

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
545 EAST WEST STREET
WIND GAP, PA 18091
863-7288
FAX 863-1011**

The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday, May 18, 2015, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, George Hinton, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: David Valley, Kerry Gassler, Tony Curcio, Joe Weaver and Dave Hess. Also in attendance were Mayor James Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman Jon Faust.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lucy Flinn came to the meeting to let Council know how the Tree Lighting Ceremony is shaping up for Christmas of 2015. Lucy is looking to wrap 6 tree with lights this winter. Her goal is to have most of the park in lights for this coming holiday. Lucy will start asking for donations once all donations have been received for Summer Sounds. George suggested that Council all take time to visit the park and this will be discussed at another meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Kerry Gassler to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 Council meeting and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler reported that EMS responded to 43 calls in the month of April for a total of 142 calls for the year. He informed Council that they are having financial difficulties and barely able to pay their bills. He stated that he will report on the financial portion of the Ambulance next month. At this point in time it would be best for the Ambulance Corps to partner up with Plainfield and Bushkill to have 24 hour coverage. They have approval from Plainfield, but are still waiting for Bushkill give their response.

2. Fire Company – Jon Faust was absent.

3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that no new applications were submitted so there will not be a Zoning Hearing Board meeting in June.

4. Planning – George Hinton reported that no new plans were submitted so there will not be a Planning Commission meeting in June.

5. Municipal Authority – Joe Weaver reported that he was questioned about the Borough hooking up the property at 545 E West Street to the sewer. George replied that the Sewer Authority has been involved with several meetings including finding the lines and has been contacted regarding hooking this property up to the sewer.

Councilman David Valley arrived at 7:50 p.m.

6. Streets – Street Leader, Rich Fox, reported that he was contacted by Plainfield Township because the township is paving Constitution Avenue this year and anticipates putting the project out to bid shortly because they want the project completed prior to the start of the school year this fall. Discussion regarding the possibility of bidding the project out in conjunction with Plainfield or doing separate projects. Rich will follow-up with the street leader or the new township manager to get more information.

Rich solicited bid for a new skid loader and received two – one from Bobcat and one from John Deere. The prices quoted are both through the state contract. Bobcat was \$51,933.55 and John Deere was \$54,957.61

On motion by Tony Curcio to purchase the Bobcat Compact Track Loader for a price of \$51,933.55 and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Rich is looking for part time help to assist with cleaning the park on weekend morning and to cut the grass. The application of Edward Harbison was viewed and accepted

On motion by Kerry Gassler to hire Edward Harbison for \$10.50 per hour for the Street Department for 80 hours or less a month and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Rich reported that the lawnmower is 10 years old (2005) and is leaking oil. Council asked Rich to get prices for a new 54" mower.

Rich and Brian Pysher are going to check and see what work has to be done on our streets. Rich anticipates beginning the Jefferson Street project soon. There have been complaints regarding the condition of Fairview.

7. Park – David Valley reported that the new swing set has been installed at the park. The board discussed the broken frog in the kiddie play area that was damaged and does not have a suggestion to replace it at this time. Rich asked for the location of the new park benches and new garbage cans so they can be taken out of the garage and placed in the park.

8. 911 – Tony Curcio had nothing to report.

9. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported that the first quarter tipping fee check was received from Waste Management in the amount of \$56,295.62. He said that total funds available are \$380,135.90.

10. Regional Police – Mayor Shoemaker reported that out of 667 incidents, 175 were for Wind Gap, 207 for Pen Argyl, and 288 for Plainfield. Dave Hess reported that Pat Stonaker, Administrative Assistant, has been bonded for the checking account and that Mr. Sabatine along with 3 alternates will be the Finance Committee and will be auditing the books. He said that the Slate Belt Police Department has its own Facebook and Twitter Account. He stated that the department applied for and received a grant to participate in the Click It Or Ticket program which runs from May 18 through May 31, 2015. The Police arrested the person responsible for breaking the light in the park. Due to all the vandalism the Police Officers will walk the park three times during their shift.

11. Park Master Plan – Joe Weaver reported that they are going to proceed with SGA for the Park Master Plan. He is currently waiting for DCNR approval and once approval is received, the contract with SGA can be signed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shoemaker said that the Slate Belt Council of Governments will be meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the COG office. He said that all banners have been ordered and are out on display. He said that the Car Show was a great success and they are now looking forward to Movie Night at the Park.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Refacing 545 East West Street – George stated that we should get estimates to reface the front of the building. The outside is currently fiberglass with plywood underneath. The windows freeze inside the building and leak. There is a portion on the Ambulance side of the building that has never been finished. George, Kerry and Brian will meet as a committee and bring a recommendation back to Council.
2. Community Yard Sale
On motion by Kerry Gassler to have the Community Yard Sale on July 10th, 11th , and 12th and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 55 North Lehigh Avenue – Nuisance Ordinance - Code Enforcement – Brian Pysher received a call from the Mainhardts regarding their complaint about the property next door. Brian sent out Enforcement letters last year but the situation has escalated. There is a strong odor due to the garbage laying on the porch for months. Brian said that he would send out letters to William Warnken the owner of 59 N. Lehigh Street and to Sandra Davey of 61 N. Lehigh Street. Since Ms. Davey passed away Ron Karasek advised Brian to send letters to her two surviving children and to her estate. Letters will be sent out and if not resolved the Borough will hire a company to clean up the properties and the owners will be billed.
2. Joe Weaver reported that Plainfield Township submitted a grant application to collect water samples. Joe received a PDF file on a disk earlier today and asked Council to commit funding for the grant.
On motion by Joe Weaver to spend \$1,513.20 toward water sampling in seven (7) locations and seconded by Kerry Gassler. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of May 18, 2015. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of May 18, 2015 adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator