WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Work Session
February 5, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 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. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin and President McCarthy-Johnson. Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager was also present. Mayor John A. Thompson 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

Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave. – Inquired as to the review process for the Joint Committee on Administrative Process to Reclaim Vacant Properties. Ms. Marcinko stated that the regular, advertised meetings of the Committee are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, commencing at 5:30 PM and meetings are only held if action on applications for tax compromise or tax exemption is needed. If there are specific inquiries about a particular property, those may be answered by either administrative or code enforcement department staff.

CAPITAL PLANNING

1. **Update on status of Capital Projects.**

Ms. Marcinko referred Council to the spreadsheet provided for the capital projects summary. The spreadsheet summarizes all projects completed in 2012 and 2013 and those which have been budgeted for 2014. Ms. Marcinko offered to answer any questions about specific projects.

2. **Approving Resolution No. 14-014 – Application for funding for Hay St. Reconstruction.**

Ms. Macklin questioned the type of material to be used for the reconstruction and wondered whether concrete would be a longer lasting material than asphalt. Discussion ensued regarding anticipated costs for various applications and life expectancy.

Mr. Taiani moved, and Ms. Trice seconded, to table the resolution pending the receipt of further information from the Borough Engineer.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

3. **Approving Resolution No. 14-015 – Application for Funding – Wilkinsburg/Churchill Joint Pump Station.**

Ms. Marcinko stated that this is the second application submitted for CITF funding for this project.

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. **Approving Resolution No. 14-016 – Extending an offer of employment – Joshua Martinelli – Police Officer.**

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

Mr. Taiani questioned whether new hires are introduced to Council prior to action being taken on the hiring. Ms. Marcinko advised that this has not been the Borough's practice and that candidates are not necessarily aware of when Council will take such action.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Approving Resolution No. 14-017 – Extending an offer of employment – Stephen Minton – Police Officer.**

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

Ms. Macklin questioned whether the candidate is related to an officer currently employed by the Borough. Ms. Marcinko stated that the two officers are brothers.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

GENERAL MATTERS

1. **Approving Resolution No. 14-018 – Establishing seating assignments.**

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

Ms. Macklin requested to read aloud, and into the minutes, an email received by Council members. She referred to a motion made by Mr. Lefebvre relating to appointments to Boards,

Commissions and Authorities which would require that appointees, and potential appointees, not owe delinquent taxes and not have outstanding code violations. Mr. Lefebvre stated that his proposed action would not require that sitting members be removed.

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

No: Ms. Trice, Ms. Macklin

Motion carried 7:2

A correction was made to the seating arrangement listed in the resolution to have Ms. Grannemann seated between Mr. Shattuck and Mr. Lefebvre.

Ms. Trice apologized to the Borough Manager and Council for her mistake in an email communication which referenced terms for past Council Presidents.

2. Approving Resolution No. 14-019 – Sponsoring Banner – WBA.

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Moore commended the Department of Public Works for a job well done this winter.

Mr. Taiani inquired as to the status of the Borough's salt supply. Ms. Marcinko stated that ½ of an order, about 275 tons was received this week. On Tuesday, the storage was nearly full. The Borough purchases its salt through a cooperative purchasing agreement with the South Hills Area Council of Governments. Estimated quantities are submitted in the fall and the Borough is required to purchase 80% of its estimate and may exceed the estimate by 25%, without penalty. At 140%, the cost increases significantly. The Borough has planned well and is in a good position by comparison to other communities.

Ms. Moore questioned whether additional salt storage will be constructed. Ms. Marcinko advised that this project is budgeted for 2014. Mr. Clark has the information and will be contacting the vendor for pricing.

President McCarthy-Johnson questioned whether new chairs will be purchased for Council. Ms. Marcinko stated that she has been looking at alternatives.

Ms. Macklin commented that UPMC is challenging equal opportunity regulations in court. She distributed a letter to Council which was drafted to issue to the UPMC Board of Directors, requesting that the challenge be withdrawn as it dismantles protections for millions of workers across the country, particularly women and people of color, who have fought long and hard for equal protection in the workplace. Many Wilkinsburg residents are employed by UPMC. Ms.

Macklin requested that Council review the letter and consider adopting a resolution at the next meeting, in support of the position.

Ms. Grannemann inquired about a large sink hole at Whitney Avenue and Lamar Avenue. Ms. Marcinko will have DPW investigate.

Ms. Macklin questioned whether there was any information available regarding a possible water main break at the corner of Rebecca Avenue and Kelly Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Moore, second by Mr. Lefebvre, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:56 P.M.

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Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President of Council