

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Legislative Session
Minutes
December 9, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 pm in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkesburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Lefebvre, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin and President Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson. Michael Witherel, Solicitor and Amanda Ford, Assistant Borough Manager were also present. Absent were Ms. Garrett and Mayor, John Thompson. A quorum was established.

- Ms. Garrett – Arrived at 7:09 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence for victims of violent crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Adopting Ordinance No. 2944 – Establishing the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2016.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Trice

All voted in favor of the vote; 7 – 1 Nay. Motion carried.

2. Approving Resolution No. 15-081 – Adopting the 2016 Municipal Budget.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Grannemann

- Ms. Trice – Commenting that she intends to vote yes; and also requested that the budget be re-opened in January 2016.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – Okay.

- Ms. Macklin – Questions Ms. Trice’s request being that the budget has estimated numbers and that all contract agreement numbers does not reflect in the budget.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – All contracts have not been negotiated and the budget reflects estimated figures to adopt a balance budget.
- Ms. Trice – Once all contracts have been finalized, I would like to review them all.
- Mr. Taiani – Requests that Council revisits the budget due to the deficit this coming year; and that 5% deductions in all Departments did not occur. I want the record to reflect his concerns that Council is being fiscally irresponsible.

➤ Further discussion follows.

- President McCarthy-Johnson – Comments in disagreement of Mr. Taiani’s concerns that Council has lacked fiscal responsibility.

All in favor of the vote; 8 – 1 Abstain. Motion carried.

3. Approving Resolution No. 15-082 – Establishing the Wilkinsburg Police Officer’s pension fund contribution rate at 6.5% for calendar year 2016.

- **Moved: Mr. Lefebvre**

Second: Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the vote; 7 – 0. Motion carried.

4. Approving the Resolution No. 15-083 – Authorizing the Consent Order and agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection concerning Sanitary Sewer system and to authorize the proper agent to execute the agreement.

- **Moved: Ms. Grannemann**

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the vote 9 – 0. Motion carried.

5. Approving Resolution No. 15-084 – Adopting the Community Champions Agreement for Foreclosed Registry of Real Property.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Mr. Taiani

All voted in favor of the vote 9 – 0. Motion carried.

6. Approving Resolution No. 15-085 – Purchasing a new Monitoring/Notification System for Pump Station Overflow agreement in the amount of \$17,000.00.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Macklin

All in favor of the amended voted 9 – 0. Motion carried.

7. Approving Resolution No. 15-086 – Authorizing the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from PennDOT in the amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the vote 9 – 0. Motion carried.

8. Approving Council Meeting Minutes.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the vote 9 – 0. Motion carried.

9. Approving November 1-30 Checks Issued:

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

- Ms. Macklin – Read a statement on her vote of “no” for the checks issued for November 1-30 2015 for inclusion in the December 9th 2015 council meeting minutes. Ms. Macklin provided each Council member with a written statement and an article from the Borough News – “Protecting Public Funds”. (*See Attachment*)
 - Mr. Lefebvre – Comments on the check signature process.
 - Ms. Trice – Request a forensic audit for fiscal year 2011-2015.
 - Further discussion follows.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Grannemann – Yes, Ms. Macklin – No, Mr. Shattuck – Yes, Ms. Moore – Yes, Ms. Trice – No, Mr. Taiani – Yes, Ms. Garrett – Yes, Mr. Lefebvre – Yes, President McCarthy-Johnson – Yes.

Motion carried 7 – 2.

10. Approving the termination of Kevin Perry effective December 9, 2015.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Taiani

- Michael Witherel – Borough Solicitor – Council needs to go into executive session for discussion.
- Executive Session for discussion on Agenda Item #10 at 7:24 p.m.
- Executive Session ends at 7:39 p.m.

Ms. Grannemann move to amend the previous motion to terminate Kevin Perry pending the conditions as discussed in executive session; second by Ms. Garrett.

All voted in favor of the vote 9 – 0. Motion carried.

Original vote moved by Ms. Grannemann; second by Mr. Taiani.

All voted in favor of the vote 9 – 0. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Dan Friedson – 2043 Kendon Drive East – Comments on ownership of Green Street Park. Reads a reference of law for Land Sub-Division describing property ownership. “Public Owns the Park”.
2. Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Avenue – Green Street Park (1970-1980) commitments are real. Borough will owe back funds to DCNR. Akator should create a park and that would be satisfactory. Or purchase property close to Edgewood border and develop construction in that area.
3. Rick Varner – 701 Trenton Avenue – Comments on poverty areas vs. wealthy areas. And comments on save Green Street Park.
 - Mr. Taiani – Comments about Green Street Park. Two council members’ efforts to fight the issue and was not successful.
4. Lara Tukarski – 201 Green Street – Further comments against the sale and development of Green Street Park.
5. Jim Frank – 211 Union Street – Comments that the sale of Green Street Park conflicts with the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
6. Robert Bilas – 525 Peebles Street – Questions the due process of this sale and that none of the residence received notification of this sale.
 - President McCarthy-Johnson – Explains that the Borough has no ownership of the Park and that the property belongs to the School District. The Borough is working with DCNR.
7. Ron Buchman – 317 Maple Avenue - Owner of Car Wash in Wilkinsburg behind the McDonald’s. This is a money issue and is a bad move.
 - Mr. Lefebvre – Comments his support regarding Green Street Park. On the record to the public audience; that the panel of Council members did not have anything to do with the sale of Green Street Park. The Borough does not own the property.
 - President McCarthy-Johnson – Any further information regarding Council decision and vote at the time regarding Green Street Park are reflected in the recorded minutes and anyone of the public can obtain that information.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Taiani – Question regarding the Welcome sign of Wilkinsburg Borough at South Trenton Avenue.

- President McCarthy-Johnson - Jody Guy, Arts Commission has recently been instructed by Council to move forward and complete the project.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2016 Council Meeting – 1st and 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. One meeting in July and August 2016.
- ABC’s List will be updated and Administrative office will contact interested individuals to continue to serve on these Boards. Talent Bank application and descriptions of each Authority, Board and Commission should be placed on the website.
- Ms. Moore – Library Announcements:
 - Jack Buncher – A Local Foundation is offering a grant to each library in Allegheny County in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the appreciation of quality and value of the libraries within the community.
 - National Institute Account – Dr. Doswell – University of Pittsburgh – Invites Wilksburg Library to share with another grant request to promote a ‘Healthy Lifestyles for Children’ displaying poster in the library.
 - Celebrate Urban Birds – A mini grant working with underserved community. Wilksburg Library is strongly encouraged to apply.
- President McCarthy-Johnson – Announces to the public that Council will hold an executive session for purpose of personnel and litigation matters.

Executive Session – Starts at 8:15 p.m.

Executive Session – Ends at 8:47 p.m.

*No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

- President McCarthy-Johnson adjourns the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Patrick M. Shattuck
President Council