

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, Scott Parsons, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: John Maher, Dave Hess, George Hinton, Joe Weaver, and Tony Curcio. Also in attendance were Mayor James M. Shoemaker, Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Victor Rodite, Slate Belt Council of Governments. Victor stated that the Slate Belt COG meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Washington Elementary. The first thing the COG does each year is update the directory that is not made available to the general public, but for internal use by the municipalities. He informed Council that an E-Cycling event will be held on June 5, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and asked that this event be included in the Borough's newsletter or website. There will be a hazardous waste collection to be held on October 9, 2010 at Northampton County Community College from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Pen Argyl Area School District recreation program has walking for seniors in conjunction with the YMCA. The Bangor Area School District municipalities have offered to operate it through the COG and plan to hire part-time directors to bring the summer program to live. The plan to develop a program for adults and senior citizens. It has been a long process of updating the COG by-laws which started two years ago because the COG wished to be 501.C.3 non-profit corporation. Each one of the COG municipalities did adopt the change and this was done by ordinance and during that process any changes to the ordinance could be done by resolution. Victor asked that the final by-laws be signed by Council President. Victor offered the leaf vacuum through the COG. There has been discussion regarding creating a "business incubator" to help start-up business to help them grow and stay in the Slate Belt with Lafayette College assisting. The COG is again seeking a summer intern as has been utilized in prior years. There is the possibility of the COG pursuing a planning project grant through the Federal Government – HUD (Housing and Urban Development) on Sustainable Communities. Victor spoke to Tom Palmer, Urban Research and Development, who indicated that the funding appears to be for the expansion of greenways and walkway systems. Victor believes that it should have economic development and job development in regard to housing. Also, how to take and improve code enforcement across communities. He asked if there would be any interest in Wind Gap. George stated that he and Louise have been involved with committees involving the trails and working with Tom Palmer and Urban Research. Victor stated that there would be a local share required 20%.
2. Jeff Yob, Wind Gap Fire Company. Jeff stated that he is appearing before Council to request a waiver from the Borough Ordinance prohibiting alcohol in the Park. The Firemen's Carnival is June 8 through June 12, 2010. There will be no changes from previous years. He has already attended the park Board and they have approved the request. Once he has Council's approval, Jeff will apply to the LCB for appropriate licensing.

On motion by John Maher to approve the waiver to the ordinance prohibiting alcohol in the Park and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Civil Service Commission. **On motion** by Tony Curcio to appoint Karen Skorochood to the Civil Service Commission with a term of six years, expiring 12/31/15 and seconded by George Hinton. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.
Mayor James Shoemaker administered the Oath of Office of the Civil Service Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of February 1, 2010 meeting and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. In favor: G. Hinton, S. Parson, J. Weaver, T. Curcio, D. Hess. Abstained: J. Maher. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-1.

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of February 16, 2010 meeting and seconded by John Maher. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting and seconded by John Maher. Roll call vote taken. In favor: J. Weaver, T. Curcio, D. Hess, G. Hinton, J. Maher. Abstained: S. Parsons. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-1.

Scott informed Council that he has given approval for Louise to work on minutes from home due to the numerous interruptions in the office. Council added their approval as long as the office is covered by the Zoning Officer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler was absent.
2. Fire Company – Dave Hess reported that the Fire Company responded to 18 calls in the month of March. They will be hosting a Golf Tournament on August 6, 2010 at Sawmill Golf Course. He does not have all the details yet, but there was an incident involving the Rescue truck in the Ambulance building with a soccer ball. The ball left prints in the paint, but they were able to be buffed out. He will inform Kerry of the incident. He reported that the Fire Company and the Police Department have been butting heads recently. The Mayor is aware of the issues. Scott had requested Profit and Loss statements from both the Fire Company and the Ambulance Corps.
3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that no new applications were received so the May 5, 2010 meeting is cancelled.
4. Planning – Scott Parsons reported that no meeting was held in March, April or is scheduled for May. Brian Pysher added that the comments regarding the Muschlitz project (Water's Edge) requested reconfiguring additional parking spaces for the community center.
5. Municipal Authority – John Maher reported that nothing of note occurred. They had requested that they piggyback on the Lehigh Avenue project. There have been discussions between Brian and the Authority so that this can be coordinated. They talked to Brian and George at different times to understand what the scope of the Borough project will be. George met with Russ Dieter, Paul Levits, and Terry Miklas (all of the Municipal Authority) and they were under the wrong impression that this project was being funded by grant money. It was decided that

the Municipal Authority engineer would contact the Borough engineer, Brian Pysher. Brian asked John Maher to relay to the Authority to include Brian in pre-construction meetings regarding any Authority projects so the Borough is aware of the scope of their projects in Borough streets/alleys.

