

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

A moment of silence was observed for Veteran's Day.

ROLL CALL: MICHAEL TRKULA, present; REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; WILLIAM PRICENER, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR HENRY SLACZKA was also present.

M. TRKULA / REV. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCT. 7, 2014 AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

MRS. M. MEIGHAN: I deliver Meals on Wheels to the Faller Building and it is filthy and dirty and the woman we deliver told us that she has mice running over the bed sheets and the elevator is not working. I called the Mayor and Louise about this and Louise told me that he has 22 other violations. I also called the Health Department and the Department of Aging about this. You have a Code Enforcement Officer and if there are violations how can he get a rental license. Also, Mr. Hussey, the Fire Marshall, went in there and found numerous fire safety code violations. He gave him thirty days to fix this or he would shut the place down. He now has the front doors unlocked. She is trying to get out of there but she can't find another place right now. How can he get away with making the elderly go up and down the steps because the elevator is not working?

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: the Magistrate has taken action against him and found him guilty on 20-25 violations. He has appealed these but there are additional violations that we have filed. We are doing everything we can legally.

MRS. M. MEIGHAN: how can he get a rental license when he has all these violations?

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: he moves them in without letting us know.

MR. S. SHURGOT: when we find out that he has moved someone in then we cite him.

MRS. M. MEIGHAN: Mr. Hussey said that he can close it down if it is not up to code.

MR. J. THOMAS: there are several other absentee landlords that do not pay taxes or garbage. Our delinquent collector is going after these owners. They can only go after the landlords for delinquent taxes but we can file citations at the Magistrate for delinquent garbage payments.

MR. A. FRYDRYCH, WELSH AVE.: can you close down his rental property for safety reasons.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: only if we get a court order.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received a notice from the Allegheny County Borough's Association asking for the names of our delegates.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO APPOINT SANDRA SMITH AND STEVE SHURGOT AS OUR DELEGATES TO THE BOROUGH'S ASSOCIATION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

2. Received a notice from the Borough's Association on their general membership meeting to be held on Thursday Dec. 11, 2014 at the Edgewood Country Club. This is also the meeting where they are asking for donations of unwrapped toys or money for a worthwhile cause. There is no cost for the dinner for the delegates but all others may attend at a cost of \$25 per person.

M. TRKULA / REV. REEVES TO SEND THE TWO DELEGATES TO THE MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

3. A Resolution approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of numerous parcels of vacant property known as lot and block 546-F-335 would be in accord with the comprehensive plan of the borough.

W. PRICENER / M. TRKULA TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR THE VACANT PROPERTY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

4. Received a request for a handicap sign at 450 Airbrake Avenue. All the necessary information was submitted.

K. PETERSON / S. SMITH TO GRANT A HANDICAP SIGN FOR 450 AIRBRAKE AVE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

5. Received a letter of resignation from Mr. Dominic Paris from the Planning Commission.

M. TRKULA / REV. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DOMINIC PARISI FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

6. Received a letter from the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, that our Floodplain Ordinance is now in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as required for Allegheny County's updated Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

7. A resolution to the Turtle Creek Valley COG for the demolition of 104 State Street.

M. TRKULA / J. THOMAS TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 104 STATE STREET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – M. TRKULA: the Fire Department responded to 19 calls for the month of October, there were 8 calls in town and 11 calls out of town.

Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 38 calls for October. They had 25 transports and their average response time for emergencies was 6.6 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 8.2 minutes.

MR. M. TRKULA: the pedestrian crossing at the end of the walking trail is not painted.

MR. W. PRICENER: it is coming.

PUBLIC WORKS – W. PRICENER: they are finished cutting the grass and they have put the leaf box together. They erected the handicap sign at 755 Middle Avenue and the permit parking signs in the 200 block of Marguerite. They have repaired the step on Sprague Street and the handrail on Station Street. They were out helping with the fall clean up. Three loads of salt have been delivered. The cobblestones on Station Street and Westinghouse Avenue have been removed and the tree stumps have all been ground up. We are waiting for mulch to fill those areas in. There were eleven stumps in all that were removed. They are now picking up the leaves and had all the vehicles serviced for winter. They used four tons of hot patch to fill the potholes. Blinds have been ordered for council chambers, the secretary's office and the hallways. We are also getting the portrait of George Westinghouse re-matted.

