WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Legislative Meeting
March 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Pro-Tempore Shattuck called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

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. Mayor John Thompson, Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Solicitor Michael J. Witherel were also present. Ms. Moore was absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Burns – 709 Whitney Ave. – Commented that she is soon to graduate with a Master of Science Degree in Social Work (MSW) and is serving an internship with the City of Pittsburgh at the Mayor's Office and with Councilman Ricky Burgess. She is interested in bringing networks and skills back to Wilkinsburg. She has received support to bring the Braddock Youth Project programming to Wilkinsburg and has a model for youth mentorship. She is seeking a statement of support from Council. Ms. Grannemann will serve as the contact person for Borough Council.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/14.**

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

Ms. Macklin referred to the February 12 minutes, page three, second sentence. She stated that Mr. Lefebvre had previously made a motion that sitting members of Boards and Commissions be removed for failure to pay real estate taxes, as well as for having outstanding code violations. Mr. Lefebvre clarified that the motion was not voted upon. Ms. Marcinko recalled the discussion and stated that the original motion may have included sitting members but the Solicitor advised that an amendment to the motion would be required to provide that removals are subject to that which is prescribed by law. Ms. Marcinko stated that this clarification will be contained in the March 12, 2014 minutes.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Approving February Checks issued:**

Regular Disbursements 02/01 – 02/28/14	**$ 869,535.08**
Payroll Disbursements	**300,635.13**
Voided Checks	**-0-**
Total Disbursement	**$1,170,170.21**

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

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

No: Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice

Motion carried 6:2

3. **Approving Resolution No. 14-025 – Appointing David Gilliland to the WPJWA Board of Directors.**

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

Mayor Thompson asked if there is a potential conflict of interest. Mr. Shattuck commented that he too had posed that question. Ms. Marcinko stated that there is no legal basis for him not to serve and Mr. Witherel clarified that there may be times wherein he will need to abstain from voting. Mr. Gilliland expressed in an email to the Borough Manager that his interest in serving on the Board is to protect the interests of the residents of Wilkinsburg.

Yes: Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Taiani, President McCarthy-Johnnson

Abstain: Mr. Shattuck

Motion carried 7:0 with 1 abstention

4. **Approving Resolution No. 14-026 – Appointing Neal Huguley – Wilkinsburg Library Board of Directors.**

Ms. Marcinko noted that Mr. Huguley's first name was misstated on the copy of the resolution provided to Council and a correction will be made to the official Resolution.

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

5. **Approving Resolution No. 14-027 – Hiring Jessica DeArman – Clerk/Secretary, Code Enforcement Department.**

Ms. Macklin questioned whether she is a resident, and was advised that she is. Ms. Garrett asked about her qualifications for the position. Ms. Bahn stated that she was the best candidate for the position, with a lot of experience and a Master's Degree. She further informed Council she believes Ms. DeArman will serve the Borough well. She has experience with writing training manuals, has a lot of database experience, and a calm personality with a lot of customer service experience.

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

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Issuing notice of intent to terminate agreement with Portnoff Law Associates.**

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson **Second:** Ms.Trice

President McCarthy-Johnson commented on the Borough's desire to align delinquent tax collection efforts with the school district and to address other concerns, relative to the agreement with Portnoff Law Associates.

Ms. Marcinko stated that the action is to notify Portnoff of the Borough's intention to terminate its agreement and that no further action is proposed at this time. Ms. Macklin questioned whether the plan is to issue a RFP, to which PLA could submit a proposal.

Ms. Grannemann requested an update on the Wilkinsburg School District's progress with their RFP issuance. Ms. Marcinko stated that the communication between the Borough and School District, on this subject, has not been good. Ms. Marcinko believes the taxpayers would be better served by having one collector for delinquent tax collection and that the issuance of a joint RFP would have made good sense. At this time, with the District's plan to issue the RFP at the end of the month, the Borough is left to issue its own RFP. Ms. Marcinko commented on the terms of the agreement and the differences between the terms of the Borough's and District's agreements. Mr. Shattuck commented on the forty-five day notice for termination and, if the Borough fails to act on that option, the current contract terms and conditions remain in effect.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion – Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2925 – Establishing Residential Parking Restrictions.**

Ms. Marcinko stated that the Borough Engineer recently conducted a review of those streets wherein the residential parking restriction has been requested. A number of residential parking restrictions were eliminated in June, 2013. This was done following a review of the residential parking permits issued in 2012 and was precipitated by a request from Hosanna House for a review of residential parking in the 800 block of North Ave. Ms. Grannemann suggested establishing a residential parking restriction for the 1100 block of Pitt St, given the information provided by the Borough Engineer. Council agreed to obtain more information prior to making a decision. Mayor Thompson stated that residents in the vicinity of the busway experience the most problems with having available parking. There appeared to be no issues in the 500 and 600 Block of North Avenue, 500 and 600 Block of Hill Avenue, 500 Block of Holmes St. and 1200 and 1300 Blocks of Pitt Street. Another review of residential parking permits issued will be conducted.

Mayor Thompson reported that the two new Police Officers, Officers Minton and Martinelli, started work on Monday.

Mr. Shattuck attended the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's transportation kick-off meeting to discuss minimizing voids in public transportation for most vulnerable populations.

Mr. Shattuck announced that his son, who is a veteran, has been accepted into the Warrior Hike, a non-profit organization for veterans hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Ms. Trice requested a brief executive session to discuss a personnel matter related to a claim received from a former employee for compensation.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Grannemann, second by Mr. Lefebvre, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:47 P.M.

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Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President of Council