

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

**ROLL CALL:** JOHN MARCOZ present; TURNER SIEBLES, present; JOE HARTZELL, present; STEVE VOLPE, present; LEAHMANDA BARNE present; JOHN THOMAS, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

**J. HARTZELL/S. VOLPE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2024 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:**

**J. MARSALAK, Herman Avenue:** I'm here on behalf of the CIAC. Dennis had sent a letter to the Borough regarding the planting of some trees, and I just wanted to know if council had made a decision on the planting of more trees around the park.

**K. MAXWELL:** we have not talked about it since we tabled the letter that was received toward the end of last year.

**J. HARTZELL:** I thought we wanted to wait until we did the park improvements?

**J. THOMAS:** we have to be very careful and respectful of the size of trees that would be planted. It doesn't sound like it will cost the Borough anything.

**C. LANG:** at the November 14, 2023, meeting the letter was brought to council and they did approve the planting of trees along Westinghouse and Herman as long as the CIAC would maintain the trees after planting.

**K. MAXWELL:** so, we have approved it. I will have Caroline put together a letter for you to take to the CIAC meeting.

**CONNER LOCKLEAR, 244 CARD AVENUE:** I have been getting parking tickets for parking on the sidewalk, but it is actually more like a parking pad. The walkway ends at my property, there are steps that come down and a tree that blocks that other side.

**DETECTIVE CARUSO:** I spoke to them the other day; it looks like it's on the sidewalk, but we do need to decide what to do with this.

**EDITH BARRETT:** to go back to the trees, our ordinance states that the property owner is responsible for the sidewalks and the CIAC only has so many members so how are we supposed to maintain all these trees?

**K. MAXWELL:** the trees are not the issue, it's the shrubs that have been planted alongside the trees so we will approve the trees with no shrubs.

**THERESA HICKMAN, AIRBRAKE AVENUE:** I think we have a great volunteer fire department and the cooperation with the other fire departments in the surrounding area is wonderful. I think we have a great EMS service and excellent police service. I'm proud of the Wilmerding Community Center and the things they are doing for our community and the surrounding communities. I appreciate the seasonal newsletters and I'm pleased with Westinghouse Arts but would like some more information about their activities. I do have 3 concerns though; with WABTEC leaving it leaves a very large building and I suggest the planning commission be reorganized so they can watch what comes of that building. They

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would be able to ensure that we get a good company and then bring it to the council to decide if that business is what the borough wants. I'm also concerned about Emergency Planning and want to know if we still have a plan in place?

**G. JAKUB:** we have to do one every 2 years and submit it to the County. There is a checklist of items we need or have as well as an evacuation route. We even have a new app that shows us what is in the trains that are passing through our town.

**THERESA HICKMAN:** well, I also think you need to have more association with Allegheny County, are we a member of COG, does the representative go to the meetings and report back to council?

**J. HARTZELL:** yes, I go to every meeting and give a report at every council meeting but usually there is nothing at the COG meeting that pertains to Wilmerding.

**THERESA HICKMAN:** why is that? I'm sure there are things that need to be done here like the promise to paint the bridge.

**AL. HUSSEY:** the sale of WABTEC has already happened; it was sold to a large trucking company named Reinfelder and the person running the facility is from Forrest Hills.

**THERESA HICKMAN:** how did they come in and buy it without first going to the planning commission?

**GREG EVASHAVIK:** it's a private property sale, they can sell it to whoever they want. The new owner does have to comply with the zoning requirements, but we have no right to stop the sale.

**THERESA HICKMAN:** I disagree with that, and we need to have an active planning commission so they can see who is coming into the area. Maybe our planning commission can work with some of the surrounding areas so we can be aware of what is coming into town.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. We received a letter from John Marcoz resigning from the zoning hearing board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY T. SIEBLES:** The fire department had 38 calls for the month. 15 in town, 23 out of town, 4 work details, 4 trainings, and 15 maintenance hours. The EMS report shows 45 calls with the average emergency response time was 9.6 minutes and the average non-emergency response time was 10.7 minutes.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY:** the demo is scheduled to begin tomorrow, they are bringing in their own water trucks to keep the dust down and I got the residents to move their cars so the trucks can get in to remove the debris. I am still working on the Airbrake Avenue problem and will keep you posted on the progress.

**PUBLIC WORKS – J. MARCOZ:** our 1-man street department is doing what he can. He has the snow blower working, and he's just cleaning up the best he can.

**J. THOMAS/ S. VOLPE TO HIRE MICHAEL MAY AS A FULL TIME PUBLIC WORKS LABORER AT \$16.00/HR WITH SINGLE PARTY HEALTH BENEFITS AFTER 90 DAYS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

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**ENGINEER – B. BRNATHOOVER:** still waiting on the GEDTF paving that should begin in Spring. We found out that we received \$50,000.00 for the replacement of catch basins. I would ask the council to have the public works department go around and make a priority list. I came down and met Tyler to look at the ceiling of the public works garage, I also talked to Don Glenn about this. We have a few things that we would like to look at and Tyler and I have a game plan so we can monitor it when we get some rain. I will keep council up to date on this. The Ice plant Hill bids were opened today and will be approved at the East McKeesport meeting tonight. We will be starting in the WCC parking lot to open up some lines that appear to be clogged and we will move forward from there.

**COG – J. HARTZELL:** There was no January meeting due to the annual dinner that is scheduled for this Friday.

**BORO PROPERTIES & UTILITIES – S. VOLPE:** what is included in Borough Properties?

**K. MAXWELL:** anything in the building that may need repaired, the parks around town, the parking lots, basically anything the boro owns.

**J. HARTZELL:** the list of streetlights that were sent, do we know if they were all taken care of because the lights from the deli to the apartments are all out.

**C. LANG:** I will have to submit those again. Now with the online submission we do not get confirmation that anything was completed.

**J. MARCOZ:** there is a leaking hydrant on Caldwell Avenue that has been turned into WPJWA but nothing has been done about it. Our fire department tried to tighten it but it is still leaking.

**SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK:** not much to report, I did look over the contract for Fastest Labs to do our employee testing and concluded that everything was in order.

**C. LANG:** the one in East McKeesport has shut down so we had to decide on a new facility. Everything is the same as in the past place and we pay as we need them. The prices are comparable for everything, the only real change is that we can have them come here and have all the employees tested at once.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE PAY ALL OTHER BILLS FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$112,897.76 AND FROM PLIGIT SEWAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,450.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** REPORT ON THE INCOME WE HAVE RECEIVED. The real estate for January was actually a 2023 payment in the amount of \$3,206.06, the delinquent real estate was \$1,228.26, delinquent garbage was \$663.32, RAD \$10,077.16, deed transfer \$6,829.89, EIT \$5,682.83, and LST \$676.65. Everyone should of received more information on the delinquents so we can discuss who you would like to take to court.

**RECREATION – L. BARNES:** We are going to start working on Easter and I'm talking with Steve to get an idea of things.

**OLD BUSINESS:** nothing

**NEW BUSINESS:** nothing

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**MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB:** There has been a series of stolen vehicles, and the police and surrounding police are cracking down on this. Also, Monroeville will be getting a dog in the near future.

**S. VOLPE/L. BARNES TO ADJORN 7:50 P.M.**