WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Legislative Meeting
July 9, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, and President McCarthy-Johnson. Borough Manager Marla P. Marcinko and Solicitor Michael J. Witherel were also present. Ms. Trice and Mayor John 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adnan Ahmed – 747 South Avenue – Representing Ahmadiyya Muslim Church. Mr. Ahmed invited Council members to participate in an interfaith event, which includes information about fasting practices in a number of religious denominations, to promote peace and harmony. The event will be held on July 19, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served. Mr. Shattuck stated that he had attended another event sponsored by the church, which was very informative and he welcomed Mr. Ahmed's interest in volunteering to serve the community.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Adopting Ordinance No. 2927 – Establishing a Handicap Parking Space – 1438 Montier St.**

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2928 – Establishing a Handicap Parking Space – 1365 Marlboro Avenue.**

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

3. **Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 6/11 and 6/18/14.**

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

4. **Approving June Checks issued:**

Regular Disbursements 06/01 – 06/30/14	**1,015,363.00**
Payroll Disbursements	**420,034.69**
Voided Checks	**(- 0 -)**
Total Disbursement	**1,435,397.69**

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

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

No: Ms. Macklin

Motion carried 7:1

5. **Approving Resolution No. 14-054 – Opposing state budget cuts – as it relates to the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) and Keystone Grants.**

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

Mr. Shattuck noted that the bill was sent to the Senate and the amendment to not fund the aforementioned programs was defeated.

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

Abstain: Mr. Taiani

Motion carried 7:0 with 1 Abstention

6. **Approving Resolution No. 14-055 – Hiring Anna Newborg – Adult Assistant Services, for Wilkinsburg Public Library.**

Moved: Ms. Moore **Second:** Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

7. **Approving Resolution No. 14-056 – Accepting resignation of Brian Sadlowe, Patrol Officer, effective July 5, 2014.**

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

Ms. Macklin questioned whether Mr. Sadlowe provided a reason for leaving. Ms. Marcinko stated that he accepted a position with another department. Mr. Taiani asked whether an exit interview was conducted and what department/person is responsible for same. Ms. Marcinko stated that this would be the responsibility of the Chief of Police or the Mayor.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

8. **Approving Resolution No. 14-057 – Appointing H. Ken Pruszynski – Library Board.**

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

9. **Approving Resolution No. 14-058 – Sponsoring a Banner for the Bible Church.**

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Macklin questioned whether the Borough's representatives on the WPJWA Board of Directors had been invited to attend a Council meeting to provide an update on Authority activities. Ms. Marcinko will follow up. Ms. Macklin questioned whether the tenant registration letters had been sent out by July 1. Ms. Marcinko stated that they were sent out prior to July 1.

President McCarthy-Johnson stated that she was contacted by a resident on North Avenue regarding the re-establishment of the residential parking restriction. She questioned whether the residents had been notified. Ms. Marcinko stated that no specific notification had been provided to the residents.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion – Request to eliminate Residential Parking Restrictions – 500 Block of Rebecca Avenue.**

Mr. Lefebvre stated that he received a letter from Ms. Mowl who operates a business in the 500 block of Rebecca Avenue. He stated that it is a short block, with only two houses and one business. There is a residential parking restriction in this block, which Ms. Mowl is requesting be eliminated. Parking is needed for patrons of the business. The residents in the area have

street parking, or easy access to other on-street parking. Mr. Taiani stated that the majority of the parking spaces in that area are used in the morning hours, when school is in session, and on Sundays. Ms. Macklin commented that this may solve a parking issue of another resident, on Pitt Street, which was raised some time ago. Mr. Lefebvre has spoken to the residents in the area and recommended that Council move forward to eliminate the residential parking restriction.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, second by Mr. Taiani, to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance to eliminate the residential parking restriction in the 500 block of Rebecca Avenue.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

LaTonya Washington commented that residents should have received notice about the re-establishment of the residential parking restriction in the 500 block of Rebecca Avenue. Many residents were unaware of the change, as notice was not issued and they believe that the posting was insufficient. Some have received parking tickets. President McCarthy-Johnson stated that residents will need to appeal the issuance of those tickets through the proper process. It was stated that the neighborhood was well-represented at the Council meetings wherein this matter was discussed. Mr. Lefebvre will forward the names of the residents who attended to Ms. Washington.

