WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Work Session
May 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:36 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. Garrett, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, and President McCarthy-Johnson. Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager was also present. Ms. Moore and Mayor John A. Thompson 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. Ms. Trice requested that Mr. Riley Davis, Star Optical, also be remembered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Payne – 1620 Mill St. – Ms. Payne commented on an abandoned house and two vacant lots at Mill Street and McKee Street and McKee Street and Fahnestock Avenue, which have become a dumping ground. She asked for assistance with removal of the debris, from DPW, if the neighbors clean up the area. She also requested that "No Dumping" signs be posted. Ms. Payne also stated that she took exception to implications, purportedly from Council members, that she had not been cooperative during the selection process for a delinquent tax collector. President McCarthy-Johnson stated that the issue related more to the fact that both sides could have had better communication during the process. Ms. Payne commented that the process was challenging, as the School District and Borough have different terms in their agreements the current delinquent tax collector. Ms. Payne cited one difference being that the School District would not be responsible to pay the fees and costs of collection, incurred by the tax collector, for accounts they currently hold. Ms. Grannemann stated that concerns were related to the process and were not personal. With regard to the dumping issue, President McCarthy-Johnson suggested that residents obtain license plate numbers, when possible. Ms. Grannemann questioned whether the Borough can clean the area. Ms. Marcinko responded that the Borough does not clean private property. A clean-up will be sponsored in the fall. Ms. Marcinko suggested having the debris collected by the neighbors and placed at the curb for pick-up by DPW.

President McCarthy-Johnson announced the Yard-Waste Pick-Up will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2014. Yard waste can be placed in brown bags or cardboard boxes. On the same day, the compost facility at Hunter Park will be staffed in the morning hours for anyone interested in

picking up compost. The facility will also be open on weekdays between the hours of 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM.

CAPITAL PLANNING

1. Update on Capital Projects.

Dave Gilliland, Borough Engineer provided an update on Borough-wide engineering projects.

- Hay Street Sewer Repair Project is complete. There were two locations where pipes were broken, between Penn Avenue and Ross Avenue. The bricks were reinstalled.
- A CITF Grant application, for street reconstruction on Hay St, was submitted on February 28, 2014. A response is expected by the end of May.
- Ferguson Park Playground Improvement Project will begin after June 7, 2014. The contract for the project has been awarded.
- Whitney Field Sewer Repairs Project is in progress and should be completed by the end of May. The scope of work includes repairs to both sanitary and storm sewers.
- Plans and specifications are complete for the salt storage building. The project will be advertised for bid following authorization from Council.
- The scope of work for the Street Sign Replacement Project is nearly complete. The project will be advertised for bid following authorization from Council.

Ms. Marcinko stated that the Ferguson Park Playground Improvement Project will began after June 7, 2014, due to a Pittsburgh Pets event which will be taking place at the park, on that day. The event is sponsored by the Animal Rescue League. They will be offering vaccinations and spay and neutering services, by appointment, free of charge to the public.

Mr. Taiani questioned whether costs for mast arm traffic signals for the intersections on Penn Ave had been obtained. Mr. Gilliland stated that the Borough would be responsible for the costs of replacement. Mr. Gilliland also clarified that countdown for pedestrian phases are now a Federal requirement. At the time the signals were replaced in Wilkinsburg, there was no such requirement. Mr. Taiani also commented on the apparent temporary repair of a sidewalk on Penn Ave, near S Trenton, where a pole had been replaced by Duquesne Light Company. He commented that it appeared that the electric service had been underground, and was now overhead. Ms. Marcinko will follow-up. Ms. Macklin questioned whether the Borough would have a paving program this year and Ms. Marcinko stated that application has been made for CDBG funding, for that purpose.

Ms. Marcinko provided an update on additional capital projects, reviewed with department heads this week. Fence quotes for the DPW garage, both salt storage and dump sides, were obtained. A proposal will be accepted within the next week or so. The scope of work for the street name sign replacement project is being finalized. There are approximately 83 signs, which have been identified, which were not on the original inventory. $60,000 has been budgeted for this project in the Capital Improvement Fund. Cost estimates are $275 per sign, on average, installed. This will allow for approximately 218 signs to be replaced/installed. $15,000 has been budgeted in the General Fund for replacement of regulatory signs, throughout the year. Mr. Gilliland stated that

the project will be request pricing for the contractor and the Borough to supply and install the posts.

