

**BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Planning Session**  
**November 2, 2011**

**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. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Macklin and President Moore. Also present were Mayor John Thompson and Matt Racunas, Esquire from the Law Offices of Patricia McGrail, L.L.C. Borough Solicitor. Absent were Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager, Ms. Ervin, Mr. Lewis and Ms. McCarthy-Johnson. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Chief Ophelia Coleman and Sergeant Wayne McKenith of the Wilkinsburg Police Department presented certificates to officers and individuals who work with the Police Department in recognition of outstanding work. Sergeant McKenith accepted the certificates on behalf of the following officers: Sergeant McKenith, Detective Minton, Tom Adams, Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center dispatcher, Detective Wagner, Detective Rose (Port Authority), Detective Grande, Detective Rourke, Sergeant Cuiffi, Sergeant Singer, Officer Hamlin, Officer Wilson, Officer Yuhouse and Yasko, which is the K-9 partner.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson arrived at 7:25 PM.

Chief Coleman commented about the success of the Halloween party and parade.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Linda Law – 908 Wood Street** – Spoke on behalf of the Neighborhood Restoration Committee and thanked the University of Pittsburgh students who participated in the clean-up for the Pitt Makes a Difference Day. She also thanked the team leaders and others who helped with the project.

**David Wilson – Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services** – Mr. Wilson presented the October report. He reported that for the month of October there were 364 calls and 262

transports. Response times for E-0's were recorded at 6.2 minutes and response times for E-1's at 7.3 minutes. Mr. Wilson reported a good turn-out for the flu clinic and blood pressure clinic. Ms. Macklin questioned an incident where a wrong address was provided by 911. Mr. Wilson was unaware of the incident but would follow up.

**Cassandra Hicks – 1313 Singer Place and Roxanne Squires 1305 Singer Place –** Inquired about vacant lots, specifically 1307, 1315, and 1317 Singer Place. Ms. Hicks and Ms. Squires indicated that they would be interested in purchasing the lots. Mr. Cohn explained the process by which to acquire property through the County Vacant Property Recovery Program.

### **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

#### **Ordinance No. 2879**

**Amending Borough of Wilkinsburg Code, Part II, Chapter 237 - §§46 & 56 which consisted of Ordinance No. 2802 and Ordinance No. 2817 to the Wilkinsburg Tax Base Expansion Act which permits the submission of an application within sixty (60) days if the issuance of an occupancy permit in certain situations.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Seconded by:** Mr. Lefebvre

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

**Motion carried**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **11-092**

**Authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Plum to provide for the use of its Plum Borough Construction Appeals Board to hear and adjudicate appeals of the decision(s) of the Wilkinsburg Building Code Official in conformance with Section 403.121 of the Uniform Construction Code.**

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn

**Seconded by:** Ms. Evans

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

**Motion carried**

### **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

**Mayor John Thompson reported:**

- There were 58 arrests in October, 2011.
- The K-9 vehicle is in the shop for repairs.

- The Police Department will be receiving two new vehicles in two weeks.
- The Citizens' Police Academy will begin on January 11, 2012.
- The Mayor has been working with local clergy on the Sanctuary Project.
- Commented on the Halloween Party and Halloween patrols and an incident wherein a tire was slashed.
- The Holiday Parade will be held December 3, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.
- There will be a closed meeting to discuss the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Borough on November 15, 2011 at 8:30 AM. Council members are invited to attend.

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

#### **President Moore reported:**

- She received a mailer from the Local Government Academy with a picture of Councilwoman McCarthy-Johnson and Councilwoman Trice.
- 620 Smithfield Street will be a severe weather shelter for homeless from November 15, 2011-March 15, 2012. Please call 412 779-1329 for information.

#### **Adult Library Report:**

- Staff is working through a committee to make changes to the online catalog.
- Holiday programs will be available. Call 412 244-2944 for information.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

#### **Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Macklin reported:**

- A short meeting was held in October.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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

- There will be a budget work session on Wednesday, November 9, 2011.
- The work session will include discussion on the proposals for the Code Enforcement Department for 2012.

#### **Personnel Committee – Ms. Trice reported:**

- The Committee met on Wednesday October 12, 2011.
- The Committee agreed to recommend a transitional work assignments/reasonable accommodation policy.
- Two new officers have been hired for the Police Department.
- Catherine Burke's appointment to the Shade Tree Committee was recommended.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

Ms. Trice further reported that the Turtle Creek Valley COG took action to make application for an EPA Brownfields Grant.

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

- At the last meeting, the Director of Code Enforcement explained his proposed programs for the Department in 2012.
- The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Ms. Evans provided a report on a recent CONNECT meeting:**

- CONNECT provided information on blight, abandoned properties and other issues.
- They are working on legislation relating to EMS operations in communities.
- On November 17 2011 an evening meeting will be held in Oakland between the hours of 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation Committee - Ms. McCarthy-Johnson reported:**

- The Committee met regarding parks and recreation issues and information will be forthcoming to Council.
- There are a number of persons interested in serving on the Advisory Board.
- The Committee will be meeting next week to begin preparations for the annual toy drive.

Ms. Macklin questioned the status of the applications for individuals interested in serving on the Advisory Board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Delinquent tax collection (at the request of Ms. Trice)**

There was no discussion on this issue.

Ms. Macklin discussed remedies for tax collection on the ability to lien property and the ability to go after landlord properties.

Ms. Evans recommended attending the CONNECT meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Trice, second by Ms. Macklin, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:09 PM.

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Eugenia Moore, Council President