUE INLET TO CREATIVE ENTERPRISES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7250.00 PENDING NEW SUBMISSION OF REVISION DUE TO TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

B. BRANTHOVER: we resolved the catch basin problem on Airbrake Avenue. We had North Versailles come down and camera it and found tree roots in the line but also there is some issues inside the business as well. I also did look into the property on Patton and forwarded my findings to Caroline to pass onto council.

K. MAXWELL: any update on the water situation in East McKeesport?

B. BRANTHOVER: There was a bid opening for the prelim work and there was not a single bid returned. They will have to readvertise for that. They need to camera and find out where the lines are running to basically open up the inlets along the roadway to catch more of the runoff.

K. MAXWELL: this time it came over the wall and down the hill washing onto Westinghouse.

WILMERDING BOROUGH

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

B. BRANTHOOVER: I am not fully involved in this project, but I will see what I can find out about it.

COG REPORT – T. SIEBLES: no meeting yet.

J. HARTZELL: we have a save the date for October 18th for elected officials and fire officials talking about the reorganization of the fire department.

G. JAKUB: October 10th there is a meeting with Norfolk Southern and Emergency Management for a meeting to go over the safety and program that we have access to.

UTILITIES – L. BARNES: nothing to report.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: nothing to report.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / L. BARNES TO PAY BILLS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TOTALING \$15,928.88 AND FROM THE PLGIT SEWAGE FUND TOTALING \$98,761.94. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 6-0.

J. THOMAS: monthly update on income for the year we have collected \$96,772.46 in RAD, \$13,731.81 in deed transfer, \$93,819.86 in EIT, \$8,661.08 in LST, \$355,183.33 in Real Estate, \$26,311.88 in Delinquent Real estate, and \$9,715.79 in delinquent garbage. Allegheny Petroleum parcel split has finally showed on the county website, and we will lose \$1600.00, neither have paid to date. I will put a list together for parcels, last year we did 9 and finally they have gone through. The CLR has finally been set at 63.5%. We have to spend some money to get this done so I am just waiting on 1 more property to add to the list.

G. JAKUB: what is the percentage of taxes that we have collected this year?

J. THOMAS: to date Frank has collected about 81%, this is partially due to the non-payment of Wabtec and Allegheny Petroleum.

J. HARTZELL: what is the status of billing the tenants to cover the delinquent taxes?

J. THOMAS: well in our records none of them are delinquent until December 31st, we can go after the ones that Maiello has.

J. HARTZELL: can't we go after them now?

J. THOMAS: Caroline would be able to tell you how many of those properties are occupied but we do not know how many of them may be section 8, they are not responding to our requests for this information.

RECREATION – S. VOLPE – absent

PLANNING – T. SIEBLES– nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

J. THOMAS: Did Sprague Street railings ever get completed?

K. MAXWELL: yes they are done but may still need painted.

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J. THOMAS: is there anymore feedback on the Turtle Creek connector?

L. BARNES: no nothing else.

NEW BUSINESS:

J. THOMAS: any update on the fire?

C. LANG: that will be torn down, just waiting on the insurance information.

L. KIRK: Brad have you contacted the owners of the Patton Street property?

B. BRANTHOVER: no I have not sent anything.

L. KIRK: they need to be told so they can turn it into insurance, the report says that it is an emergency and needs to be rectified in 30 days.

C. LANG: I doubt they have insurance on that, and we have already tore down 1 of theirs so I doubt they will be stepping in to do anything with the other ones.

J. THOMAS: and they owe back taxes on that.

J. HARTZELL: there is a free meeting on September 27 from 12-1 to go over the changes in the Re-organization meeting that will be held in January.

G. EVASHAVIK: I am not aware of any major changes.

MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB: nothing to report

L. BARNES MOTION ADJORN AT 8:00 P.M.