

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Capital Planning Work Session**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 6, 2016**

**Call to Order**

President Shattuck called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

- President Shattuck – Opening statement apologizing for the late start of tonight’s meeting, and further announced that an executive session was held for purposes of legal matters. No action was taken.

**Roll Call**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Vice-President Garrett, Ms. Grannemann – via telephone, Mr. Levebvre, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Rose, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, President Shattuck, Mayor John Thompson and Amanda J. Ford, Assistant Borough Manager. Absent – Ms. McCarthy-Johnson. A quorum was established.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President Shattuck, a moment of reflection was observed.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Agenda Items**

1. Approving Ordinance No. 2945 – Authorizing the Borough of Wilkinsburg to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Pittsburgh with regards to the City of Pittsburgh providing fire and emergency management services to the Borough.

***Motion: Mr. Lefebvre***

***Second: Mr. Taiani***

***A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.***

2. Approving Resolution No. 16-002 – Declaring Slums and Blight Properties: 821 North Avenue, 809 Penn Avenue, 811 Penn Avenue and 820 Taylor Way.

***Motion: Mr. Lefebvre***

***Second: Ms. Macklin***

***A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.***

- President Shattuck – Provided further background of properties that are adjacent to or surrounding the Hosanna House who is working with Action Housing, Inc. Hosanna House has extra funding leftover for demolition of properties; and the Borough has requested that these selected properties be considered for demolition as blighted properties on the top priority list. This partnership between Allegheny County CDBG Grant funding, Hosanna House and the Borough of Wilkinsburg, allows up to \$30,000.00 for blighted properties.
- Ms. Macklin – Are one of these properties list; one of the buildings that was fire damaged?
- President Shattuck – Yes.
- Mr. Taiani – Due to the fact that Hosanna House received this grant funding; does it mean that they take claim of the properties?
- President Shattuck – No, the properties will be lien and for sale through the VPRP program and or sheriff sale.

***A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.***

3. Approving Resolution No. 16-003 – Authorizing an Offering Condition of Employment to Robert Metz as Library Director effectively January 4, 2016.

***Motion: Ms. Trice***

***Second: Mr. Lefebvre***

***A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.***

- Robert Metz – Newly appointed Library Director. Thanks Council and the Assistant Borough Manager for the opportunity to serves as Library Director and he will continue to strive forward in a positive manner for the Wilkinsburg’s libraries.
4. Approving Handicap Space Parking Permit for Paula Lamberto at 1409 Superior Street.

***Motion: Ms. Trice***

***Second: Mr. Lefebvre***

***A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.***

5. Approving the removal of Handicap Parking Space for Clarence Porter at 446 South Avenue.

***Motion: Mr. Lefebvre***

***Second: Vice-President Garrett***

***A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.***

6. Discussion regarding alterations to the Property Maintenance Ordinance – Code Director, Eric Parrish. This discussion will cover both agenda items #6 and #7.
  - Further discussion follows described by Eric Parrish that minor amendments are necessary to fully enforce the property maintenance ordinance. He will work with the solicitor to make these adjustments.
  - Current Ordinance allows for the Magistrate Judge to oversee the appeal process. Amending the ordinance will transfer the appeal process to the TCVCOG Appeals Board. It would be much preferred to have the Magisterial Judge to handle the punitive side of the violation(s).

- ***A consensus of all Council to move forward. No vote required.***
7. Discussion regarding Ordinance adoption for the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments (TCVCOG) Appeals Board.
  - ***Base on the shared discussion regarding item #6, there was a consensus of all Council to move forward. No vote required.***
  - ***This adoption will allow due process for those who appeal. Establishing a fee will to pay for the process.***

- Ms. Macklin – Who would sit on the appeal board. Would you be eligible?

- Eric Parrish – The possibility would be there for me to sit on the board. But, I would decline that opportunity.

### **Public Comment**

- 1) Reverend Aaron Watt, Sr. – 740 South Avenue, Mulberry Church – Comments on his presence for tonight’s meeting so that he could introduce himself and his church to Council. Rev. Watt also informed Council that he is the senior pastor of New Grace Missionary Baptist Church and that their congregation is in the preliminary stages of acquiring the old Mulberry Church on South Avenue.
  - President Shattuck – I understand that you are working with our Code Director, and that you are inquiring about the Tax Compromise program here in the Borough to ensure that all information has been provided to move forward in the right direction.
  - Rev. Watt – Yes, we are communicating about all the details and we are excited about moving our congregation to the Wilkinsburg community.

- 2) Denise Edwards – Resident at 118 Peebles Street - Expressed her gratitude of thanks to Council on preparing a well deserved proclamation and the delivery of the proclamation that was read by Mayor John Thompson that was well received by the community.
- President Shattuck – Yes, several members from council was present during the funeral services and it was a very nice ceremony.

### **Old Business**

- President Shattuck – Comments that the last year or so, that the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday meetings of the months have typically been Council Committee reports, Departmental reports and Authority, Boards and Commissions reports.
- Reports will remain the same; minor changes to be considered under each of the committees.

### **New Business**

- Mr. Taiani – Question for Mr. Parrish. Recently, Council approved the handicap parking space for the 300 block of West Street. The sign was erected, but the curb has not been painted blue as of yet.
- Eric Parrish – I cannot answer your question, but DPW Director, Roy Clark is present to tonight to give comment.
- DPW Director - Roy Clark – Explained that at the time the sign was placed, due to bad weather the curb was not painted at the time. A crew will be assigned and directed to paint the curb as soon as possible.
- Ms. Macklin – Announcement regarding contact information of the group that will bring peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the Borough on January 18<sup>th</sup> MLK Day . Any group homes, feeding stations, people in need. Paige Trice and I will be available to assist with the distribution of sandwiches.
- Mayor Thompson shared two announcements:
  - January 7, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. a meet and greet our Police Officers will be held at the Hosanna House.
  - Provided a quick update on the injured firefighter’s during the January 1, 2016 fire on Ross Avenue. All firefighters are recovering well and all have been released from the hospital.
- President Shattuck – Thank you for the update Mr. Mayor it is good news to hear!
- Mr. Rose – Suggested that the youths should be the group that meets and greets with the police. Perhaps there is a better way to communicating this information better to the residents of our community.
- Mayor Thompson – Its open to the community; no specific age group. All ages are welcome to attend.
- Vice-President Garrett – This may fall under old or new business. I would like to point out the Junior Council program. Maybe it’s not too late to reach out to the middle school

students to fill the two vacate seats we have on Council. I think this would be a worthwhile program to re-establish.

- President Shattuck – Sounds like a good idea. Any other new business?

### **Adjournment**

- President Shattuck – Is there a motion to adjourn?

Motion: Mr. Taiani

Second: Vice-President Garrett

- President Shattuck - Meeting adjourned.

Time: 7:35 p.m.

---

Patrick M. Shattuck  
President Council