

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Work Session**  
**January 16, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkesburg, PA.

President Cohn announced an executive session was held prior to the meeting at 5:30 PM to discuss personnel matters.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, and President Cohn. Also present were Mayor John Thompson and Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager. Ms. Ervin and Ms. Moore were 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.

President Cohn commented that he was relieved to see that President Obama is taking action to address gun violence.

Ms. Moore arrived at approximately 6:37 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**M. (Melvin) Hubbard El – 145 Limecrest** – Stated that he is on staff with Representative Gainey's office.

**FINANCE**

**1. Purchase of front end loader for DPW.**

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Lefebvre who provided a summary of the information provided to Council. The transmission on the current equipment needs to be replaced and the estimated cost is between \$35,000-40,000. Council must decide whether to purchase a new loader and how it will be funded. The purchase is relatively urgent. The consensus of Council is to purchase a new piece of equipment. Mr. Lefebvre stated that bond proceeds could be used for the purchase or it could be purchased through a lease purchase agreement.

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A motion was made by Ms. Macklin, second by Mr. Lefebvre, to authorize the purchase of a front end loader via a lease purchase agreement and to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the required documents.

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL MATTERS**

Mr. Lefebvre informed Council of a 40% drop in solicitor fees in 2012 over 2011.

**1. Discussion – KaBOOM Grant for Ferguson Playground Improvements.**

President Cohn described the Borough's effort in acquiring funding through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources last year. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board looked at the KaBOOM Grant and Pittsburgh Urban Christian School started the application process. A Community Partner Playground Contract must be entered into with KaBOOM. Volunteers must be coordinated and an \$8500 local share raised. President Cohn commented that the Engineer had concerns regarding the use of shredded bark over rubber fall surface and the fact that the Borough must buy the equipment through the local KaBOOM vendor. Ms. Macklin asked if the design is complete. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson responded that the design is basically the same as that which was submitted to DCNR. There was discussion regarding fencing. Ms. Marcinko questioned how the design will be amended. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson responded that it will be done through community input. President Cohn commented that the process may be complicated by the need for approval of the design by the Community Art & Civic Design Commission. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson commented that this can be a very positive project for the Borough. Ms. Evans agreed provided proper process is followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans, second by Ms. Goodman, to approve the execution of the Community Partner Playground Contract.

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**2. Discussion – 2013 goals.**

President Cohn stated his intention to provide an opportunity for Council members to add/edit the distributed list. Ms. Macklin inquired as to whether the distributed list reflected Council's or the Manager's and staff goals. President Cohn responded that it represented both. President Cohn stated that he would like to deal with the website update and design in the next couple of months and the need for a better strategy for maintenance of the site. Ms. Macklin would like to add personnel planning for attrition and new opportunities for staff positions. Ms. Trice inquired as to whether Council will be going forward with the RFP for delinquent tax collector. Mr. Cohn stated that he

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hoped to have a draft by February. President Cohn commented that he does not believe that the school district has any intention of changing collectors. Ms. Macklin stated her concern that the current collector could not collect monies under Act 45. Mayor Thompson asked about the strategy for implementing the goals and objectives. President Cohn responded that time-sensitive goals and objectives will rise to the top with some issues critical and others not. Ms. Marcinko commented that there are probably too many goals listed to be effectively accomplished in one year. Ms. Evans suggested a need for feedback from departments with timelines. Ms. Macklin would like to see the top three goals and objectives from each department.

Ms. Trice questioned the proposed chicken ordinance. President Cohn will get something out next month.

Ms. Macklin commented on the importance of following through with the hiring of part-time officers.

Wilbert Wright commented on issues with Portnoff Law Associates and Community Life. He did not receive any assistance with his issues.

Council recessed to executive session at 7:21 p.m. Council came out of executive session at 8:32 p.m. and the meeting was reconvened.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans, second by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, to appoint Charles Means as Solicitor for the Civil Service Commission at a rate of \$180/hr.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Ms. Goodman, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 PM.

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Jason Cohn, Council President