

BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING
Planning Session
May 5, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 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. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Macklin and President Moore. Also present were Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager, and Isobel Storch from the Law Offices of Patricia McGrail, L.L.C. Those absent were Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson and Mayor John Thompson. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave. – Questioned the agenda item providing for the award of the NSP demolition contract at 1002-1004 Hill Ave. Ms. Luxemburg stated that this property is a duplex and that the other side of the duplex is not on the demolition list, the water is turned off and it is very tax delinquent. If the property is vacant, she suggested that it may be less expensive to demolish both sides as opposed to preserving the party wall.

Ms. Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson arrived at 7:12 PM.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

President Moore would like a Proclamation for Joel Segel from the County Redevelopment Authority for his efforts in Wilkinsburg.

President Moore commented on the number of faded street signs and suggested that a listing of all faded signs requiring replacement be developed.

President Moore cited poor visibility and sight distance impairment at the intersection of Hill Ave. and Coal St.

President Moore commented that the paving on Laketon Rd. is appreciated by the residents but more road work is needed. She reported a pothole in the area of Turner Field.

President Moore commented that she was pleased to see the barricades restored at Tioga and Wood Streets due to children playing.

President Moore provided the Library Report:

- The Wilkinsburg Library is being paid a penny each time one searches the internet using Goodsearch www.goodsearch.com
- The library is collecting ink jet cartridges. For more information, please call 412-244-4378.
- Wise Walk is held weekly at 10:00 AM every Tuesday at the Borough Building. It is not too late to register and you need not be present to participate. Participants can record their steps and forward the information to the library.
- F.E.L.L.O.W. annual book sale and flea market will be held June 4 through 12 from 10:00 AM. to 5:00 PM daily with the exception of Sunday. Volunteers are needed and interested parties can sign up at the circulation desk in the Adult Department. Donations for the book sale and flea market are welcome until June 1, 2010. Betsey Swartz is the contact person and she can be reached at 412-244-4377.
- Summer reading club sign up starts May 25, 2010. "Make a Splash at Your Library" is the theme for the summer reading program for children ages birth through age twelve (12).
- Teens can participate in the Make A Wave Program. Special programs for both groups will be available in the future.

President Moore commented that Penn Ave. is looking much cleaner.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Capital Planning Committee- Ms. Macklin reported:

- The committee met on April 28, 2010 and most of the discussion was on the Engineer's report.
- Ms. Macklin requested that Council review the CD 37 projects and pre-applications prior to the time that action needs to be taken.
- The Planning Commission met on May 3, 2010 and received four (4) new Vacant Property Recovery Program applications submitted by Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation in the areas of St. James and Hamnett Place. Redevelopment efforts are continuing in that area.
- The Planning Commission completed its first review of the entire Comprehensive Plan. The final draft should be available for review at the Commission's meeting on June 7, 2010.

President Moore added she attended a legislative breakfast on April 30 hosted by D.A.R.E. (Disability Rights and Equality to the Disabled.) Topics discussed

were civil rights, transportation, employment, healthcare, fair housing, community living, voter empowerment, attendant care and accessibility.

Finance Committee- Mr. Cohn reported:

- The Committee met on April 20, 2010.
- Efforts are focused on recommendations for the current fiscal year from the Five-Year Plan and Financial Management Study. While a lot of work remains to be done, the Committee is off to a good start.
- The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2010 at 9:30 AM and all meetings are open to the public. Mr. Cohn requested that Committee members review the financial report in advance and submit questions to the Borough Manager or Finance Director in order that the business for the meeting be limited to the EIP recommendations. Ms. Macklin noted that May 18 is election day. Mr. Cohn suggested coordinating for an alternate date via email.
- The school district is requesting a resolution of support for action they are taking in initiating properties for sheriff's sale.
- Amendments are being proposed to the Tax Compromise and/or Tax Base Expansion legislation to provide for the Committee to establish the application fee structure for adoption by Council as well as expanding the requirement for no tax delinquencies or code violations for any properties owned in Allegheny County. This requirement of the applicant currently only applies to Wilkinsburg properties.
- Announced the Borough's receipt of 2nd Place Award for PSAB Municipal Website Contest.

Personnel Committee –Ms. Trice reported:

- The Committee met on April 14, 2010 and discussed pending personnel issues.
- Reviewed Talent Bank applications for the Community Art & Civic Design Commission which were approved at the April 21, 2010 Council meeting.
- The Committee received a copy of a proposed policy for acceptable use of computers and technological equipment.

Turtle Creek Valley COG Report-Ms. Trice reported:

- The Board met on April 22, 2010.
- The Borough has six (6) projects on the open projects list with a couple from CD 33 having been completed (windows and municipal building space allocation). One (1) project from CD 34 for sanitary sewer repairs, three (3) from CD 36 Safe Neighborhood Demolition for \$94,000 and Singer Place Storm Sewer Project in the amount of \$7,800 and NSP Demolition.
- Act 32 which amends Act 511 of 1965 with the COG being interested in providing the collection service for the Earned Income Tax (EIT) under Act 32.

