

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Legislative Session
April 13, 2016

Call to Order

President Shattuck called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06 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, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Rose, Mr. Taiani, President Shattuck, Michael Witherel, Solicitor and Amanda J. Ford, Assistant Borough Manager. Absent – Ms. Trice, Mayor John Thompson and Ms. McCarthy-Johnson arrived at 7:33 p.m. 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

- 1) Bernie Wetzel – 424 Whitney Avenue – President of the WCDC Board and a member of the WCDC Holding Corporation. Comments on the function and use of the WCDC in developing network and relationship in the business and residential community. And thanks the Council for approving a resolution supporting the train station.
- 2) Jim Butler – 1406 Carnegie Avenue, McKeesport, PA – Board Member of the WCDC and ditto the remarks of Bernie Wetzel. Please support this project.
- 3) Jerry Gaudi – 722 North Avenue Apt #7 – Requesting Council’s permission to look for a funder for sponsorship of stage, lighting and sound system for Arts in the Park events. Also, to provide demonstrations on UPMC Healthy Foods for the community and to change the location of the Farmer’s Market.
- President Patrick Shattuck – Advised that Councilwoman McCarthy-Johnson is the Chair for Special Events Committee and recommended that Mr. Gaudi attends the next meeting to discuss the intentions of enhancing the Arts in the Park program.
- 4) Gerrod Winston – 907 East End Avenue – Expressed support of the resolution for the train station redevelopment.
- 5) Anne Elise Morris – 2130 Royal Avenue – Requests Council’s support of the WCDC having full project control of the train station redevelopment.
- 6) James Weddle – 414 Hampton Street – Supports the WCDC of full control of train station redevelopment project.

- 7) Amanda Barber – 523 Coal Street – Intend to comment on the Ramsey Street discussion under the 2nd Public Comment.

Agenda Items

1. Discussion regarding Women’s Center Shelter Project – Wayne Gerhold.

Provides information to Council regarding Wilkinsburg Borough Industrial and Commercial Development Authority has approved of the Authority's participation in a project (the "Project") involving the Authority's issuance of a Revenue Note, Series of 2016, in a total approximate principal amount not to exceed \$9,000,000 (the "Note"), the proceeds of which shall be used for the purpose of the following: (a) major renovations of the Women’s Center and Shelter (the “Facility”), located in the Oakland neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to advance the safety and wellbeing of victims of intimate partner violence and prevent and respond to intimate partner violence through social change; and (b) paying all or a portion of the costs of issuing the Note (the “Project”).

- Public Hearing scheduled for April 20, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. located at 605 Ross Avenue, Council Chambers.
- President Shattuck – Please let the record reflect Councilwoman McCarthy-Johnson’s arrival at 7:33 p.m.

2. Discussion regarding 810 Wood Towers Corner Park & Offsite Parking Lease.

- Bob Sapsara - Seeking Council’s approval to consent to the current assignment of the previous lease agreement to Wood Towers Associates, and to extend the agreement over to the new “buyer” Crossgates, INC., as the new “lessee” to fulfill the remainder of the contractual time.
- President Shattuck – There is also an interest requesting additional terms for additional (13) parking spaces.
- Bob Sapsara – You are correct there are two lease agreements for Council’s consensus tonight.
- President Shattuck – We need a motion to approve the extension of the assignment of the original lease agreement to the new buyers that will expire in 2031; and not to agree to the amendment of additional parking spaces, but to invite the new buyer to our next meeting to discuss their future plans of Wood Towers.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Taiani – No

Mr. Rose – Yes

Ms. Garrett – Yes

Mr. Lefebvre – Yes

Ms. Grannemann – Yes

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson – Yes

Ms. Macklin – Yes

President Shattuck - Yes

A vote 7 – 1; Motion carried.

