

**BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Planning Session**  
**March 3, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Jason Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:08 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

Vice President Cohn announced that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson and Ms. Macklin. Also present were Mayor John Thompson, Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager, and Isobel Storch from the Law Offices of Patricia McGrail, L.L.C. Council President Eugenia Moore was absent. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Richard Bradford – 502 Holmes St.** – Mr. Bradford advised that he was in attendance at the meeting as part of a community outreach effort for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concert in Wilkinsburg. He encouraged everyone to attend the event to be held on March 27, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Proceeds benefit the elementary school music program. Tickets are on sale for \$7.00. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson expressed the need to fill seats for the event and has tickets to sell. Ms. Macklin commented that she enjoys the event and suggested having students come play for Council at a future meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

Ms. Marcinko opened the discussion on the Rules of Conduct for Council Meetings. It was the consensus of Council to place this matter on the agenda for the next Legislative Session.

A discussion on the topic of Communications followed the discussion on the Rules of Conduct. Ms. Macklin expressed concern about the ability to enforce such a policy. Mr. Cohn commented that he understood Ms. Macklin's concerns but also understood the

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need for such a policy. Ms. Ervin questioned how you can monitor communications between employees and Council. Attorney Storch suggested that separate guidelines may be created for communications from Council to employees and employees to Council. Mr. Lewis commented that discussions in executive session are being communicated to individuals who should not be privy to such information and inquired as to how the Mayor would communicate with the Police Chief under such a policy. Ms. Marcinko advised that the real issue needing to be addressed through this policy is the directing of the work force by members of Council. It was the consensus to rework the policy per Attorney Storch's suggestion and place on the agenda for March 17, 2010.

Mr. Cohn read aloud the Committee Structure for 2010-2011 Committees. Finance Committee Chairperson is Mr. Cohn, with members being Mr. Lefebvre and Ms. Macklin. Public Safety Committee Chairperson is Mr. Lefebvre with committee members being Ms. McCarthy-Johnson and Mr. Cohn. Capital Planning Committee Chairperson is Ms. Macklin, with committee members being Ms. Ervin, and Mr. Lefebvre. Personnel Committee Chairperson is Ms. Trice with committee members being Ms. Evans and Mr. Lewis.

Ms. Marcinko distributed a memorandum from President Moore and provided an overview of the committee structures with the goal being to focus on broader policy and procedure issues and not day-to-day operational issues. The Delta Development Team recommended elimination of the Personnel Committee but Council did not support this recommendation.

Ms. Marcinko requested to be provided Committee meeting dates and times in order that they may be advertised.

Ms. Macklin questioned the elimination of the Economic Development Committee and commented that she believed it to be critical and a focus of Council.

Ms. Evans questioned under which Committee's purview the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan recommendations fall. Ms. Macklin expressed concern over the recommendation in the Comprehensive Plan which calls for the Oversight Committee to be the Plan Implementation Committee.

Ms. Macklin commented that she did not speak with President Moore regarding Committee assignments and commented on Council's fiduciary responsibility and the need to be more hands on.

Ms. Macklin questioned the need for GPS units in police vehicles as directional aids. Ms. Marcinko advised that the GPS is used as a tool for fleet management and monitoring. The police vehicles do not have in-car direction aids.

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Mr. Lewis suggested Council moving the last two discussion items, Review of legislative objectives 2008-2009 and process for development of legislative objectives 2010-2011, to a later meeting.

Ms. Evans commented there are a lot of duplicate efforts relating to Economic Development.

Mayor Thompson requested a banner be posted across Penn Ave. and Hay St. to advertise the upcoming Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second:** Ms. Trice

**Yes:** Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin

**Motion carried 8:0**

Mr. Cohn provided the Adult Library Report and announced rent rebate forms are available in the back of Council Chambers and additional tax forms are available in the Wilkinsburg Library. Ms. Evans announced Representative Preston's office completes rent rebate forms as a service.

Mayor Thompson announced the delivery of a baby by the Wilkinsburg Police Department during the snow storm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Ms. Ervin, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.

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Jason Cohn, Vice President