

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council Vice President, Dave Hess, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: David Valley, Joe Weaver, Tony Curcio, and Alexander Cortezzo III. Also in attendance were Mayor James Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysker and Administrative Assistant Debra Harbison. Absent was Councilmen George Hinton and Jon Faust.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one appeared before Council at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 Council meeting and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the expenses for the month of December in the amount of \$24,716.06 and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Nothing to report.
2. Fire Company – Nothing to report.
3. Zoning – Tony Curcio stated that there was a Zoning meeting on December 16, 2015. The request for a variance for 208 West Center Street were denied. The request for a variance for Auto Zone was granted.

Brian Pysker stated that 208 West Center Street, formally Captain Wills Welding Shop, was denied the variance to operate their welding and fabrication shop. He said they wanted to maintain and repair their fleet of vehicles in the front of the garage which is something that was not done in the past and falls outside the scope of the original business.

Brian said that Auto Zone was granted the variance for loading and unloading of their truck during the first and last hour of business. He said that the variance for the 5 foot setback was granted with the condition that there will be a 25 foot setback on the adjoining lot, and should they decide to utilize the property they cannot request a variance for that parcel.

4. Planning – Brian Pyscher reported that a Planning meeting was held on December 3rd for a sketch plan submission by Tyrone Klump for a development on Third Street and Washington. Tyrone Klump attended the December 7th Council meeting to inform Council of his plans and to see what suggestions they might have for his development. Tyrone will be submitting Land Development plans in the future.

Brian said the next Planning meeting will be January 7th for Wind Gap Chevrolet Buick, Inc. with their request for modification.

Brian said Auto Zone refiled their plans which were received on December 18th. He said they were one day late, with the submittal, for the January 7th meeting. Brian said that they are moving forward with their plans.

5. Municipal Authority – Joe Weaver reported that the Authority spent time looking over their budget. He said they are working on their Rules and Regulations regarding inspections of the sewer lines upon sale of property.

6. Streets – Dave Hess reported that the Borough street department has been working on the property at 61 North Lehigh Avenue. Brian added that they cleaned up the property, cleared out the shed and put all the debris into our dumpsters. He said there was a cesspool in the yard that crumbled. The “sink hole” area was filled in with 2 A modified stone. Brian said the only thing left on the property is a prefabricated shed. Attorney Karasek stated that the Borough is currently the administrator of the estate, therefore it is their decision regarding what to do with the shed. He said the Borough is currently managing this property and will maintain it including show removal. Attorney Karasek said we have to keep track of the time spent working on the property, the cost of material used and any other expenses for the property.

7. Parks – Dave Valley stated that Lucy Flinn will not be continuing as a Park Board Member once her term expires at the end of the year. He said Matt Dietz will resign from the Park Board due to his new position with County Council.

8. 911 – Tony Curcio had nothing to report.

9. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio stated that there was no change.

10. Regional Police – Mayor Shoemaker said the Slate Belt Police answered a total of 639 calls, 242 call were for Wind Gap. He said that the speeding on Alpha Road has declined since the Slate Belt Police have been issuing traffic tickets. Mayor Shoemaker said most of the construction at the Plainfield Police building has been completed. Dave Hess said Plainfield sent out copies of the Escrow Pension Agreement.

11. Park Master Plan – Joe Weaver reported that there were no updates at this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shoemaker said there has been positive feedback regarding the Wind Gap Ambulance Corps. He said they have been keeping up with the calls and they are doing a good job.

Mayor Shoemaker wished everyone and their families a Safe and Happy Holiday.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Enactment of Ordinance 484 – Real Estate Tax Millage Rate 2016 - Ron Karasak stated that the Real Estate Tax Millage for 2016 is 12.25 mills which is an increase of .50 mills.

On motion by Joe Weaver for the Enactment of Ordinance 484 and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

2. Advertisement of the January Reorganization Meeting of January 4th, 2016.

On motion by Tony Curcio to Advertise the January Reorganization Meeting and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Auto Zone – Extension of Time Request – Brian Pysker stated that he sent a time extension to the agent for Auto Zone which has been signed and returned along with their revised plan.

2. Dave Valley questioned the status of the Closure Letter from DEP for the Ambulance Building. Deb Harbison informed them that Louise Firestone has been in contact with them and the letter should be here soon.

3. Regarding the sale of the Ambulance building, Attorney Karasek said they are looking for a closing date by mid-January. The only hold up is the closure letter from DEP.

4. Attorney Karasek said the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission received and reviewed the Zoning Amendment regarding the special rear yard lot on a duplex. He said LVPC said this is a matter of local interest so they are not getting involved. Attorney Karasek said that once new council gets on board in January we can set up the public hearing.

5. Dave Hess stated that we received two offers for the lot on Lehigh Avenue. Attorney Karasek said we should wait until the next meeting to discuss the real estate since the Borough received a call from another interested party.

6. Dave Hess thanked George Hinton and Joe Weaver for their service to our community. George has served on Council for the past 12 years and Joe for 8 years. Their time and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of December 22, 2015. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of December 22, 2015 adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Debra Harbison, Administrative Assistant