

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Legislative Session
January 13, 2016

Call to Order

President Shattuck called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 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 Ms. Garrett, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Rose, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, President Shattuck and Michael Witherel, Solicitor and Amanda J. Ford, Assistant Borough Manager. Absent – Ms. Grannemann, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson and Mayor John Thompson. A quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President Shattuck, a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of victims of violent crimes.

Public Comment

None.

Agenda Items

1. Approving Council Meeting Minutes for 12/2/15 and 12/9/15.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Vice-President Garrett

A vote 6 – 1 Abstention; Motion carried.

- Ms. Trice – Comments on her vote to abstain until the December 9, 2015 Minutes reflects all attachments that Ms. Macklin had asked to be a part of the approved minutes. Once the entire packet has been placed with the minutes I will change my vote.

2. Approving December 1-31 Checks Issued.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Vice-President Garrett

A Roll Call Vote:

- ***Vice-President Garrett – Yes***
- ***Mr. Taiani – Yes***
- ***Ms. Trice – No***
- ***Mr. Rose – Yes***
- ***Ms. Macklin – No***
- ***Mr. Lefebvre – Yes***
- ***President Shattuck – Yes***

A vote 5 – 2; Motion carried.

- Ms. Macklin – I hope that this is the last time I will vote no; due to the Council President has established a new procedure to assure that the invoices are reviewed before signatures are placed on the checks.
 - President Shattuck – Just to make clear of what I had said; is that I will be the first signature and reviewing all back up invoices prior to my signature.
3. Approving Resolution No. 16-004 – Authorizing the increase of the Annual Registration Fees for properties registered under the abandoned real property registry.
- President Shattuck – I recall in November 2015 Council passed a resolution that authorized amendments by resolution “only”, for each subsequent year after year one in the amount of \$400.00 for the 1st year and an increase each subsequent year thereafter.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

4. Approving Resolution No. 16-005 – Authorizing to partner with 11 other municipalities under the TCVCOG for the Verizon Franchise renewal project.

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

5. Approving Resolution No. 16-006 – Reappointing Jody Guy – WCACD.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Trice

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

6. Approving Resolution No. 16-007 – Reappointing Jeanne Dexheimer – Library Board.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

7. Approving Resolution No. 16-008 – Reappointing Joel Minnigh – Library Board.

Motion: Vice-President Garrett

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

8. Approving Resolution No. 16-009 – Reappointing Tracey Evans – Wilkinsburg Municipal Authority.

- Ms. Trice – Question. Will this appointment be a conflict of interest?
- Borough Solicitor – Michael Witherel – Not a legal issue.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Vice-President Garrett

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

9. Approving Resolution No. 16-010 – Reappointing Linda Law – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

10. Approving Resolution No. 16-011 – Reappointing Eugenia Moore – Shade Tree Commission.

Motion: Vice-President Garrett

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

11. Approving Resolution No. 16-012 – Reappointing Linda Law – Shade Tree Commission.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

12. Approving Resolution No. 16-013 – Reappointing Pamela Macklin – Wilkinsburg Redevelopment Authority.

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Macklin

- Mr. Lefebvre – There were many discussion last year regarding this Authority. Until Council decided what we wanted the Authority to do. If the Authority is not able to hold a quorum then the Board cannot act as an Authority.
- Borough Solicitor – If you take no action then Ms. Macklin continues on the Authority Board.
- President Shattuck – That’s correct.
- Borough Solicitor – So, if you don’t reappoint her, she continues on the Board until she resigns, you remove her or you reappoint someone else. The resolution for tonight is not necessary. The reappointment would grant her the term back. Right now, she remains on the Board under the Municipal Authority Act.

Roll Call Vote:

- ***Vice-President Garrett – No***
- ***Mr. Taiani – No***
- ***Ms. Trice – Yes***
- ***Mr. Lefebvre – No***
- ***Mr. Rose – No***
- ***Ms. Macklin – Yes***
- ***President Shattuck – Yes***

A vote 3 Ayes – 4 Nays; Motion not carried.

- Borough Solicitor – But, as stated, she continues until you reappoint someone else.

13. Approving Resolution No. 16-014 – Reappointing Dee Briggs – Planning Commission.

Motion: Vice-President Garrett

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

14. Approving Resolution No. 16-015 – Reappointing Ralph Watson – Planning Commission.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

15. Approving Resolution No. 16-016 – Appointing Jeffrey S. Nash – Planning Commission.

- Ms. Macklin – Question. What is Mr. Nash’s residency?

- President Shattuck – He is a Wilkinsburg resident that lives on Montier Street; and he is willing to serve.

Motion: Vice-President Garrett

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

16. Approving Resolution No. 16-017 – Appointing Marlee Gallagher – WCACD.

- Ms. Macklin – Question. Where is Ms. Gallaher’s residency being that she moved out of Wilkinsburg?
 - Further discussion follows regarding other members on the WCACD and the validity of their residency and other discrepancies. Motion to Table Item #16.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Vice-President Garrett

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried to TABLE.

