

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Legislative Session
June 15, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, President Moore requested the audience remain standing to observe a moment of silence for all victims of violent crime and our troops. Ms. Ervin requested a tribute to Mrs. Grimes, a long time resident of Wilkesburg and member of the block club.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Winford Craig, Chairperson, Weed & Seed AID Team introduced himself to Council and advised that he was in attendance to speak in support of the Weed & Seed Initiative in Wilkesburg. He advised that the budget for Weed & Seed was entirely eliminated under Governor Corbett's proposed budget. Mr. Craig read aloud a letter, prepared by the Wilkesburg AID Team, referencing the budget cuts and the many programs affected which have partnerships with the Weed & Seed program. The office has serviced more than 5,000 residents and has benefited the entire region. Mr. Craig requested Council's support to fund the Site Coordinator's position for a period of 4-6 months.

Ms. Macklin questioned whether efforts have been made to obtain funding from foundations and/or organizations. Mr. Craig advised that other organization were approached. President Moore questioned what Weed & Seed has accomplished in the community and what the impact of its loss will be. Mr. Craig described a number of initiatives that the program was working to accomplish including the Citizens' Police Academy, law enforcement initiatives and the Disproportionate Minority Contact.

Mayor John Thompson commented on the sustainability of the program if the Governor's proposed budget passes. Mayor Thompson advised that he met with AID Team and subcommittee representatives on June 8, 2011 and spoke of the initiatives in progress.

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 15, 2011**

He commented on the importance of not losing this momentum. Mayor Thompson commented on programs geared toward youth, specifically at the Warhol Museum with silk screening classes and the collaborations for community clean-ups. He stressed the need to continue the program and the need for the position of Weed & Seed Site Coordinator.

Gail Mitchell-Hall, Weed & Seed Site Coordinator commented on the establishment of priceless collaborations and partnerships through the program. She cited the partnership with the Wilkinsburg School District, Magisterial District Justice Kim Hoots, Wilkinsburg Parks & Recreation (Chairperson Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson), and a community organization for truant students to participate in community service projects in lieu of their parents' being sent to jail. In addition, thirteen new Neighborhood Block Watch programs have been established.

Ms. Evans thanked Mayor Thompson, President Moore, Mr. Craig and all involved for the countless volunteer hours working with the Weed & Seed Program. She commented on the difficult times faced for many agencies. She suggested that the AID Team provide a written proposal to Council with their funding request and commitments from partnering agencies for matching funds as well as anticipated outcomes from the program. She further commented that there are no monies in the Borough budget for the position this year and that the budget is very tight.

Mr. Lewis commented that Weed & Seed has not received funding for programs for two years and that, with the potential loss of State funding in the new budget, the program would basically be losing its Coordinator. He further stated that the program can continue its efforts with volunteers who have made a commitment to the program. Mayor Thompson stressed the need for one point of contact and that several Weed & Seed programs have continued despite the lack of funding. Mr. Lewis commented that there must be sufficient support available with the existing Weed & Seed infrastructure.

Mr. Craig again stressed the need for a Weed and Seed Site Coordinator to coordinate projects and programs and that no one has the available resources to devote to that effort. Ms. Ervin commented that if no decision was to be made tonight, she would agree to obtaining a written proposal to consider. Mr. Craig agreed that the proposal was a reasonable request as well as the importance of defining benchmarks and outcomes. Ms. Evans commented that this should have received greater thought months ago prior to the loss of funding deadline. Mr. Craig commented that the final State budget has yet to be adopted. President Moore agreed to being provided a written proposal.

President Moore introduced Roy Clark, newly-appointed Director of the Department of Public Works. Mr. Clark thanked Council for the opportunity and commented that he will work to create change in Wilkinsburg. President Moore introduced Sean Gramz, newly-appointed Director of Code Enforcement. Mr. Gramz thanked Council for the

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 15, 2011**

opportunity and expressed his support of the Council's efforts with the direction of the Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan King – 916 Franklin Ave. – Announced that the Tree Tender Course sponsored by the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association will be held on June 25, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Borough Building. The fee is \$10.00 with lunch provided.

Wilbert Wright – 1315 Clark St. – Expressed concern regarding the condition of two adjacent properties to 1019 Maple which are abandoned and believed to be infested with rodents. President Moore advised that this issue is being addressed but a definitive date could not be provided.

Linda Law – 908 Wood St. – Commented that the Borough is happy to host the Tree Tender Course and asked for Council's support in sending attendees. She announced the fifth annual MADDADS Father's Day Event at the Hamnett Park-n-Ride on June 18, 2011. MADDADS will also be hosting a 5th anniversary benefit celebration concert at the August Wilson Center on June 25, 2011 from 5:30-9:00 PM. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. George Spencer is the President of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of MADDADS.

Lillie Matthews 128 S. Braddock Ave. – Ms. Matthews had to leave the meeting. Ms. Trice announced for her that St. Mark's A.M.E. Zion Church invites Wilkinsburg residents on Saturday June 25, 2011 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM to participate in a gala affair at 807 Ross Ave which will include a clothing drive, hot dogs and hamburgers, \$1 soft drinks and free haircuts.

Terri Supowitz – 310 Hay St. – Spoke in support of the Borough's ban on gas well drilling. Ms. Supowitz read aloud a letter she received from a woman in New York whose son was killed at a drilling site. She inquired as to the status of adopting the ordinance. Ms. Macklin responded that the ordinance will be presented this evening for first reading.

Mark Ozark – 536 Ardmore Blvd. – Inquired as to the status of the ordinance adoption for the gas well drilling ban. President Moore responded that it will be presented for first reading tonight.