MS. S. SMITH: why did we put permit parking up on Marguerite?

MR. S. SHURGOT: the workers from Independent Living were taking up the resident parking spaces.

MS. K. PETERSON: the incident at 428 Airbrake that Mr. Hussey reported, why weren't the local police involved in that.

MR. W. PRICENER: someone noticed a candle burning and Mr. Hussey contacted the county police because it is a vacant building.

MS. K. PETERSON: do we have any plans for the block that was removed. Are we going to sell them?

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: if the price is over a \$1,000 then it needs to be advertised.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

ENGINEER'S REPORT – D. GILLILAND:

1. The remaining work on the walking trail includes weed removal and repairs, such as the bench replacement and applying a seal coat to the walkway. The contractor assured me that this work will be completed as weather permits, either soon or in the spring.
2. As soon as COG gets the county's grant agreement for the CD 40 demolition we will prepare the specs for the demolition of 223 Third (Maple) Ave.
3. PennDOT has acknowledged the washout problem near the end of the new wall on Maple Avenue where debris from the Tri-Boro is washing onto Maple. They have not developed a corrective action plan yet but I again I asked for a status update. I was informed to contact the head man at PennDOT, Dan Cessna, to get things moving.
4. PA. Soil and Rock has begun the soils study, which should be completed within 6-8 weeks. The agreements for the design work are making the rounds for signatures.
5. Satira Construction has completed the curb and sidewalk work at various locations. Inlets will be completed within the next week.
6. The owner of Deli-icious has rendered payment for the sewer cleaning at the rear of his business on Pitcairn Street in the amount of \$1,485.00. Proposals for manhole work at this location were opened Oct. 23rd with the low proposal from Soli Construction at \$12,500. We would recommend council award this project to Soli Construction for \$12,500. Mr. Glenn has discussed the grease trap maintenance issue with the Allegheny County Health Department and will be meeting with them soon on site to discuss the matter and ensure the grease trap is maintained henceforth.

S. SMITH / W. PRICENER TO AWARD THE PITCAIRN STREET MANHOLE PROJECT TO SOLI CONSTRUCTION FOR \$12,500. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

7. Joint bids with three other towns for sewer cleaning and evaluation were opened on Oct. 23rd with the low bid being from Roto-Rooter for \$21,000 for the Wilmerding portion. This is part of the Consent Agreement on cleaning and televising the sewers. We recommend that council award this project to the low bidder Roto-Rooter.

K. PETERSON / REV. D. REEVES TO AWARD THE SEWER CLEANING AND EVALUATION TO THE LOW BIDDER, ROTO-ROOTER, FOR \$21,000. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. W. PRICENER: are they going to do it this year.

MR. D. GILLILAND: no, it is too cold for the camera work.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

8. Our application for a grant to replace the safety surface under the swings at the Airbrake Avenue playground was not approved. We can resubmit the application in the spring.

MR. W. PRICENER: can you contact the Army Corps of Engineers to clean out the creek.

MR. D. GILLILAND: years ago there was an authority formed to maintain the creek since then it has folded. There was a problem in East Pittsburgh with the flood gates and the county agreed to take over the maintenance of it.

COG REPORT – K. PETERSON: no report.

MR. J. THOMAS: at the COG meeting, did they discuss the land bank.

MS. K. PETERSON: I have a call into Amanda to see when she can meet with us to discuss this.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. PETERSON: the windows have been repaired and we are still working on getting the doors replaced.

UTILITIES – REV. D. REEVES: Duquesne Light will not shut off any electricity from Dec. 1st to March 31st.

PLANNING – REV. D. REEVES: we held a public hearing before this meeting to discuss the LERTA Program. We are going to meet tomorrow to finish up on this.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: the hearing before this meeting the Planning Commission recommended to council to finalize the LERTA Tax Ordinance. There are a few changes that need to be made which includes R-2 Zoning. I will make these changes so that you can review the ordinance for adoption.

