

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 5, 2021, REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President

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

S. SHURGOT: Ms. Kirk had a death in the family and we offer our sympathies to her and her family.

J. HARTZELL/K. BELIN TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 MEETING AND SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

EDITH BARRETT; HERMAN AVENUE: I appreciate the updates to the website but the agenda from today is completely different than the one being handed out tonight.

C. LANG: There were late additions to the agenda, I received an Ordinance today that needs to have a motion to advertise.

E. BARRETT: I find it absolutely ridiculous that the citizens have to wait 30 days to get the minutes posted, the minutes are not posted for August still.

C. LANG: The August minutes are posted.

E. BARRETT: they are not there, and I don't know what the solution to this problem is. I think it should be done in house.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY – K. MAXWELL: Linda gave me the fire report for September. There were 20 calls for the month, 8 were in town, 12 out of town, 5 work details, 4 trainings, 1 social event, and 24 hours of maintenance. The EMS responded to 24 calls, 15 were transports. Average Emergency response time was 7.8 and non-emergency response time was 8.8.

INSPECTOR MCCLELLAN: no report still but we have been looking into the ordinance saying that skateboarding is banned in the Borough of Wilmerding and this not valid. A similar ordinance was challenged in the City of Pittsburgh and struck down; you can designate areas where this cannot be done but you cannot make a legal act to make it illegal in the entire town. As far as the school, it is private property so they would need to issue a letter, and post signs, saying that skateboarding is prohibited.

J. HARTZELL: I would like to have the fire department just answer call in the surrounding area. Since we own the fire trucks, I feel that we should limit where they respond to.

P. SHURGOT: In the event of a major incident where the county assigns the call are they allowed to go at that point?

J. HARTZELL: yes, in case of a fire emergency than yes.

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K. MAXWELL: how far do they go right now?

J. HARTZELL: Plum, West Mifflin, Duquesne.

P. SHURGOT: the other thing, in their defense, there is a lack of volunteers so there may not be any other companies responding and they may be the only ones available.

J. HARTZELL: I understand that but there are companies closer to Duquesne and West Mifflin and then when our truck is out, they have to have another town come here to cover.

J. HARTZELL/P. SHURGOT TO HAVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPOND TO ONLY NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.

K. MAXWELL: but some of these other fire stations may not get anyone responding during the day, as Paula said, they are volunteers.

J. HARTZELL: but there are closer fire companies and we may not have any one during the day. I'm concerned with the wear and tear on the trucks, tires, and maintenance.

S. SHURGOT: I feel we should have a roll call vote:

K. BELIN – YES

J. HARTZELL: YES

K. MAXWELL: NO

P. SHURGOT: YES

J. THOMAS: NO

S. SHURGOT: I WOULD VOTE YES BUT ONLY IF THE MOTION WAS AMMENDED TO STATE THAT THEY CAN RESPOND ONLY TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES UNLESS THEY ARE DISPATCHED BY ALLEGHENY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

J. HARTZELL/P. SHURGOT BOTH AGREE, MOTION PASSES, MEMBERS VOTED 4-2.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – AL HUSSEY: for the purpose of this meeting everyone can refer to the report they received.

K. BELIN: has there been any response at 233 Card because their weeds are now trees.

A. HUSSEY: I have not received any response, but I did take care of the refrigerator issue, me and a few officers put that there so that no one could enter the property. I have not gotten a response about any of the properties that she owns.

K. BELIN: this isn't one of those, this is right at the corner of Lydia and Card, they moved out and bought a new house.

A. HUSSEY: I will look into it tomorrow.

J. HARTZELL: re you aware of the Allegheny County Home Improvement Program?

A. HUSSEY: I am not

J. HARTZELL: it's a program to allocate funds to correct code violations. I'll sent you the info.

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PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT: Steve started, they will be doing this side of town on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The other side will be done on Tuesday and Thursday. They mulched the beds that CIAC put in, they have paint but I'm not sure if they will get to it this year though.

G. JAKUB: Vera Green said the lot next to her is overgrown and would like to see if we can trim it down and also paint her handicap curb.

K. MAXWELL: did we find out anything on the question that the resident asked last month regarding the weeds?

C. LANG: We are still trying to get in touch with the county. There have been messages from Dave and myself and an report filed online. The property is listed as a County Right-Away so now it's just trying to get them out here.

K. BELIN: are we doing a leaf collection?

P. SHURGOT: They have been doing it by hand but we haven't talked about a specific day.

ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND: Report given at Workshop

COG REPORT – J. HARTZELL: There have been no contracts awarded yet for the CD47 grants, we discussed having an annual dinner in March or April instead of February, I mentioned to Al about the code enforcement thing. Do we want to participate in that land car thing where they cut the grass? I think we only had one.

S. SHURGOT: We can discuss it at workshop.

P. SHURGOT: I think we decided not to do it because of the price.

BOROUGH PROPERTY – K. MAXWELL: Davey Tree will be here tomorrow, and I spoke with John about the flagpole, the park lights are still not in, and there is a Duquesne Light community impact grant I can send to you Joe.

P. SHURGOT: did you know that BC was doing work?

K. MAXWELL: no

P. SHURGOT: I think that we need to make sure that Kelly is being notified if something is going on in the building.

UTILITIES – J. HARTZELL: Chris from Duquesne Light said they should work on the LED lights this week and next week.

SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK: We have a new ordinance to approve the new agreement for policing service through Pitcairn Borough for the next 5 years beginning on January 1, 2022 so we will need a motion to advertise.

K. MAXWELL/B. BELIN TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE 1050 REGARDING AN AGREEMENT FOR POLICING SERVICES WITH PITCAIRN BOROUGH.

S. SHURGOT: should we make our workshop a special meeting or can we wait till November?

G. EVASHAVIK: well, looking over this I will need to make a change to this Ordinance as this agreement will take affect upon completion of execution of both parties and the reason for that is because the first payment is triggered upon the execution and expected this calendar year.

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MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

G. EVASHAVIK: Act 152 Demolition funding was approved for 3 homes, and I received the title searches and the notices of condemnation will be finished this week. I will send them to Caroline to mail and we should be able to have the hearing next month.

C. LANG: did you get title searches for the other homes as well that would be on the State Blight Grant?

G. EVASHAVIK: I'm not sure, I will check tomorrow.

FINANCE – J. THOMAS:

J. THOMAS/P. SHURGOT TO PAY BILLS AS LISTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LOWERY BILL IN QUESTION. PAYING FROM GENERAL \$25,962.25 AND PLIGIT SEWAGE \$477.50. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL 6-0.

RECREATION – K. BELIN: I'd like to have a Halloween Parade this year on October 30 for kids up to 12 and I will let you know a time. Trick or treat on Halloween from 6-8.

PLANNING – K. BELIN: none.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

MAYORS REMARKS – G. JAKUB: For the cleanup committee there has only been 8 people so far and hopefully we can get this started soon. Also, the castle has sold and will now be named Westinghouse Castle LP. There will be a press release soon.

J. LAWRENANCE: it has been a long time coming and is a large group of the same people that were involved with the school project. We should be able to have a plan soon and there will be some public use along with alternative uses involving community arts. We are also talking with Westinghouse Electric Corp and trying to do some work with them. You will see a lot going on though as we clean up debris, there was a lot of water damage, and stuff left behind such as rugs and carpets.

J. HARTZELL MOTION TO ADJOURN 7:39 p.m.