Public Safety Committee –Mr. Lefebvre reported:

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- The Committee met on April 21, 2010 and the minutes from the meeting were previously distributed to Council.
- Laptops should be installed in the three Code Enforcement vehicles by the end of May.
- Chief McAfee is working with Freedom Systems on a condensed version of the Land Management System for operation on the laptop computers.
- FEMA has approved the reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of the February snow event in the amount of approximately \$62,000. The reimbursement is for 75% of costs.

Ms. McCarthy Johnson reported that she travelled to Harrisburg with Leadership Pittsburgh and met with legislators and Governor Rendell. HB2350, introduced by State Representative Turzai, provides for the privatizing of wine and spirits sales in PA. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson distributed a packet of information on HB2350.

Ms. Evans reported that the WMA and WCIDA will meet on Tuesday May 11, 2010 at 6:00 PM. WCDC and WMA have pledged money to purchase litter receptacles for the business district. The Board agreed to proceed with funding for at least twenty (20) receptacles and will be seeking Council approval for their placement in the business district.

Ms. Evans advised that she met with individuals interested in funding a Sprout Fund Project in the park or somewhere in Wilkinsburg. She commented that Ferguson Playground is in need of fall surface material. Ms. Macklin commented that Patrick Shattuck, Chairperson of the Planning Commission is interested in working in that park with Pittsburgh Urban Christian School.

Mr. Cohn informed Council he will be working on proposed legislation relating to poultry in the Borough to allow residents to have a certain number of hens similar to the Pittsburgh legislation. Mr. Cohn requested that the tires on Center and Hamnett Streets be removed and possibly included in the May 8, 2010 clean-up project. Mr. Cohn received a request from MAD DADS for portable toilets for their Fathers' Day annual event on June 19, 2010. Council agreed to provide two portable toilets for the MAD DADS event to be delivered on a Friday and picked up on Monday.

Ms. Trice requested an executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Ms. Macklin advised that she also had a personnel issue for executive session.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson questioned permitting an event on the newly-planted grass at the Penn Ave. Parklet. It was the consensus of Council that it would not be advisable to have an event held until the grass had an opportunity to take hold.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH MANAGER

Ms. Marcinko discussed the issue with the handicapped parking space on Princeton Blvd and the possible need to amend the legislation the establish additional restrictions on the

issuance of permits. Ms. Storch commented on the provisions of the current ordinance and that amendments could be made to provide for additional qualifications/restrictions. Ms. Evans commented that it may be possible to address these issues on a case by case basis. Ms. Ervin questioned how emergency vehicle parking/access is affected if there is no handicapped parking space. Ms. Storch advised that any person with a handicapped placard or license plate may park in any designated handicapped parking space. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson stated that the police officers should be aware of that fact. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the amendment.

OLD BUSINESS

- Linda Law advised Council that there four (4) summer camps this year held at Hosanna House, ABC, Youth Places and Boys and Girls Club. They are all running from the third week in June through the third week in August.
- On May 17, 2010 "How to Become a Homeowner Workshop" will be held in the Borough Building at 6:00 PM.
- The Wilkesburg Baseball Association parade was held on Saturday, May 1.

Mr. Cohn requested that summer events be submitted to the Wilkesburg Sun for publication. Submissions can be emailed to him or merlejtanzeditor@wilkesburgsun.com by Friday May 7, 2010.

Ms. Law apologized to Ms. McCarthy-Johnson for actions/behavior toward Ms. McCarthy-Johnson.

NEW BUSINESS

10-052

Making application for emergency demolition funds to Allegheny County for 7962 Tioga Street in the amount of \$40,000.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Evans

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

10-053

Declaring 7962 Tioga Street a public nuisance.

Moved: Ms. Ervin

Second: Ms. Trice

Yes: Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, President Moore

Motion carried

**Request for street closure – Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) –
Peebles Square lot between South and Ross Ave. on Trenton St. June 5 from Noon
to 5:00 PM.**

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin,
Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

10-054

**Authorizing the award of the NSP demolition contract to Jadell Minniefield
in the amount of \$246,740.50.**

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Cohn

Mr. Cohn questioned the expected time for finishing the project. Ms. Marcinko advised that the County requires that the contract be complete in one hundred eighty (180) days. The Borough's contract may specify a shorter time frame.

Yes: Mr. Cohn, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, President Moore

Motion carried

Isobel Storch, Borough Solicitor requested an executive session to discuss litigation.

Mr. Lefebvre commented that the Borough is recruiting for Seasonal Summer Workers. He requested that the advertisement be listed in the Wilkinsburg Sun. Ms. Ervin questioned how many will be hired for the position. Ms. Marcinko responded that she would have to check the budget.

Ms. Evans informed Council that the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC) will be posting advertisements for additional administrative staff.

Council recessed to executive session at approximately 8:10 PM.

Council came out of executive session at approximately 9:40 PM and the meeting was reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Mr. Cohn second by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 PM.

Eugenia Moore, Council President