Clebert Alleyne – 604 West St. – Expressed concern regarding the condition of the property at 606 West Street and code violations as well as the delinquent tax status of the property. Ms. Marcinko advised that Code Enforcement had initiated the process of issuing citations.

Keith Sanders – 6855 Penn Ave. 7913 Bennett St. – Mr. Sanders owns a towing company and commented that there is no opportunity to utilize other towing companies in the Borough. He stated that he had been threatened by police officers while at accident scenes.

Richard Bradford – 502 Holmes St. – Mr. Bradford distributed flyers to Council regarding the "Blessings in a Backpack" program which is sponsored at Johnston

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 15, 2011**

Elementary School. He commented on the need to secure \$24,000 in funding for the 2011-2012 school year at Johnston Elementary and to expand the program to the other elementary schools in the Borough. There is a cost of \$80.00 per student. President Moore commented that this is a great project. Ms. Macklin questioned whether an article on the program has appeared in the Wilkinsburg Sun. Mr. Bradford confirmed that it has. **Lee Heards – 909 Franklin Ave.** – Commented on his neighborhood on Franklin Ave and his efforts to revitalize the area by cleaning up abandoned properties. He complimented the assistance provided by Roy Clark and Larry Malone from the Department of Public Works.

Dennis Walker – Youth Places – 2023 Kendon Dr. East. – Program Coordinator of Youth Places and works with youth in Wilkinsburg. He commented that he has made connections with the Weed & Seed Program and expressed his support. He has worked with Youth Places for six years.

President Moore questioned if Youth Places uses the Gym of Future Champs and Mr. Walker responded that they do not. Mr. Walker informed Council that Youth Places moved into Mulberry Church and utilizes the gym there.

President Moore recognized Mr. “Rock” Burnett, former DPW employee in attendance at the meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

Ordinance No. 2869

Establishing a Handicap Parking Space – 500 South Ave.

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. Ervin

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

Motion carried

Ordinance No. 2870

An Ordinance of the Borough of Wilkinsburg, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prohibiting the commercial extraction of natural gas from the ground within the borders of the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Seconded by: Ms. Evans

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

Motion carried

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 15, 2011**

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 2868

An Ordinance of the Borough of Wilkinsburg, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 146 of the Wilkinsburg Code of Ordinances, Section 3 relating to methods of administration and enforcement of the international Fire Prevention Code of 2009 as the Fire Prevention Code for the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. Macklin

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

Motion carried

RESOLUTIONS

11-053

Approving the Borough Council Meeting Minutes of May 4 and May 18, 2011.

Moved: Ms. Ervin

Seconded by: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Ms. Macklin requested a correction to the minutes of May 18, 2011 on page eight (8). The spelling of Mr. Leverette was incorrect in two places under Old Business.

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

Motion carried

11-054

Approving the May Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:

Regular Distributions 05/01/11 – 05/31/11	\$ 902,993.22
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 322,246.11
Voided Checks	<u>\$ 4,707.73</u>
Total	\$1,220,531.60

Moved: Ms. Evans

Seconded by: Mr. Lefebvre

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

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 15, 2011**

No: Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice, Ms. Ervin

With the vote being tied, Mayor Thompson was called upon to cast his vote. The Mayor voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried 5:4

11-055

A Resolution of the Borough of Wilkinsburg, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, appointing Kratzenberg & Associates, Inc. a Pennsylvania Corporation d/b/a Keystone Collections Group as the Local Services Tax ("LST") Collector which shall collect said tax effective January 1, 2012 in accordance with previously adopted ordinances/resolutions, rules and regulations.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Seconded by: Mr. Lewis

Ms. Macklin questioned the assignment of the collection for the 2011 and prior EIT and LST delinquent accounts. Ms. Marcinko responded that this decision does not need to be made prior to June 30, 2011. Under Act 32, Berkheimer Tax Services will continue to collect delinquent taxes January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. A decision will have to be made whether delinquent EIT and LST for 2011 and prior years will be assigned to another collector. There is a possibility the Borough may have two tax collectors for a six-month period.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson questioned whether Keystone Collection Group will collect fees at similar rates as Portnoff Law Associates. Keystone Collections Group will not collect fees but will collect a commission similar to Berkheimer Tax Services.

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

Motion carried

11-056

Appointing Patrick Shattuck to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Josie Bryant which shall continue through January 31, 2013.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Seconded by: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

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

Motion carried

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 15, 2011**

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson announced that Art in the Park had started and she distributed this year's schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve street closure on June 18 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Center St. between Whitney Avenue to Ramsey St. and from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Center St. between Woodworth and Ramsey St. to accommodate the University of Pittsburgh Mobile Lab for the annual MADDAD's event.

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

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

Ms. Evans was out of the room at the time of the vote.

Motion carried

Resolution No. 11-057

Resolution of Council of the Borough of Wilkinsburg rejecting that the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a parcel in the Borough would be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan of the Borough of Wilkinsburg, identifies as 900 Ross Ave. – Lot/Block #233-A-236.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Seconded by: Mr. Lefebvre

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

Motion carried

President Moore informed Council of the no cost program Heaven's Rainbow, Inc. at 812 Swissvale Avenue (Deliverance Baptist Church) 412 731-0777.
www.heavensrainbow.org

President Moore thanked Ms. Ervin for working on cleanups on Montier and Bessica Streets. Ms. Ervin thanked Ms. Trice and President Moore for coming out and DPW for picking up the debris.

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 15, 2011**

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Ms. Trice, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:42 PM.

Eugenia Moore, Council President