

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Legislative Session
February 8, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

President Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 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. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre (via telephone connection), Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore (via telephone connection), Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin and President Cohn. Also present were Lawrence A. Focareta, Administrative Assistant and Mike Witherel, Witherel & Associates, Borough Solicitor. Mayor John Thompson and Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager were absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave. – Commented on the exoneration of the tax collector and turning over those accounts to the delinquent tax collector, which would not include MSF delinquencies. Ms Luxemburg commented that the Borough Engineer should review and update the abandoned structures inventory and that it may be worthwhile to maintain a separate inventory of completed demolitions. Ms. Luxemburg commented on the Wilkinsburg School District collection rate on real estate taxes being reported at 77% but most likely actually lower. She questioned whether the Borough Finance Committee monitors collection rates.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Adopting Ordinance No. 2885 – Establishing Handicap Parking Space – 1834 Laketon Rd.**

Moved: Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Cohn

Motion carried

Mr. Cohn suggested a consent agenda for Agenda Items 2 & 3.

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2. Adopting Ordinance No. 2886 – Establishing Handicap Parking Space – 206 Center Street.

3. Adopting Ordinance No. 2887 – Removing Handicap Parking Spaces.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodman, second by Ms. Evans, to adopt Ordinance No. 2886 and Ordinance No. 2887.

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, President Cohn

Motion carried

4. Approving the Borough Council Meeting Minutes of January 3, January 4, January 11 and January 18, 2012.

Ms. Macklin requested a change to the January 4, 2012 minutes to include the types of municipal entities Mr. Witherel represents.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second by: Ms. Evans

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Cohn

Abstain: Ms. Trice (minutes of January 18, 2012)

Motion carried

5. Approving January Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:

Regular Distributions 01/01/12 – 01/31/12	\$1,136,288.58
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 240,904.51
Voided Checks	\$ (1,322.54)
Total	\$1,375,870.55

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Second by: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Cohn

No: Ms. Macklin, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Trice

Motion carried 6:3

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6. Approving Resolution No. 12-009 - Exonerating tax collector and turning over accounts to delinquent tax collector.

Ms. Trice commented that discussion had taken place regarding seeking a different delinquent tax collector. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson agreed that it would be a good idea to look at alternatives. Discussion took place on following an RFP process for this evaluation.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans, second by Mr. Lefebvre, to exonerate the tax collector from further collection of 2011 real estate taxes.

Yes: Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, President Cohn

Motion carried

Council agreed to table action on turning over accounts to the delinquent tax collector pending further discussion at the next meeting of Council.

7. Approving Resolution No. 12-010 – Policy regarding retention of audio tapes of public meetings.

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second by: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Ms. Ervin questioned whether this action requires retaining the tapes until the minutes are approved and that tapes may be retained for a period of time. Discussion on this issue followed as well as discussion as to the level of detail to be included in the minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Macklin, second by Ms. Trice, to table the motion to adopt the policy regarding retention of audio tapes of public meetings.

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Cohn

Motion carried

8. Approving Resolution No. 12-011 – Approving VPRP application for L&B 175-M-70 Pitt Street.

Ms. Macklin provided a summary of the property information.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second by: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre,

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Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, President Cohn

Motion carried

Authorizing Glenn Engineering to update the Abandoned Structures Inventory at a cost of \$7,000 which includes all structures in the Borough.

Ms. Macklin questioned whether the Borough Engineer has back-up detail and that it would be helpful to know of structural problems.

Linda Law questioned whether the Borough had the ability to perform this project in-house as opposed to paying the Engineer.

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second by: Ms. Trice

Yes: Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, President Cohn

Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

Procedure related to Council actions.

Differences between roll call vote and voice vote were discussed. Solicitor Witherel commented on the differences between resolutions and ordinances. The purpose in reviewing the manner in which Council conducts its action is intended to reduce paperwork while adhering to the need to document actions as required by law.

President Cohn announced that the 125th Anniversary Committee is seeking volunteers. The dates for the celebration are October 5, 6, and 7, 2012.

Mr. Witherel announced that the Borough is appealing the decision of the Zoning Hearing Board which would allow the sale of cars at a gas station on Penn Ave.

NEW BUSINESS

President Cohn commented on efforts to establish rights-of-ways for bicycles in the County and that he would be seeking a resolution of support from Council.

President Cohn commented that valves are needed on radiators in the Adult and Children's Library. Mr. Cohn advised that he is in favor of the repair work and would like to spend monies to make this repair as opposed to attendance at the ALOM conference by Council members.

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A motion was made by Mr. Lefebvre, second by Ms. Evans, to reallocate the monies budgeted to Council attendance at the ALOM conference to installation of the valves on the radiators in the Library.

Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons to conference attendance, specifically the ALOM conference and the need for a budget transfer was questioned.

A motion was made by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Ms. Goodman, to amend the original motion to provide that no more than two Council members be permitted to attend the same conference and that the monies budgeted for more members to attend be reallocated to the installation of valves on the radiators in the Library.

Yes: Ms. Macklin, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Goodman, Ms. Moore, Ms. Trice,
Ms. Ervin

No: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Cohn

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Ms. Trice, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:32 PM.

Jason Cohn, Council President