6. Streets – George Hinton reported that he took Dave around to review the condition of the streets in the Borough. They reviewed the streets in the presidential section because they would qualify for Community Development Block Grants because the west side of Broadway is “pre-qualified” because of census figures of income. George took the Mayor and John Maher around to review the same streets in the Borough.
George reported that there were three dead trees in the park near the telephone building and they would be taken down to the ground at a cost of \$500.
The Lehigh Avenue storm water project is out to bid, the bid specs are in the Borough office. Brian Pysher reported that the West Street project is all paved. Pinto has to finish a small section of concrete to finish.
Joe Weaver inquired why there used to be “No Parking” signs on Lehigh Avenue by the Park, but they are no longer there. The roadway appears to be too narrow for cars to park on both sides of the street. It was decided that Brian Pysher would measure the width of Lehigh by the Park. The street sweeping has started in the Borough, but he is not using water as he proposed.
7. Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police responded to 132 calls in March. They investigated eight motor vehicle accidents and five traffic citations were issued. The police vehicles were used for a total of 3,024 miles for the month. He held a mandatory police meeting on April 16, 2010 and the meeting was attended by all officers, Mayor Shoemaker and Council President, Scott Parsons. They discussed police procedures and what was expected of the police officers. Monthly meetings will be held going forward to discuss any concerns. Sgt. Pepe was expected to return to work, but did not produce a doctor’s release form to return to work so he was sent home by the Mayor and he could not return to work until he had a release form. Mayor Shoemaker reported that Sgt. Pepe might qualify for Heart and Lung or possibly qualify for disability. Scott Parsons added that no one on Borough Council has any vendetta toward Officer Pepe, nor would anyone on Council try to stop him from claiming disability, nor would anyone on Council try to push him into disability. The Mayor and Borough Council support Robert Pepe in whatever decision he makes for what is best for him and his family. Officer Pepe does not currently qualify for retirement because he does not have twenty-five years of service requirement although he does have the age requirement. The current Wind Gap Police Department Police Pension Plan states that both age and years of service.
8. Park – Joe Weaver reported that the Park Board met last Tuesday and had a lengthy discussion regarding if there is a curfew in the Park and if so, what is it. Joe asked for a copy of Ordinance 410 regarding the park rules. The Park Board is concerned about unauthorized usage of park equipment by athletic association workers and/or baseball team coaches. The Borough does have a signed “Hold Harmless” Agreement signed by Ray Cortez on file and a copy of his insurance. The Park Board is requesting a report regarding the tipping fees this year. The Park Board unanimously approved the purchase of a sign for the bandshell and the pavilions at a cost of \$954. The Park Board received a generous donation of \$1,000 from Janet Lugg, Pen Argyl Women’s Club for some type of project at the Park. The Park Board has \$5,000 saved for a new tent in a Capital Reserve account.

On motion by George Hinton to purchase a new tent for the park from Eureka at a cost of \$3,407 plus shipping and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

The Wind Gap Area Athletic Association will be holding their annual Car Show on Sunday, May 23, 2010.

9. 911 – Tony Curcio reported that he is still looking for the report of the number of pagers. George stated that this topic was discussed at their Fire Company meeting last night. He needs the serial numbers and frequencies.
10. Building – Scott Parsons reported that Tony Curcio has expressed his desire to step down from this committee. Scott thanked the original committee for doing a great job compiling information that has been shared with Borough Council. There is a proposal in front of Borough Council, but now it has become an issue of how to finance a property. Scott will chair a finance committee, along with George. Tony and Louise attended a meeting with Palmerton National Bank regarding the potential to borrow money for a new municipal complex that would be a construction type loan. George hopes to have some information for the next mid-month meeting.
11. Tipping Fees – Tony Curcio reported that the first quarter tipping fees 2010 was received in the amount of \$17,479.96 and distributed accordingly. Total funds available in savings is \$460,200.90, with the majority of this committed to specific projects. Louise reported that she attended a meeting at the Green Knight Economic Development Corporation building with representatives of GKEDC, a library representative, and Pen Argyl Borough Manager, Robin Zmoda. Plainfield Township was invited, but did not send a representative. Plainfield Township does not support the library with budgeted funds, Pen Argyl includes \$8,000 for the library in their budget. Currently Wind Gap provides 1% of their tipping fees to the library, but of course that amount is dependent on how much the tipping fees are received. Council suggested contacting the library to find out if they have any quotes on replacing their roof and making a one-time donation of \$5,000 or to cover the roof replacement.
12. Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Slate Belt YMCA is holding their unofficial YMCA kickoff on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at the Blue Valley Farm Show. Registration is from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. with the walk starting at 9:00 a.m. The registration is \$5.00 and the walk is approximately 2 miles.
Dave Valley asked about the property at 133 Lincoln Street. (the property that was destroyed by fire). Brian Pysher stated that he has made the recommendation that the structure be taken down to the first floor, the basement would be cleaned and the water pumped out of the basement. The Borough cannot do anything until a Judge hears the case.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Security Cameras and Keyless Entry. John Maher reported that he has been working on the quotes to have security cameras installed at the Borough Hall and the Police Station. He has had discussions with security companies to make the possible decision for the needs of the Borough.
On motion by John Maher to recommend hiring Integra at a cost of \$7,886.31 for CCTV to be installed and the cost to be taken out of the building tipping fees and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken.

On motion by John Maher to have Jim Lockard do the necessary work to the Borough's server and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Re-zoning North Broadway. In Kerry's absence this topic was tabled until the next meeting.
3. Property Maintenance Code. Scott stated that if the Borough had a Property Maintenance Code properties like 133 Lincoln Street would have been dealt with in a quicker manner. Scott will chair the committee and have George Hinton and Tony Curcio serve on the committee.
4. Dave Hess asked if Mr. Karasek had reviewed Ordinance 81 regarding the Wind Gap Fire Company. Louise will follow up with Mr. Karasek.
5. Brian Pysher stated that the Borough has not received payment from Gibraltar for invoices that were sent regarding their development on First Street. He has had discussions with Ron Karasek about the invoices and is reporting to Council that the possibility of calling in Gibraltar's bond to cover these invoices.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of April 20, 2010 and seconded by John Maher. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of April 20, 2010 adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator