

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH**  
**Council Legislative Session**  
**October 8, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. 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, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, and President McCarthy-Johnson. Borough Manager Marla P. Marcinko and Matt Kalina from Solicitor Mike Witherel's office were also present. Mr. Taiani 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**

President McCarthy-Johnson restated the rules regarding public comment. Public comment is taken at the beginning of the meeting on agenda items only and limited to 5 minutes per speaker. Public comment is taken on non-agenda items at the conclusion of Council business.

**Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave. (Gillespie Way)** – Inquired as to the decision of the Planning Commission relative to the Vacant Property Recovery Program (VPRP) application for 1502 Laketon Rd. Mr. Shattuck stated that the Planning Commission did not recommend that the application be approved as the proposal was not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Luxemburg commented on the proposed parking restrictions for Crete Way from Hay Street to Pitt Street and stated that the area was currently posted “no parking”.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2931 – Removing Handicap Parking Space – 2156 Village Drive.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Macklin

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**2. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 09/03/14 and 09/10/14.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Moore

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**3. Approving September checks issued:**

<b>Regular Disbursements 09/01 – 09/30/14</b>	<b>\$ 521,797.87</b>
<b>Payroll Disbursements</b>	<b>271,990.92</b>
<b>Voided Checks</b>	<b><u>(208.55)</u></b>
<b>Total Disbursement</b>	<b>\$ 793,580.24</b>

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Moore

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

**No:** Ms. Trice, Ms. Macklin

**Motion carried 6:2**

**4. Approving Resolution No. 14-081 – Application for Emergency Demolition Funds.**

**Moved:** Ms. Trice

**Second:** Ms. Macklin

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**5. Approving Resolution No. 14-082 – Declaring Slums and Blight – Emergency Demolition.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Moore

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**6. Approving Resolution No. 14-083 – Concurring Resolution CD 41 – Demolition.**

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second:** Ms. Trice

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**7. Approving Resolution No. 14-084 – Concurring Resolution CD 41 – Street Reconstruction.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Mr. Shattuck

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**8. Approving Resolution No. 14-085 – Concurring Resolution CD 41 – Wood Street Handicap Ramps.**

**Moved:** Ms. Trice

**Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**9. Approving Resolution No. 14-086 – Declaring Slums and Blight – CD 41 Demolition.**

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**10. Approving Resolution No. 14-087 – Approving VPRP Application – 2004 Kendon Drive East.**

**Moved:** Ms. Grannemann

**Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**11. Approving Resolution No. 14-088 – Denying VPRP Application – 1502 Laketon Road.**

**Moved:** Ms. Grannemann

**Second:** Mr. Shattuck

President McCarthy-Johnson stated that the denial was recommended due to concerns with other properties owned by the applicant in Wilkinsburg. Mr. Shattuck commented that the other property owned by the applicant may be designated as a nuisance property which is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**12. Approving Resolution No. 14-089 – Sponsoring Banner – Wilkinsburg Rotary Club.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Mr. Shattuck

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Macklin commented that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Pittsburgh for fire protection services provides that the City is responsible for providing emergency management services. Additionally, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire is responsible for providing a risk program in schools and smoke detectors for fire prevention.

Ms. Macklin inquired about the resignation of Police Officer Daniel White. President McCarthy-Johnson stated that the resignation was approved at the last meeting.

Mr. Shattuck reminded Council about the Whitney Park Master Planning community session to be held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. On October 17, 2014, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for Ferguson Park/Playground at noon. It is anticipated that students from Wilkinsburg Public Schools, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy and Pittsburgh Urban Christian School (PUCS) will participate. An unveiling of the State of Pennsylvania Frank Conrad Historical Marker is planned for the same day at 2:00 p.m. at Community Life.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Seven Mile Stone Restoration Proposal – Wilkinsburg Historical Society.**

Ms. Marcinko explained the proposal for the restoration and relocation of the Seven Mile Stone. It is proposed that the stone will be moved to the Hay Street side of the municipal building. The Wilkinsburg Historical Society is requesting assistance from DPW to mount the stone in the new location. The stone will be refurbished and a new piece of plexiglass installed. Ms. Macklin questioned the reason for the relocation. Ms. Marcinko advised that the memorial bench for John Metzler, which was previously approved by Council, is to be placed in the area where the stone is currently located. Ms. Macklin stated that she was not familiar with Mr. Metzler. Ms. Marcinko explained that Mr. Metzler was the owner of Urban Tree Forge who was tragically killed in an accident at his shop on Washington Blvd several years ago. Mr. Metzler donated a significant amount of time to the maintenance and protection of the urban forest in Wilkinsburg. The 500<sup>th</sup> tree planted under the TreeVitalize project was a memorial tree for John Metzler, in front of the municipal building. Ms. Trice requested that the Seven Mile Stone not be relocated and that another location should be considered for the bench. Ms. Marcinko stated that the bench was intended to be in close proximity to the memorial tree and this design was part of a proposal previously reviewed and approved by Council.

A motion was made by Ms. Grannemann, second by Mr. Lefebvre, to accept the proposal as presented by the Wilkinsburg Historical Society for the relocation of the Seven Mile Stone.

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

**Motion carried 8:0**

## **2. Discussion – Request to establish Residential Parking Restriction – 900 Block of Ramsey Street.**

Ms. Marcinko stated that a petition has been received to establish residential parking in the 900 block of Ramsey Street. If Council is supportive of the request, Ms. Marcinko will request a review by and recommendation from the Borough engineer.