The Telecommunications Ordinance would regulate where companies can locate their towers and boxes. Right now there is no ordinance that regulates the public right of way and what type of devices that can be installed. Everyone should have a copy to review.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS / W. PRICENER TO PAY ALL THE APPROVED BILLS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

J. THOMAS / K. PETERSON TO CHANGE THE DEC. 16TH WORKSHOP TO A PUBLIC MEETING TO ADOPT THE BUDGET. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

We are going to participate in the 4th option year for garbage collection. Also, we will again be offering a discount to the residents who pay for the year. It would be \$130 per unit for the year if it is paid by the end of January and they are current with their garbage payment.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

RECREATION – S. SMITH: we had a poor turnout for the Halloween costume contest. I do not know if it was the weather that kept them away. We donated the left over treat bags to St. Bernadette School. We are also thinking about moving the costume contest from Halloween night to another night.

W. PRICENER / J. THOMAS TO DONATE \$400 TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR HALLOWEEN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

We are working on the Christmas decoration and the children's Christmas party will be on Sunday Dec. 13th.

The town wide clean-up was a huge success. The Pitt students did a fantastic job and the C.I.A.C. donated lunch.

MR. M. TRKULA: why were they cleaning up on private property?

MS. S. SMITH: they did not go on private property.

MR. G. EVASHAVIK: they should only go on private property in emergency situations.

MS. K. PETERSON: I had a lot of older kids on Halloween and their language was very vulgar. They came with their backpacks and some of them were smoking cigarettes. There are some communities that have trick or treat in one location for safety reasons. Do you think you can consider doing that? We could hold it downstairs and have the residents come here to give out their treats.

OLD BUSINESS

MR. M. TRKULA: can we reorder more code books. I don't have one and I don't know who else needs one.

MR. J. THOMAS: we can discuss this at the workshop.

MS. S. SMITH: Theresa Hickman gave us an article last month on ac/dc power and that they are piloting this project in Homewood. I sent the three Pitt professors a letter asking them if Wilmerding could be included in this project. I also spoke to the author of the article and he said to keep him informed of what is going on.

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES OF THE NOV. 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

NEW BUSINESS

MR. W. PRICENER: I would like to introduce to Council and the residents in the audience the new Executive Director at the Y, Mr. Bruce Berringer.

MR. B. BERRINGER: I just wanted to stop by and say hello to everyone. My first day here I had the privilege of meeting the County Executive with the Mayor and Councilmembers to discuss some borough matters. I will be around if anyone has any questions about the Y or what I can do.

MS. S. SMITH: we need to adopt a resolution for a small games of chance license for the 125th Anniversary Committee. They denied our application since we are a part of the borough. We need to let them know that we are a separate entity.

S. SMITH / W. PRICENER TO DRAW UP A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE AS A SEPARATE ENTITY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 7-0.

MR. S. SHURGOT: at our emergency management meeting they were talking about hoarders and how these people need help. They told us about a hot line to help people with different situations. It is a new service and all anyone has to do is dial 2-1-1 to get help.

Today is Nov. 11th and there are 49 days left until New Year's Eve. For our 100th anniversary there was a New Year's Eve party at the Castle. This year for our 125th Anniversary we are going to have a New Year's Eve party at the Ukrainian Club. Tickets are \$15 per person and they will be available at the borough building. We are also planning a Founder's Day Dinner for March 8th at 1 pm at Banquets Unlimited. The festival will be from June 1-6, 2015. Everyone is invited to join the anniversary committee and our next meeting is Dec. 9th at 6:30 pm. We are going to need a lot of help to make this successful.

MAYOR'S REMARKS – H. SLACZKA: I want to give a general thank you to the countless volunteers who were out for the clean-up. The ramps to the Tri-Boro are looking better and this reflects on us.

A thank you to the Planning Commission for working on the LERTA Program.

On this Veteran's Day thank God for American and thank God for Wilmerding. As Monsignor McGary used to say, there is no place like home and there is no home like Wilmerding.

One last thing, are you looking into making Card Avenue one way.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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