

WILMERDING BOROUGH  
MINUTES FROM JULY 6, 2021, REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

**ROLL CALL: LINDA KIRK, present; KELLY BELIN, present; JOE HARTZELL, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.**

**J. HARTZELL/L.KIRK MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2021, MEETING WITH THE CORRECTION THAT WAS SENT EARLIER. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**S. SHURGOT:** Before we begin I would like to address 1 matter. As everyone has heard, we began negotiations with Allegheny County trying to renew our contract in January. We were told that they do not wish to renew our contract. I recently sent a registered letter to the county to reconsider, and it went unanswered for about a month. We just received a letter from our representative, Paul Zavarella, and I will have Caroline read that aloud.

**C. LANG:** Dear Steve, I recently received letters addressed to you and copying me endorsing the continuation of Allegheny County coverage for Wilmerding Borough. As you know, the Allegheny County Police Dept. is a dependable and professional police force second to none. While I understand the desire to maintain the Allegheny County Police force in Wilmerding, the decision is not as simple as signing a new contract. Many factors must come into play when making this type of decision. A couple of those factors include cost to provide the service and whether other communities may desire the same services. I am certain there are many other factors that are being considered. Please feel free to contact me as you go through the process of maintaining police service in some manner for your residents. Should you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Sincerely, Paul Zavarella.

**S. SHURGOT:** so, at some point no means no and they are not going to reconsider. We had a community group sending petitions, and businesses sending letters, which we have copies of. We sent letter to the 6 neighboring communities and 2 had shown interest in policing here. We have had meetings with both communities but hit a stone wall, we also reached out to the state police who would have to cover us if there was no one else. Then Kelly Maxwell and Linda Kirk opened the doors to these communities again, so we are back in talks. We are definitely trying to find a police force. The county police have been fantastic and many of the officers do not want to leave but we are at a stand still at this moment.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

A. We received a resignation letter from Lenny Girouard resigning from the Planning Committee.

**K. MAXWELL/P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LENNY GIROUARD FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0**

B. We received a letter of interest from Rev. Michael Reed to sit on the Planning Committee.

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**P. SHURGOT/K. BELIN TO ACCEPT AND ADD REV. MICHAEL REED ONTO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK:** The EMS had 21 transports for June. The average emergency response time was 6.9 minutes, and the average non-emergency response time was 9.6 minutes. The fire department responded to 30 calls, 13 in town and 17 out of town, 2 work details, 4 trainings, 1 social event, and 16 maintenance hours. I received an invoice for some work on the squad, they had some work done but I need to check on the clarification of this.

**S. SHURGOT:** I thought that we were not responsible for the maintenance on the squad?

**J. THOMAS:** We have done it before because we own all the vehicles and insure all of them. I have heard that the motor is blow on that and where is it.

**L. KIRK:** I will get clarification on all of these matters.

**L. KIRK/K.MAXWELL TO PAY JAMES PUSEY FOR UPDATING THE SQUAD PENDING CLARIFICATION FROM CHIEF HARTZELL. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN:** There is still no report as we are working out issues with the new system. I can tell you there were no major incidents and 3 arrests for the month.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT – A. HUSSEY:** everyone received a copy of the report.

**J. HARTZELL:** there is still a refrigerator out at 301 Caldwell.

**A. HUSSEY:** I will talk with him and get it picked up.

**P. SHURGOT:** is everything cleared up with Valley Auto Parts?

**A. HUSSEY:** yes, that has all been cleaned up.

**K. BELIN:** have you cited the people across the street on Lydia about the TV that has been there for almost a month.

**A. HUSSEY:** I have spoken with her and given her a notice of violation and I will go back tomorrow and see if she has come up with a solution.

**G. JAKUB:** Can you check out 317-321 Patton. There are tires piled up between the houses and garbage everywhere.

**PUBLIC WORKS - P. SHURGOT:** They have been cutting grass, helping out the WCC and East McKeesport Public works, he talked with North Versailles about getting the brush hog again and the street sweeper, they cleaned the viaduct, avenue U park, after the storms the catch basins all need cleared, and Tony had to do a recertification on his pesticide license.

**K. MAXWELL:** are we still doing the lawn service in the park?

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**C. LANG:** no our contract has expired and that was just for fertilizing and trying to get the grass to grow back in the damaged areas.

**P. SHURGOT:** they also borrowed RJ's quad so they could spray don Airbrake and Middle.

**K. MAXWELL:** we just need to know about the Belgium blocks.

**P. SHURGOT:** I will have them look for them.

**G. JAKUB:** I thought we gave them to him as payment for some work he did for the Borough.

**J. THOMAS:** I spoke to Tony, and he said there are some issues with the pit behind ballfield and he suggested we contact Larry Urban who had done the work the last time.

**P. SHURGOT:** I'll talk to Tony about getting a price.

**ENGINEER – L. HEMPHILL:**

**S. SHURGOT:** Dave was here earlier and went over some items that we need to make motions on.

**P. SHURGOT/L.KIRK TO ACCEPT A BID FROM NAGY CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$239,140, OUR LOCAL SHARE WOULD BE \$39,140, FOR THE CDBG PORTION OF THE ORIENT SLIDE REPAIRS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**K. MAXWELL/P. SHURGOT TO AWARD THE ASBESTOS STUDIES TO ALLEGHENY GLOBAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2000.00 FOR 4 HOMES. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**K. BELIN/L. KIRK TO BID AND ADVERTISE THE MORNINGSIDE SLIDE AND THE WESTERN SLIDE WITH AND ESTIMATED COST TO REPAIR BOTH AT \$60,000. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**COG – J. HARTZELL:** There are no meetings in the summer.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL:** I'm still waiting on Davey Tree to get back to me and I only have 1 flagpole quote.