Ms. Marcinko stated that the Borough currently has four (5) ton dump trucks, with the oldest vehicle year being 2001. The Borough has budgeted for the replacement of the 2 ½ ton dump truck and it is recommended that a second 2 ½ ton dump truck be purchased. The low price, under State contract pricing for a diesel engine is $65,000, per vehicle. The tractor replacement will be discussed later in the year, and is moving forward.

Ms. Marcinko stated that the design for the new salt storage area will nearly double current capacity. It is recommended that this project be advertised for bid.

An evaluation of current fees and parking meter locations is being performed.

2. **Authorizing the Advertisement for Bids – Salt Storage.**

Moved: Ms. Trice **Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Denise Edwards commented on two memorials on Penn Ave. One for a bicyclist who was hit by a moving vehicle and the other for a person that was involved in a City of Pittsburgh Police Department incident on Peebles Street. Ms. Edwards expressed concern over high-speed chases, by other jurisdictions, taking place in Wilkinsburg. President McCarthy- Johnson stated that she had spoken to Chief Coleman about this matter and that it appears that protocols were not followed. The Wilkinsburg Police Department was not notified that the chase was progressing into the Borough. President McCarthy-Johnson stated that Wilkinsburg has an ordinance prohibiting high speed chases.

GENERAL MATTERS

1. **Approving Resolution No. 14-036 – Sponsoring a Banner – Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.**

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre **Second:** Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Approving Resolution No. 14-037 – Proclaiming Emergency Medical Services Week.**

Moved: Ms. Macklin **Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

3. **Approving Resolution No. 14-038 – Supporting Community Development Block Grant Program.**

Moved: Ms. Macklin **Second:** Mr. Shattuck

Ms. Macklin questioned whether the Borough is receiving its fair share of CDBG funding, based upon the Borough's demographics. Ms. Marcinko stated that this issue was explored in depth a couple years ago when the Borough was required to take action to opt-in, or out, of the County's program.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

4. **Approving Resolution No. 14-039 – Supporting the use of radar devices by local governments.**

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre **Second:** Ms. Garrett

Mr. Taiani questioned whether the request is to approve the use of radar devices by local municipalities. He expressed his concern, as an experienced criminal attorney, on the improper training in the use of this technology by local municipalities and believes the use of such devices should be restricted to the Pennsylvania State Police. He does not support this action. Ms. Marcinko explained that this action merely communicates Wilkinsburg's support of the use of this technology, by local municipalities, to the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

Yes: Ms. Garrett, Ms. Trice, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President McCarthy-Johnson

No: Mr. Taiani

Motion carried 6:1

5. **Approving Resolution No. 14-040 – Extending an offer of employment to Daniel Friedson.**

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre **Second:** Ms. Garrett

Ms. Trice requested Council recess to executive session to discuss personnel issues. President McCarthy-Johnson announced that Council will recess into executive session and will take action upon reconvening.

Council recessed into executive session at approximately 7:25 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Council came out of executive session at approximately 7:45 p.m. and the meeting was reconvened.

Yes: Mr. Taiani, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Lefebvre, President McCarthy-Johnson

No: Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice

Motion carried 4:3

Ms. Payne commented on the report of a woman who lost her home due to an approximate $6.00 tax delinquency. She has spoken with the Wilkinsburg School District about looking at strategies to address delinquent balances of $100 or less. The Borough requested a list of accounts with delinquent balances of $500 or less from Portnoff Law Associates. Ms. Payne suggested that the Wilkinsburg School District and the Borough send a letter to those on the list.

President McCarthy-Johnson announced receiving a letter from Penn Dot regarding a public officials' briefing and public meeting on the Parkway East I-376 Corridor Transportation Project (Parkway East Metering Projects). The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hilton, in Monroeville, on May 12, 2014 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Another meeting will be held on May 15, 2014 at the Pittsburgh/Greenfield K-8 School. She read aloud the purpose of the public meetings. She announced an Open House from 5:30-7:30 following the briefings/meetings.

Ms. Trice questioned whether the letter has been sent to Portnoff Law Associates to terminate the contract for delinquent tax collection. Ms. Marcinko stated that the letter will be mailed tomorrow. Ms. Trice requested a copy of the letter.

Mr. Taiani talked commented on the candidate for State Representative that has blanketed the Borough with political signs. He stated that some of the signs have been up for two years or more. He requested that Council investigate and institute a sign policy, that is enforceable. The Zoning Ordinance does include regulations on signs.

Sharon Littlejohn complained about a neighbor with a generator running constantly at 515 Kelly Street. Hearing dates are scheduled for this individual, at the Magistrate's Office, for both criminal and civil violations.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:57 P.M.

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Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President of Council