

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Legislative Session**  
**November 14, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 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. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin and President Cohn (via telephone). Mayor John Thompson, Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Michael Witherel, Solicitor were also present. Ms. Trice was absent. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Wilbert Wright 1315 Clark St.** – Mr. Wright stated he is having problems obtaining a refund from Portnoff Law Associates. Mr. Wright was referred to David Egler, Finance Director.

**Theresa Carroll – 2121 Village Drive** – Commented on the lack of responsiveness of the Police Department in responding to her requests for action. She filed a Civil Complaint and stated that no action has been taken.

**Clarence Porter – 446 South Ave.** – Commented on a “hole” at South & Pitt Streets near his home at 446 South Ave. He commented that street sweeping is not being performed. He also reported street lights being out. Ms. Marcinko will follow up on the sunken area of the roadway.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 10/10/12 and 10/17/12.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. Evans

Ms. Ervin inquired about the tape recording for the Oct. 10, 2012 meeting. Ms. Marcinko advised that she had failed to record the meeting. Ms. Macklin suggested that this be

**Borough of Wilkinsburg  
Council Legislative Meeting  
November 14, 2012**

noted in the minutes. Solicitor Witherel advised that it was not necessary to include such a notation in the minutes.

**Yes:** Ms. Ervin (10/17/2012), Ms. Evans, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Cohn

**Abstain:** Ms. Ervin (10/10/2012 minutes).

**Motion carried 7:0 1 Abstention for October 10, 2012**

**2. Approving October checks issued:**

Regular Disbursements 10/01/12 – 10/31/12	\$ 1,374,179.48
Payroll Disbursements	253,439.67
Voided Checks	<u>10,162.44</u>
Total Disbursement	\$ 1,617,456.71

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. Goodman

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

**No:** Ms. Macklin, Ms. Ervin

**Motion carried 6:2**

**3. Approving Resolution No. 12-086 – Preliminary adoption of the 2013 Budget and release for public inspection.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. Evans

Ms. Macklin asked if changes may be made to the budget following preliminary adoption. Ms. Marcinko advised that changes may be made up to final adoption on December 12, 2012.

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

**Motion carried.**

**4. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2898 – Establishing Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2013.**

**Borough of Wilkinsburg  
Council Legislative Meeting  
November 14, 2012**

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second by:** Mr. Lefebvre

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

**Motion carried.**

**5. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2899 – Removing  
Handicap Parking Space – 616 Hampton Avenue.**

**Moved:** Ms. Goodman

**Second by:** Mr. Lefebvre

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

**Motion carried.**

**6. Approving Resolution No. 12-087 – Awarding contract for demolition of  
Borough-owned properties to Unis Demolition at a cost of \$63,000.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. Macklin

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

**Motion carried.**

**7. Approving Resolution No. 12-088 – Hiring William Moore as School  
Crossing Guard at an hourly rate of \$10.00.**

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second by:** Mr. Lefebvre

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

**Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Macklin advised that there is an abandoned vehicle located in the upper section of Woodlawn Avenue. She has reported this to the Police Department and the Code Enforcement Department.

**Borough of Wilkinsburg  
Council Legislative Meeting  
November 14, 2012**

She commented that the road is dug up near the storm drain. The street has recently been paved. Ms. Marcinko will follow-up with DPW and the Code Enforcement Department.

Ms. Moore reported commercial vehicles being parked overnight on Laketon Road. The name of the company is JJ Brown.

Ms. Moore thanked Ms. Ervin for her work on clean ups with the Renewal workers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Hiring Practices**

Ms. Macklin expressed concern that she had no knowledge of the recruitment efforts for a Code Enforcement Officer Trainee. She requested, as a courtesy, that Council be advised of same in going forward. Ms. Macklin commented on the hiring of part-time police officers. She stated that monies have been budgeted for these positions. She stated that she would like to see hiring go forward if there are monies budgeted for positions, similar to what occurred with the Code Enforcement Officer trainee. Ms. Macklin stated she is seeking consistency with the hiring process.

Ms. Evans stated that she views the process differently. She commented on the importance of considering the department directors' funding requests, recommendations of the Committee and budget. She further commented that the decision as to when to hire should rest with the department director.

Ms. Macklin again expressed the need for consistency and courtesy when positions are advertised. Ms. Marcinko stated that she will advise Council, in going forward, when positions are advertised. Ms. Marcinko commented that Council had requested a plan from the Police Chief for the utilization of part-time officers. Ms. Moore concurred with that understanding. Mayor John Thompson advised that he has discussed this issue with Chief Coleman and that the Borough is very limited as to how part-time officers may be utilized from an operational standpoint. Mayor John Thompson questioned the cost effectiveness of utilizing part-time officers. He announced that the Borough may be losing three officers in the near future due to concerns relating to job security and better opportunities.

Ms. Moore asked for an update on the Cease Fire meeting from Ms. Goodman. Ms. Goodman attended a meeting wherein there was general discussion relating to gun control legislation. Ms. Goodman provided a general overview of the meeting. Ms. Moore asked if anything was suggested for Wilkinsburg. Ms. Goodman responded that there was not anything specific to Wilkinsburg and most of the discussion related to strategies for cooperation and reaching young people.

**Borough of Wilkinsburg  
Council Legislative Meeting  
November 14, 2012**

Ms. Macklin commented that there was a very large voter turnout in Wilkinsburg for the general election. There were no troubles at the polls and it was an exciting and positive day.

Mr. Lefebvre commented on advertising costs for open positions. Mr. Lefebvre suggested that the Borough consider a policy to direct this activity. Ms. Macklin suggested looking at circulation numbers of the Tribune Review and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in Wilkinsburg. President Cohn commented that the PG has a higher circulation. Ms. Evans suggested shortening the length of an advertisement and not limiting the number of outlets in which the Borough advertises.

Ms. Evans announced that there will be a presentation at Hosanna House on November 26, 2012 by the Penn State Cooperative students for the vacant lot plans.

Ms. Macklin announced the grand opening of Piano Park at the end of Jeannette Street. The park is a vegetable garden and designed by an eighth grader and former resident of Wilkinsburg.

Ms. Marcinko requested a brief executive session to discuss two personnel issues.

Mayor Thompson asked that Council consider the residential parking restriction on North Ave behind Hosanna House. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented that residential parking restrictions should be reviewed Borough-wide.

Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson announced the Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks breakfast on November 20.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Evans, second by Ms. Ervin, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

---

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Council Vice-President