President McCarthy-Johnson commented on the need for an evaluation of parking restrictions on all streets in the vicinity of the Hamnett Park & Ride. Ms. Trice the area around the Wilksburg Station also be included, specifically Pitt Street, South Avenue, and Ross Avenue near McDonald's. It was recommended that all streets from Center to Walnut be included. Ms. Marcinko cautioned about implementing parking restrictions which would specify times of the day as those restrictions could not be enforced by the Parking Enforcement Officers after 4:30 PM. The responsibility would then fall on the police patrol officers and this would not be the best use of their time.

PCRG is engaged in an East Busway Revitalization Project. A steering committee has been established that Ms. Marcinko, Mr. Shattuck, and Sara Morgan of the Planning Commission have been participating. Surrounding communities are being asked about concerns relating to the East Busway. Concerns raised by the Wilksburg representatives include safety, connectivity and parking. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10 at Hosanna House.

## **3. Discussion – Request to establish parking restrictions – Crete Way from Hay to Pitt Streets.**

Ms. Marcinko stated that this area is currently posted “no parking”. This restriction is not established by ordinance and is therefore not enforceable. A resident on Hay Street complained about parking on Crete Way and requested that signs be posted. Not knowing that the restriction is not established by ordinance, DPW replaced the signs. An amendment to the ordinance can be drafted for Council approval at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Lefebvre described the alleyway as one width of a car. Ms. Macklin questioned whether residents will be surveyed before taking action. Mr. Lefebvre offered to speak with the residents.

Vice-President Moore announced the passing of long-time resident Margaret Portis. She commented that Ms. Portis had been complaining about a boat stored on the lot next to her house. Photos will be forwarded to the Borough Manager. Ms. Moore commented that more work is needed in the central part of Wilksburg, specifically pothole repairs and abandoned structures which are not secured.

Ms. Macklin distributed a draft of a resolution to honor State Senator Jim Ferlo and to be presented on October 24, 2014 at a community meeting. President McCarthy-Johnson suggested that it be in the form of a proclamation. Ms. Marcinko explained that a resolution will have to be in a certain format and included in Borough records. Ms. Macklin then inquired as to whether a resolution could be approved which would be in support of the proclamation. Ms. Macklin read aloud the document honoring Senator Ferlo upon his retirement, after serving three terms in the State of Pennsylvania Senate.

**Approving Resolution 14-090 issuing a proclamation honoring State Senator Jim Ferlo recognizing his dedication and service to the community.**

**Moved:** Ms. Trice

**Second:** Ms. Macklin

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

President McCarthy-Johnson requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Hitchen, Eastern Area Pre-Hospital Services, announced that flu shots will be available on Tuesday, October 16, 2014 in Council Chambers from 10:00 a.m. to noon and again from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Flu shots will be administered to anyone over the age of eighteen and who are not in their first trimester of pregnancy.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Pastor Yvonne Pope – 1644 Laketon Rd.** – As a new resident of Wilkinsburg, she would like to volunteer and become engaged in the community. She announced the distribution of book bags containing supplies to children in the community. She will be using the church at 1675 Laketon Road on Mondays for bible study. President McCarthy-Johnson asked that Ms. Pope place information pieces in the lobby on the first floor of the municipal building.

**Linda Atkins – 2021 Kendon Dr. W.** – Expressed her gratitude to Council for approving the VPRP application for 2004 Kendon Drive East. Ms. Atkins is the Block Watch captain in her neighborhood and stated that things are going well. She is looking for green space to beautify in her neighborhood. Ms. Atkins commented that if furniture is needed in the police department that there are options for used and refurbished furniture. She also commented on the importance of ergonomics. Ms. Atkins commented on using LED lighting to beautify and improve safety. She suggested using Lawrenceville and Highland Park areas as models for the Wilkinsburg business district revitalization due to their successful blight remediation efforts and eclectic atmosphere. Ms. Trice questioned the status of improved lighting on Wallace Ave from Hay to Pitt Street. Ms. Marcinko sent the request to Duquesne Light Company on August 8, 2014 and will follow up.

**Elizabeth Jennings – 2428 Laketon Rd.** – Inquired as to the status the evaluation of a tree located at 2428 Laketon Road. Vice-President Moore read aloud an email received on the condition of the tree in question and the recommendation from the arborist. A letter will be issued to Ms. Jennings. Ms. Marcinko explained that tree maintenance, planting and removal is the responsibility of the property owner according to the Borough's ordinance on shade trees. In cases where there is an immediate threat to public safety, the Borough may remove a hazardous tree and charge the property owner the cost of the removal. It is the opinion of the arborist that there are a number of trees in this area which are in declining health but not at risk of failure. In this case, removal of the tree is recommended prior to the sidewalk being replaced.

**William Steele – 1601 Penn Ave.** – Mr. Steele asked commented on a provision in the ordinance which states that "at the discretion of Council", removal can be funded by the Borough for

immediate hazards. Ms. Marcinko stated that it is the Borough's position, based upon the opinion of its arborist, that the tree does not pose an immediate or potential hazard.

**Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave.** - Commented on parking difficulties on Gillespie Way and requested that it be evaluated for a no parking restriction.

Ms. Trice complained about a large FedEx truck parked on Wine Way and that she had notified the police department. President McCarthy-Johnson commented on a large tractor trailer parked on Rebecca Avenue. Ms. Marcinko stated that commercial vehicle parking is prohibited on residential streets.

Vice-President Moore inquired as to the status of the street sign replacement project. Ms. Marcinko responded that she will check with the Borough engineer and report back to Council.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:05 p.m.

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Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson  
President Council