17. Approving Resolution No. 16-018 – Appointing Brian Gaither – WCACD.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Vice-President Garrett

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

18. Approving Resolution No. 16-019 – Appointing Anna Kurtz – WCACD.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

19. Approving Resolution No. 16-020 – Appointing Eugenia Moore – Library Board.

Motion: Mr. Taiani

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

20. Discussion regarding 2014 Tax Liens.

- Mr. Lefebvre led the discussion explaining to Council the data information in the excel spreadsheet describing the following:
 - 1201 properties on the list describing the monetary value of each property.
 - 296 properties are listed on the Vacant Property list and have been compared to the overall property list.
 - 3 of the properties are under water.
 - 2 of the properties under water are on the vacant properties list.

- Delinquent properties and delinquent properties on the vacant properties list should be referred to MBM to begin sheriff sales on the agreed properties due to the amount of delinquent taxes owed to the Borough.
 - Feedback from Council is required prior to the next scheduled Joint Tax Committee meeting to be held on January 25, 2016. These properties cannot be filed jointly between the Borough and the School District. Delinquent properties must be filed separately by both entities. Council needs to let me know their wishes regarding this process. So that MBM can be instructed to move forward.
 - President Shattuck – Directed Eric Parrish to provide a list to Mr. Lefebvre of any properties that are on the list that may have been marked for demolition.
- Consensus from all Council members present would review the spreadsheet. No vote taken.

21. Discussion regarding 2016 Bond Issue Funds for Demolition project.

- President Shattuck – Explains to Council that the municipal map reflects 29 properties and 37 more properties for asbestos testing provided to the CITF Grant project. Seeking Councils vote to move forward allowing the Borough Engineer and the Code Director to seek bid proposals for asbestos surveys for demolition preparations. Title searches have been completed and a project update has been provided to the Project Manager, Robert Frank from Allegheny County ACED.
- Full Council consensus to allow borough Engineer and Eric Parrish to seek RFP’s bid proposals for asbestos testing. No vote taken.

Public Comment

None.

Old Business

- Ms. Trice – Requested that the Authorities, Boards and Commissions submit a report at least once a month or within minimum of six (6) months to Council.
- President Shattuck – Agree and so noted. President Shattuck instructed Borough Manager to notify all groups and advised of monthly reports required.
- Vice-President Garrett – Would some please explained what happened with the property on Swissvale Avenue.
- President Shattuck – A property that was in the ownership of the Municipal Authority. The property was sold and back taxes were satisfied for other tax lien bodies; but the Borough of Wilkinsburg was not included.
- Ms. Macklin – The property was the old EMS building that was given to the Borough and the Borough turned it over to the Municipal Authority to find a buyer. The WCDC sold

the property and the Borough did not receive payment of back taxes lien against the property. Wilksburg School District, attorneys, etc. received payment of back taxes.

- Code Director – Eric Parrish – Currently, there are violations filed against the current owner.

New Business

- Mr. Taiani – Reported to Code Director that the property located at 756 Rebecca Avenue roof is completely collapsed.
- Director, Eric Parrish will check out the complaint.
- Mr. Lefebvre motion to remove Ms. Macklin from the Wilksburg Redevelopment Authority; Second by Vice-President Garrett.
- Solicitor Witherel – Under the act you must replace her with someone else or if she chooses to resign. Otherwise, she will continue to serve until then. Who are the current members?
- Vice-President Garrett – Ms. Macklin, D. Briggs and Mr. Logan.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Vice-President Garrett

Roll Call Vote:

- ***Vice-President Garrett - Yes***
- ***Mr. Taiani - Yes***
- ***Ms. Trice - No***
- ***Mr. Rose - Yes***
- ***Ms. Macklin - No***
- ***Mr. Lefebvre - Yes***
- ***President Shattuck – No***

A vote of 4 – 3; Motion carried.

- Mr. Taiani – Mr. Solicitor just to make clear. Now, I may formerly resign?
- Borough Solicitor – Now, that you have been officially appointed on to the Municipal Redevelopment Authority; yes you may now resign if you so choose to do so.
- Ms. Macklin – Question. If there are five seats on that Board; how can this occur?
- Borough Solicitor – The appointment was to your seat. Not the vacancies.
- Mr. Taiani – Mr. President, I move to resign my position from the Wilksburg Redevelopment Authority as of tonight.
- Borough Solicitor – Someone needs to accept his resignation.

Motion by Mr. Lefebvre to accept Mr. Taiani resignation from the Wilksburg Redevelopment Authority; Second by Vice-President Garrett.

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

- Vice-President Garrett – Announcement regarding the Alternative Lending Options for Your Small Business, a breakfast will be held at Avatar’s on South Avenue across from Nancy’s Restaurant, Tuesday, January 19, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Jody Guy – Reminder regarding the Preserving Wilkinsburg History - Share Your Story of living in Wilkinsburg, scheduled on MLK Day from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Eastridge Library. All Wilkinsburg residents invited, all stories will be uploaded to the U.S. Library of Congress. Other dates are to follow.
- Ricco Martello – Newspaper Reporter – Writing a story on African Americans on Council, requesting all African American Council members to stay after the meeting for individual interviews.

Adjournment

- President Shattuck – Announces Council will go into executive session for purpose of personnel and legal litigation. No expected action to be taken.
- President Shattuck - Motion to adjourn.

- *Motion: Mr. Lefebvre*

Second: Vice-President Garrett

Time: 7:46 p.m.

Executive session start time: 7:50 p.m.

Executive session end time: 8:20 p.m. (No action taken during Executive Session)

Patrick M. Shattuck
President Council