**K. MAXWELL/J. THOMAS TO HAVE SIGN SERVICE & CRANE SCRAPE AND PAINT THE FLAGPOLE AND THE BASE AND TRIM THE ADJACENT TREES WITH A COST OF \$2547.63. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL:** Nothing

**SOLICITOR - G EVASHAVIK:** We have 3 Ordinances that need discussed tonight. There was a recent court case that said municipalities are required by ordinance to update the codes for example this is the International Building Codes. We will need a motion stating that we are updating to the 2015 ICC codes amending our Ordinance No. 996.

**J. THOMAS/J. HARTZELL TO ADVERTISE FOR THE UPDATING OF THE STANDARDIZED CODES AMENDING ORDINANCE NO 996. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

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**G. EVASHAVIK:** the second is to regulate and allow the keeping of chickens in the Borough of Wilmerding. This was raised last month and I'm familiar with this in other communities as this is a common practice. It is rather lengthy but some of the specifics are it can only be a single-family dwelling, in the rear of the dwelling, there has to be a pen, no roosters, and it goes on with extended details. There is a limit of 4 hens and a detailed distance from property line and residential structure.

**K. MAXWELL:** most properties her are 40 ft wide.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** it is actually 15' from a property line and 25' from a structure.

**J. THOMAS:** is this only for property owners?

**G. EVASHAVIK:** correct.

**K. MAXWELL:** how are we going to enforce this. What happens if the neighbor doesn't like chickens?

**P. SHURGOT:** doesn't it say that there needs to be a permit and AI needs to check the property yearly to ensure they are compliant?

**K. MAXWELL:** we complain about garbage on the streets, tv's and tires on the sidewalks, who wants chickens to add to the filth.

**P. SHURGOT/K. BELIN TO ADVERTISE THE NEW CHICKEN ORDINANCE. MEMBERS CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**L. KIRK: NO**

**K. BELIN: YES**

**J. HARTZELL: NO**

**K. MAXWELL: NO**

**P. SHURGOT: YES**

**J. THOMAS: NO**

**S. SHURGOT: YES**

**S. SHURGOT: MEMBER VOTED DENIAL, 4-3.**

**G. EVASHAVIK:** ordinance #3, there was a concern regarding the lack of regulation and authorization within our ordinances to allow for safety inspection. I reviewed the ordinance and we just voted to advertise to update our standardized codes. This will provide a tool for the safety and protection of the residents and commercial property owners by allowing the fire code official to conduct annual inspection on multi-unit residential and commercial properties to ensure compliance with the International Fire Codes. There would be a fee of \$65.00 per multi-unit residential buildings, \$0.38 per square ft for Commercial buildings and \$40.00 per Single family dwelling.

**REV. REED:** does that mean we will be paying for a Rental License, and Occupancy Inspection and now a Fire Inspection?

**S. SHURGOT:** I think this is more toward those who have people living there for 5 or 10 years having a follow up inspection.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** this would not be at the onset of residence. This will allow for Mr. Hussey to enter a property if he sees a concern or know that the unit hasn't been inspected in several years.

**K. BELIN:** would you notify the owner of the property before conducting the inspection?

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**A. HUSSEY:** typically, I would not notify them because the tenant has a signed lease giving them ownership of that property.

**S. SHURGOT:** if my tenant authorizes the inspection who is paying for the inspection and repairs if the owner is not notified.

**A. HUSSEY:** the owner would be notified after the inspection.

**K. MAXWELL/L.KIRK TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE PROVIDING FOR THE AUTHORITY OF FIRE MARSHALL AND FIRE CODE OFFICIAL TO PROVIDE ANNUAL INSPECTIONS WITH FEES OF MULTI-UNIT AT \$65.00 PER UNIT, COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AT \$0.38 PER SQUARE FT., AND SINGLE-FAMILY AT \$40.00 PER INSPECTION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS/ P. SHURGOT TO PAY ALL THE AUTHORIZED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 7-0.**

**J. THOMAS:** Kelly Maxwell had said she would be willing to sit on the Tax Collection Committee.

C. LANG: we would need two (2) to fill the position of Mr. Thomas and Mr. Shurgot.

**J. THOMAS/L. KIRK TO APPROVE KELLY MAXWELL AND JOSEPH HARTZELL TO SIT ON THE SOUTHWEST TAX COMMITTEE. THEY WOULD REPLACE MT. THOMAS AND MR. SHURGOT. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.**

**RECREATION – K. BELIN:** we will start planning for National Night Out.

**K. BELIN/J. THOMAS TO TRANSFER \$400.00 TO THE RECREATION ACCOUNT FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT WHICH WILL BE HELD AUGUST 3, 2021. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0**

**PLANING – K. BELIN:** we sat in on the Allegheny Trail meeting and they are interested in taking it along the railroad. They have to work with the private owners before finalizing but they will be having a community meeting in Pitcairn for residents to ask questions and learn more about it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**P. SHURGOT:** are there any updates on payments from the WCC?

**K. MAXWELL:** They have been paying \$3101.04 every month.

**P. SHURGOT:** can we try to get a little more from them? I don't ever see a lot of people on the machines, could we get rid of some of those?

**K. MAXWELL:** Enrollment is starting to increase but it is slow.

**L. KIRK:** Has anything come through with the COVID assistance?

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**K. MAXWELL:** no not yet

**NEW BUSINESS:**

J. HARTZELL: Greg do we need to do anything for the State Blight.

G. EVASHAVIK: no that is a state law, you can hold their permit for anything delinquent with the borough.

A. HUSSEY: so typically, how it works is Caroline tells me or them and I don't do the inspections.

**MAYORS REMARKS:** none

**K. MAXWELL MOTION TO ADJORN 7:59 P.M.**