

**BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Planning Session**  
**October 5, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

Mr. Cohn announced that an executive session was held prior to this meeting at 6:00 PM to discuss litigation.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council and the audience were asked to remain standing to observe a moment of silence to remember all victims of violent crime.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Linda Law – 908 Wood St.** – Spoke on behalf of the Sanctuary Project and the Wilkinsburg Ministerial Alliance to extend a thank you to the Department of Public Works for help with the clean-up day.

Ms. Law announced that on October 22, 2011 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Pitt Makes a Difference Day is coming to Wilkinsburg. There will be eighty-six students with the possibility of more. Ms. Law requested assistance for two more crew leaders. Mr. Cohn inquired as to whether DPW would be able to assist and Ms. Marcinko advised that would be the case.

**Antoinette Osei - 502 Hay St. #107** – Ms. Osei inquired as to her voting district in Wilkinsburg and commented that she is interested in performing volunteer work in the community. Mr. Cohn advised Ms. Osei that her voting location would be Dumplin Hall and that there are many opportunities to serve on Boards and Commissions with the Borough as well as community clean-up efforts, etc.

**Betty Brown – 1460 Foliage St.** – Commented about having received two parking tickets in the past two days. She suggested that other violations should also be cited, not just parking violations for street cleaning. Ms. Brown suggested changing the time for the parking restriction near Kelly school to later in the morning after children have been dropped off/. Mr. Cohn concurred that this would seem to make sense and suggested that this be discussed with Chief Coleman.

Ms. Brown complained that the gas company refused to replace the bricks in a utility cut following restoration. Ms. Marcinko will follow-up regarding gas line replacement on Foliage Street.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented that the parking lot at Kelly school can be used when dropping off students.

**David Wilson – Eastern Area Pre-Hospital** - Provided the monthly report and third quarter report. During the third quarter, there were 1008 calls with 718 transports. E-0s were recorded at 6.5 minutes and the average response times were recorded at 6.8 minutes running lights and sirens. For the month of September, there were a total of 345 calls with 263 transports. E-0s for the month of September were recorded at 6.3 minutes and average response times running lights and sirens were recorded at 6.6 minutes. Mr. Wilson reported that response times are improving. A flu shot clinic will be held in the Borough Building on October 19, 2011 from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM and 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. EAPHS will be sponsoring a blood pressure clinic and flu shot clinic on October 28, 2011 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the Wallace Avenue Soup Kitchen.

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

##### **Ordinance No. 2878**

##### **Amending Earned Income Tax and Local Services Tax per Act 32.**

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Seconded by:** Ms. Trice

Mr. Cohn requested a brief overview for the public which was provided by Ms. Marcinko.

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

**Motion carried**

#### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

##### **Adult Library Report – Vice President Cohn reported on behalf of President**

**Moore:**

- Expressed appreciation to those who participated in the Pittsburgh Day of Giving for the Wilkesburg Library.

- The Holiday Parade meeting will be held on Thursday October 6, 2011 at 5:30 PM at the Wilkinsburg School District Board Room on the first floor at 718 Wallace Avenue. Barbara Thompson is the organizer.
- Mr. Cohn read a message from Chief Ophelia Coleman of the Wilkinsburg Police Department acknowledging her receipt of a Service Award from Mulberry Church.
- The Heritage Parade was on Saturday October 1, 2011 and the Wilkinsburg High School Band marched and was recognized for a job well done.

Ms. Marcinko announced the upcoming Halloween Parade and Trick or Treat Night to be observed in Wilkinsburg on October 31, 2011 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The parade begins at the Municipal Building at 5:30 PM with a party to follow in the Auditorium.

- There were 70-80 coupons distributed in Wilkinsburg for the Hard Head Patrol (bicycle helmets).

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

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

- The Capital Planning Committee attended a forum hosted by the TCVCOG which featured Dennis Davin and Jack Exler from the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority to discuss proposed cuts to CDBG funding.
- Senator Toomey, who serves on the Deficit Reduction Committee at the Federal level, has proposed CDBG funding cuts of 60%. Communities are urged to call their Congressional representatives and request that funding not be cut.
- AIM Loan monies are available for short term loans at a 2% interest rate for equipment, vehicles, and fleet vehicles.
- More monies will be available from CITF for projects of \$500,000 or more. Ms. Macklin suggested the Ardmore Boulevard Greenway Project for this funding.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 26, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Cohn provided phone numbers of elected officials to contact regarding CDBG funding cuts. CDBG monies have provided funds for demolition projects and street reconstruction projects in Wilkinsburg.

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

- The Committee met on October 20, 2011 at 9:30 AM in the Borough Manager's Conference Room.
- Budget Work Sessions are scheduled for October 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM, October 26, 2011 at 7:00 PM and November 9, 2011 at 7:00 PM.
- Council will be receiving budget figures on Friday October 7, 2011. Mr. Cohn requested that questions be provided in advance of the budget work sessions.

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

- The September meeting was cancelled.
- The next meeting will be held October 12, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

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

- The next meeting will be held on October 19, 2011 at 5:30 PM.
- The last meeting was devoted to discussing the proposed Rental Property Inspection Program.

**Resolution of support to continue to fully fund CDBG Program as funds are absolutely critical to infrastructure needs during difficult economic times.**

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Seconded by:** Ms. Evans

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

**Motion carried**

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson announced the Wilkesburg Toy Drive will be starting on October 6, 2011 to begin to raise funds for the annual event. The committee will meet Thursday October 6, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Evans attended two meetings and commented on the CONNECT Vacant Property working group meeting. There was discussion about county-wide efforts as well as ways to utilize new legislation. Ms. Evans suggested that Code Director Sean Gramz attend these meetings. Ms. Evans advised that she is a member of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and has been asked to serve on a committee to obtain more involvement from banks, particularly to invest in rehabilitation of properties. Ms. Macklin inquired if the committee is targeting homeowners, investors, or both. Ms. Evans advised that the model which the committee is exploring focuses on single family, owner-occupied homes. She commented that the banks have been very receptive, particularly the smaller institutions. Mr. Cohn commented on concerns regarding restrictions on funding.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Macklin requested that an article appear in the Wilkesburg Sun regarding earned income tax collection changes as a result of Act 32. Ms. Marcinko advised that she believed an article had already run on this subject and that a request could be made for it to run again. Ms. Evans commented that the Chamber of Commerce had sent out information via email as well as the WCDC.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Macklin commented on the service locator feature being disabled on the website. Mr. Cohn commented that it was his recollection that this had been done due to data issues. Mr. Cohn spoke with New Perspective and will disconnect just that portion dealing with refuse and recycling and re-activate the voting information. New Perspective suggested that this feature be updated in-house. Ms. Macklin commented that her primary concern at this time is having the voting information available. Mr. Cohn agreed that it is a good tool and that he will follow-up. Ms. Luxemburg commented that she could make the change to enable it.

Ms. Macklin commended the Director of Code Enforcement Sean Gramz for working diligently to enforce codes in the community. His efforts have galvanized neighbors to clean up and make a difference.

Mr. Lefebvre questioned the status of 613 Whitney Avenue. Mr. Racunas referred Council to a memo he prepared with regard to the status of the property.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson second by Ms. Trice, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:58 PM.

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Eugenia Moore, Council President