Ms. Garrett expressed her interest in serving on the Library Board. She inquired as to Council's interest in amending the ordinance that created the Board to allow for more than one Council member to serve on same. Betsey Swartz, Library Director, stated that the Board's by-laws were revised last year to require equal representation from each ward. Mr. Taiani suggested that Ms. Garrett be appointed to serve as an honorary member until a vacancy exists. Ms. Grannemann stated that it would be the Library Board's decision to revise its by-laws. Ms. Moore suggested to Ms. Garrett that she submit a Talent Bank Application for consideration. Ms. Grannemann questioned whether the Library Board would consider having two Council members serving on the Board at the same time. The Library Board can address this at its next meeting in September. Ms. Marcinko commented that the Library Board meetings are open to the public. Ms. Marcinko asked whether the Library Board is considered a "local agency". Mr. Witherel stated that the Library Board is specifically authorized under the Borough Code and may be considered a "local agency". The Library Board meets the second Tuesday of every month, at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Lefebvre stated that Ms. Macklin announced at the last Council meeting that she had been elected to the position of President of the Democratic Committee. He commented on the importance of the Committee in representing residents of Wilkinsburg and wanted to share some information about Committee actions. He stated that there was a primary endorsement election in 2013, under the leadership of Ms. Macklin. The majority of the Committee voted to endorse a candidate in the Third Ward who is a convicted felon. Mr. Lefebvre and Mr. Taiani did not receive a Committee endorsement. Additionally the Committee endorsed a candidate in the Second Ward who owes in excess of $40,000 in delinquent taxes to the Borough and Wilkinsburg School District. Mr. Shattuck did receive the Committee's endorsement. This marked the second time that this individual received the endorsement of the Committee. Finally, a Republican candidate for Wilkinsburg School Board Director received the endorsement of the Democratic Committee. In 2011, a candidate who had received the endorsement of the

Committee was not listed on the slate card for that election. Mr. Lefebvre stated that these are examples of some of the things that have occurred under the leadership of Ms. Macklin and demonstrates how the Committee is representing the residents of Wilkinsburg. Ms. Macklin stated that Mr. Lefebvre had not brought these concerns to her, and she will look into the allegations. She further stated that Ms. Macklin is well-aware of the issues as she attended the court hearings to remove candidates from the ballot.

Ms. Macklin inquired as to the number of police officers available for duty and the number of those who are off-duty to injury or illness. Ms. Marcinko stated that she could not respond to questions related to medical statuses. Ms. Macklin would like to see officer hiring expedited. Ms. Marcinko recommended that Council not discuss personnel issues in an open meeting and suggested having the discussion in Executive Session.

Mr. Taiani commented on an interview he heard on NPR with Mayor Peduto regarding a 10-year plan for the construction of bike lanes throughout the City. Mr. Taiani suggested that Council look into the development of bike lanes and bike paths throughout Wilkinsburg. He suggested having places of historical significance designated along the path. President McCarthy-Johnson suggested that the matter be taken up with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Shattuck commented on opportunities to link up existing and planned trails and plans for potential linkages to neighborhoods. He talked about the areas identified under the Official Map as areas for development to support the easing of traffic congestion and to improve pedestrian and bicycle access. Ms. Macklin stated that the Traffic Circulation Study is in progress and this concept may be explored as part of that evaluation. Mr. Taiani commented on designating streets solely for use by pedestrians, which may be an enhancement to the community.

Ms. Moore commented on the informational articles in the PSAB Borough News magazine, particularly the Q & A section. She distributed updates on happenings in the Wilkinsburg Public Library.

Ms. Macklin commented on the Wilkinsburg Public Library lunch program for children. Betsey Schwartz, Library Director, updated Council on the growth of the program, sponsored by Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. About fifteen children initially participated, and currently about twenty-five take advantage of the program.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:43 P.M.

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Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President of Council