

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session
Minutes
May 13, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 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. Shattuck, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann and President McCarthy-Johnson. Amanda Ford, Interim Borough Manager and Michael J. Witherel, Solicitor were also present. Mayor John Thompson was absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time

GENERAL MATTERS

1. Discussion regarding support letter for PHDA Board for 1341 Marlboro Avenue Project – Marcy Morse.

Ms. Morse thanked Council for the opportunity to speak briefly. Ms. Morse, as Treasurer and Board Member provided a brief overview about PHDA (Pittsburgh Housing Development Association) a community development organization having served Wilkinsburg since 2005. Ms. Morse requested of Council a letter of support to compliment the grant funding application process to continue PHDA's mission.

Ms. Garrett asked about the extent of the rehab project at 1341 Marlboro Avenue. Ms. Morse responded the structure is sound and does require plumbing, electrical and roofing work. The present funding value for the project is \$65,000 to \$80,000. It is hoped the agency will profit approximately \$15,000. Mr. Shattuck explained Allegheny County Economic Development has developed housing criterion and has a checklist of specifications. Ms. Macklin talked about

houses in that area not selling for the \$65,000 to \$80,000 price and suggested donating the property to a family. This property is the first rehab project for PHDA and the goal is to put a family into the home after reconstruction.

Mr. Shattuck thanked PHDA for educating people to succeed in the home buying process. No action was taken by Council to prepare a letter of support for PHDA.

2. Discussion regarding a letter from Nick Ulintz and Rosa Parks (Playground).

President McCarthy-Johnson informed Council Mr. Ulintz wants to take over the property that is known as Rosa Parks Playground and is now vacant land. There was discussion about location of the park and Council members trying to explain where the park is located. The equipment was taken out and the facility has not been used for approximately eight years.

Mr. Taiani suggested having the property appraised and then advertise for bid. Mr. Shattuck suggested advertising multiple lots and obtaining multiple appraisals. Ms. Ford distributed the Borough owned property list to Council she obtained from Mr. Egler. It was Council consensus for the Borough Manager, Ms. Ford to send a letter to Mr. Ulintz and inform him that Council will contact him at a later date regarding his request.

3. Discussion regarding 800 Block of Penn Avenue (Even Side).

Mr. Shattuck had been contacted by Cassandra Colindge of Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority introducing him to the staff person assigned to look at the 800 Block (Even Side) of Penn Avenue and options for redevelopment. Mr. Shattuck also received a request for a list of Code Enforcement violations on record for those properties. Mr. Shattuck forwarded the request to Ms. Ford. The request serves as informational to keep Council informed. The WCDC is looking at redevelopment options and acquisition strategies as reported by Mr. Shattuck. Mr. Frank will look up the information and forward to Ms. Ford. Ms. Ford will forward the information to Ms. Colindge and Mr. Shattuck.

4. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2015, April 8, 2015 and April 15, 2015.

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Ms. Macklin asked for a correction on the April 15, 2015 Minutes page 6 Mulberry Street should be changed to Marlboro Avenue. Ms. Trice asked for correction for Roll Call – Ms. Trice was absent and the minutes does not reflect her absence.

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

Abstain: Ms. Trice (April 1, 2015 and April 15, 2015)

Motion carried 8: 1 Abstention (for two meetings)

5. Approving April Checks Issued:

Regular Disbursements 04/01 – 04/30/15	\$ 955,650.01
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 253,945.63
Voided Checks	\$ <u>(3,934.01)</u>
Total Disbursement	\$ 1,205,661.63

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Grannemann

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

No: Mr. Taiani, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice

Motion carried: 6:3

6. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2934 – MSF increase.

Mr. Lefebvre read aloud the Ordinance approved February 11, 2015.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Taiani

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

7. Approving Resolution 15-025 – Extending a conditional offer of employment – to William Coffee – Police Officer.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

8. Approving Resolution 15-026 – Extending a conditional offer of employment – to Matthew Baughman – Police Officer.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

9. Approving Resolution 15-027 – Extending a conditional offer of employment – to Shawn Granger – Police Officer.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

10. Approving Resolution 15-028 – Extending a conditional offer of employment – to Thomas Yaniszkeski – Police Officer.

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Mrs. Grannemann

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

11. Approving Resolution 15-029 – Extending a conditional offer of employment - to Michael Adams – Police Officer.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

12. Approving Resolution 15-030 – Street Closure – Ethnan Temple Blessing of the Bikes.

Moved: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Garrett

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. (Based upon the condition of Police Chief's approval).

13. Approving Resolution 15-031 – Hello Bully – Pet Vaccine and Care Clinic – Park Playground, May 23, 2015.

Moved: Ms. Garrett

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

14. Approving Resolution 15-032 – Street Closure – Wilkinsburg High School Prom Procession.

Moved: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Trice

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave. – Commented Rosa Parks Playground was closed to open Mifflin Avenue Playground due to a redevelopment plan by the County when Regent Square was built.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Macklin talked about receiving a letter from Duquesne Light Company referencing the LED Lighting Pilot Program and her interest for Council to look into. Ms. Ford informed Council the ten lights have to be installed in one area. She will submit the paperwork once Council specifies an area. Mr. Gilliland recommends lighting along Pennwood Avenue for Council to consider due to projects along Penn Avenue that include the trestle project. Ms. Ford talked about consideration for PIB (1.625% interest) funding for additional lighting if the pilot project proves favorable. Ms. Ford has to confirm if this type of project aside from the pilot program will benefit from application of the PIB loan. Council discussed replacement of all signage specifically faded street signs and faded street cleaning signs. Ms. Moore asked about cleaning out sewers particularly one that caused flooding to a family's basement on Montier Street. Mr. Taiani talked about cleaning catch basins throughout the Borough. Ms. Ford reported that after meeting with Roy Clark, DPW Director it was decided not to utilize the TCVCOG vector machine due to its high cost. Mr. Clark will utilize Robinson Pipe Company to clean out catch basins throughout the Borough at a much lower cost than the other service.

