

**BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Planning Session**  
**Aug. 4, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Moore called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Suzanne McLaughlin – 1514 Walnut St.** – Commented on the regional planning project, “Power of 32” and described the project and benefits. The Wilkinsburg meeting will be held on Tuesday August 31, 2010 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Hosanna House.

**David Paton – 1348 Penn Ave.** – Commented on the difficulty he is having parking in front of his house across from Graham Field and the need for a handicap parking space. Ms. Marcinko will check on the status of the application.

**Roger Baker – 453 Biddle St.** – Informed Council of his project for a training program and developmental strategy to elevate people. He is seeking to obtain vacant properties which youth can renovate to learn skills. Ms. McGrail commented on the process for acquisition of property and that the Borough cannot acquire property and give it away.

**Brian Maloney – Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services** – Reported three hundred forty six (346) calls in the month of July. Emergency response times were reported as being six minutes and thirty three seconds (6 min 33 sec.) in the month of July with non-emergency calls response time at nine minutes and nineteen seconds (9 min. 19 sec.). EAPHS conducted a blood pressure clinic in July and assisted at the Wallace Avenue Soup Kitchen. EAPHS also participated in National Night Out and provided stand by service for the recent filming of the movie “One for the Money”. EAPHS will be participating in Community Day. Council President Moore questioned about calls received due to high humidity. Mr. Maloney responded that Eastern Area has received calls for respiratory distress.

Ms. Macklin left the meeting at 7:35 due to an emergency.

Mr. Cohn arrived at 7:40 p.m.

**Ernest Jones –563 Princeton Blvd.** – Again requested a refund of the tow charge he received. He questioned the role of Code Enforcement Officers and how often inspections are performed. Ms. Marcinko suggested that Mr. Jones direct specific inquiries to the Code Enforcement Department as Council does not necessarily have direct knowledge of each complaint and disposition.

**Art Hicks – 571 Princeton Blvd.** – Expressed his thanks for the potholes which were patched on Traymore. He questioned whether the Borough could contract with residents to perform some of the public works tasks. He commented on the response Mr. Jones received on the issues he is having with handicap parking and questioned whether residency is required for police officers. Mr. Cohn commented on the Borough efforts on cleaning vacant lots and the difficulties encountered in addressing issues on private property.

**Shirley Doubt Elston – 1726 Wright St.** - Expressed thanks for the clean-up efforts on her street and commended the efforts of the Week of Hope kids. She also thanked Mr. Cohn and Mr. Lefebvre for their work.

#### **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

**Ordinance No. 2846**  
**Approving amendments to Electrical Code.**

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Second:** Mr. Cohn

**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**Ordinance No. 2847**  
**Approving amendments to Fire Prevention Code**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Second:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Moore

**Motion carried**

#### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

**Ordinance No. 2844**  
**Removing Handicap Parking Space – 1357 Laketon Rd.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Yes:** Ms. Evans, Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**Ordinance No. 2845**

**Establishing parking restrictions – Laketon Road and Wood Street**

**Moved:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Yes:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Evans, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**10-094**

**Endorsing Senate Bill 1447 relating to Marcellus Shale drilling.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Second:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**10-095**

**Authorizing contract award to Morton International, Inc. for rock salt.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Second:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Evans, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

**Motion carried**

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

- President Moore expressed Mr. Albert Jamis' appreciation to Mr. Lefebvre for his quick response to a potentially dangerous situation at McNary and Graham. President Moore provided the Adult Library Report:
- The summer program is coming to a close with a 20% increase in participation over the prior year.
- The Wise Walk program will begin on Tuesday September 7, 2010 at 10:00 AM. Those interested can contact Betsey Schwartz
- There will be no Council meeting the third week in August.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

#### **Finance Committee – Mr. Cohn reported:**

- The Committee meeting for the month of August has been changed to August 16, 2010 at 5:00 PM.
- The Committee continues to review the recommendations from the Five Year Plan and Financial Management Study and discuss implementation.
- The Joint Tax Committee met on July 26, 2010 and reviewed the first of the applications for the tax compromise programs and are continuing to work on process.

#### **Public Safety Committee –Mr. Lefebvre reported:**

- The lap top computers for the Code Enforcement vehicles have been installed which provides for remote access to the Land Management system.
- The next Committee meeting will be held on September 15, 2010 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.
- Community Day will be held on August 21, 2010 from 12-8:00 PM in the Penn Ave parklet and Wallace Ave. parking lots.
- The Fifth Annual Wilkinsburg Idol Contest will be held on Community Day.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson announced that the Whitney Avenue Art Gallery (WAAG) event was held on July 31, 2010 in the 700 block of Whitney Avenue. There were ten (10) abandoned houses in a one block area on Whitney Avenue which were “decorated” with art work.

#### **Resolution No. 10-096**

#### **Approving VPRP application for 1025 Franklin Ave. – Lot & Block 233-E-100.**

Ms. Marcinko commented that this application was approved by the Planning Commission at their last meeting on August 2, 2010.

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Yes:** Ms. Evans, Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

#### **Motion carried**

Ms. McGrail mentioned that Waste Management is seeking a list of specific complaints/concerns. Council President Moore questioned whether trash was being removed from Hunter Park and Mr. Lefebvre responded that all parks are an issue. There were other locations noted and the Solicitor will communicate this to Waste Management.

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Mr. Cohn questioned whether the Borough was receiving the quarterly reports as required under the contract. Ms. McGrail advised that she has requested the reports.

Ms. Evans announced that the WCDC is purchasing new litter receptacles for the business district and the first one has been installed on Penn Ave at Wood Street. Mr. Cohn commented on the impressive reputation of the fabricator.

Mr. Cohn questioned whether it would be advisable to reach out to neighbors' of demolished properties to determine if there is interest in acquiring them. Ms. Evans cautioned of the need to evaluate each site/location.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Mr. Cohn, second by Mr. Lefebvre the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.

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Eugenia Moore, Council President