Ms. Ford spoke to Council about a manhole problem and broken pipe lines that have caused sink-hole problems in need of repairs. As a result of recommendations from the Borough Engineer and Mr. Clark, DPW; Mr. Gilliland, Borough Engineer asked for Council approval to:

Authorize advertisement for a Project Bid of \$22,500 to repair broken pipe lines on Princeton Avenue near LaBelle Street, Doyle Street near house number 1633, Stoner Way between Center and Wood Street, and Savannah Avenue between Overton Street and Whitney Avenue.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Ford will inform Mr. Gilliland to move forward with the advertisement of the bid specifications.

Ms. Ford talked about having received an invoice from Anthony Castellone who presented before Council information about completion of Phase I Traffic Circulation Study. Ms. Ford has an invoice in the amount of \$321.00 for completion of Phase I of the study. There will be further discussion for funding for Phase II for SPC and other funding through the WCDC. Ms. Ford wants

an o.k. to pay. The Borough has not committed to Phase II of the project. Mr. Shattuck talked about notification of an award from CDBG for the trestle study in the Borough's name. The \$10,000 remaining funds was requested to be used for specialized consultants to apply for grants, implementation or further traffic study; the request was denied from Allegheny County. The award will be closed out and the \$10,000 will not be disbursed to the Borough.

Ms. Ford informed Council about Juanita Mitchell representing a group from the City of Pittsburgh (Homewood) "Storm Troopers Women's Group" that requested to clean up, plant flowers and maintain them at the Joseph Healy Linear Park on South Avenue unless Council has another location in mind. Council agreed to the offer as long as there is not an expectation of funds from the Borough.

Ms. Garrett talked about receiving Council consensus to remove the old sign that reads Eastridge Center and Redeemer Church. Ms. Ford spoke to Mr. Clark about this and he asked for time due to other projects involving sinkholes and preparation for Saturday yard waste collection.

NEW BUSINESS

President McCarthy-Johnson announced Saturday, May 16, 2015 as Yard Waste Pick-Up Day. Yard waste must be contained in brown bags and not in plastic garbage bags. Mr. Clark informed Council that Hosanna House has asked for 30 truckloads of compost at \$150.00 each truck load.

President McCarthy-Johnson will ask that a representative from Hosanna House provide an update to Council about programs and services for Wilkesburg residents.

President McCarthy-Johnson talked about an appointment of a Council member to serve on the Civil Service Commission as an alternate until a full-time member is appointed. Mr. Lefebvre volunteered to serve and President McCarthy-Johnson expressed having him in mind for appointment.

Civil Service Commission Temporary Seat:

Appoint Michael Lefebvre to Civil Service Commission Temporary Seat until vacancies on the Commission can be filled.

Moved: Ms. Garrett

Second: Mr. Taiani

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

President McCarthy-Johnson opened discussion to establish use of a digital voice recorder technology device to record Borough meetings versus cassette tape recording. Ms. Ford informed Council a digital voice recorder cost approximately \$40.00. This will save in the long

run as there will no longer be a need to purchase cassette tapes. It will also be easier and more cost efficient to reproduce copies for Right-To-Know requests.

President McCarthy-Johnson opened the discussion about the Redevelopment Authority members and that there are currently two vacant seats. One seat expired January 31, 2015, one seat expires December 31, 2015, and another seat expires January 31, 2016.

Ms. Garrett had questions about by-laws for the Redevelopment Authority and noticing some redundancies considering the Borough's involvement with the County and the WDCD. Mr. Shattuck talked about specific rules and duties allowed by the Authority, being specific that it is separate and distinct from Borough Council, and the responsibility of their own insurance and coverages, and their right to act independent of Council. Ms. Luxemburg talked about the Redevelopment Authority when created in Wilkesburg and the work having been done by an attorney, Wayne Gerhold pro bono. She expressed that Ms. Garrett is right. The County Redevelopment Authority saw the notice of incorporation and questioned why Wilkesburg needs a Redevelopment Authority. The County serves as Wilkesburg's Redevelopment Authority. Wilkesburg Redevelopment Authority membership initially included five members established in 2004. Ms. Garrett moved to disband the Redevelopment Authority of Wilkesburg. Mr. Witherel, Solicitor suggested Council take whatever action deemed appropriate and he will take the necessary steps to prepare for the next Council meeting. Ms. Macklin asked for more discussion. The Redevelopment Authority is dormant at this time.

Disband the Wilkesburg Redevelopment Authority. Property located at 803 Franklin Avenue and donated to the Redevelopment Authority and all property and funds under the Authority to be turned over to the Borough. Borough is to take ownership of 803 Franklin Avenue and demolish immediately.

Moved: Ms. Garrett

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. Garrett, Ms. Moore, Mr. Lefebvre

No: President McCarthy-Johnson

Abstain: Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin

Motion carried: 3:1, 5 Abstentions

Mr. Taiani requested to have the Borough Engineer to review and add proper signage to West Street at Kelly Avenue. There is currently a 15 mph sign (no blinking sign). A sign is needed at West Street/Kelly Avenue to West Street at Biddle Avenue.

Kate Grannemann talked about remodeling at 413 Whitney Avenue and asked to have someone check for Code violations at 415 or 411 Whitney Avenue.

Mr. Shattuck informed Council there were seven trees to be planted at Ferguson Playground but were not able to do so due to concrete under dirt. Someone will check with the Borough Engineer.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council