- Bob Sapsara – Further discussion regarding the vacant lot located at 800 Wood Street.
 - President Shattuck – In conversation with the new buyers, they had expressed an interest in this lot; however, we do have a prior commitment to the Penn State Group who are looking to fund and redeveloped that parcel into a sitting park area.
3. Discussion regarding Arts in the Park Program.
- Councilwoman McCarthy-Johnson – Updates on the status of the program. There has been discussion regarding the entertainment, etc. We are looking to having the funding up front to schedule the various entertainment in advance.
 - Issues in the past with entertainers not being paid
 - Complaints by the bands regarding payment
 - Next scheduled Special Events meeting April 28th; meetings are held every 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
 - Council consensus to having the solicitor to review the contract prepared by Groove Productions and provide his suggested modifications.
 - Mr. Taiani – Mr. Chairman, I was speaking on the floor. This is the second meeting that I have been cut-off and not allowed to finish my statements. I am a council members like everyone else. I am entitled to respect and the ability to speak on this floor. If I am going to be denied to doing so, there is no reason for me to attend the meetings. The point I was trying to make, is this: I do not financially support something like this for this Borough. Thank you.
4. Discussion regarding Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc. request for Public Property Permit – Kevin Kerr.
- Kevin Kerr – 510 City County Building
 - Sunanna Chand – Leadership Pittsburgh – Working on hashtag *#Wilkinsburg Stories*
 - Event scheduled for May 21st at 1p.m.-4p.m.
 - Clarification regarding alcohol permit and use
 - Street Closure
 - Use of Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority permit use
 - General Liability Insurance Certificate issued to Borough
 - Amanda Ford – How is this event communicated to our residents
 - Sunanna Chand – Our Community Outreach Office
5. Discussion regarding Train Station Restoration Project – Tracey Evans.

- Last week Council received a copy of the proposed resolution for the redevelopment of the train station. Please support the resolution.
 - Seeking partnership with the Borough to work together towards the completion of this project.
 - Control of abandoned building within the business district.
 - Seeking to fundraising for the restoration of the train station.
- President Shattuck – You will be placed on the agenda for next week for further discussion.
6. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 03/02/16 and 03/09/16.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

7. Approving March 1-31 Checks Issued.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

8. Approving Resolution No. 16-041 – Sponsoring Banner – Wilkinsburg School District Pre-K Registration.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.

Public Comment

- 1) Yvonne Pope – 1644 Laketon Road - My daughters Syiria Pope just moved back home she was attending LaSalle University and will be attending University of Pittsburgh in September. I wanted her to attend the Council meeting for experience and to see what she liked most about the meeting. She has indicated that she liked the discussion regarding the arts entertainment. Her daughter intends to open up a daycare in Wilkinsburg.
- President Shattuck – Thank you for coming tonight. We wish that more folks would come and bring their family members. Please check with our Code Enforcement Director for any permits needed to open the daycare facility.

Old Business

- Mr. Taiani – I had requested that the Code Enforcement Director to research the property and school vans at the location of 700 Rebecca Avenue @ Kelly Avenue to determine the status of an agreement with the Borough to allow a fence around the alley way.

- Eric Parrish – Code Enforcement Director – Provided information that he had checked for an on file agreement with the Borough and was not able to confirm such agreement. Further action to notify the property owner for further discussion and to have the property owner to provide any documentation in their possession defining an agreement to place a fence and block off the alley way.
- President Shattuck – I had instructed Mr. Parrish upon his return from leave to check the status of that issue.

New Business

- 933-947 Ramsey Street Row Houses
 - Ellen Kitzerow – Submitted a petition of signatures to Council to demolish eight (8) row houses property located at 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947 Ramsey Street for purposes of health and safety hazard conditions.
 - President Shattuck – A recent Blight Committee meeting was held to address all blighted property throughout the Borough and to come up with a strategy to rid of blight throughout the community.
 - Amanda Barber – 523 Coal Street – Supported the comments made by Ellen Kitzerow regarding the row houses located on Ramsey Street.
 - President Shattuck – Announces that a meeting was held by ACED for a discussion regarding Peoples Squares development, Vice-President Garrett and Councilwoman Macklin was in attendance as well as Action Housing and Hosanna House, WCDC to move forward with the two remaining houses on the lot examining the community land trust model for that project. We will keep the council and the public informed.
 - Councilman Rose – At the intersection near the Boys and Girls Club, there is a “One Way” sign has been turned in the wrong direction. Please have DPW correct the direction of the sign.
 - President Shattuck – Announce prior to the council meeting a brief executive session was held for discussion of personnel and real estate issues.
 - Councilwoman McCarthy-Johnson – On April 16th at 11:00 a.m. a resident community meeting will be held at the South Avenue Methodist Church.
 - Councilwoman Macklin – On April 23rd is Earth Day from 8:30am – 1:00 pm, lunch served at the fire station on Hay Street from 1pm -2:00pm.
 - Question from a member in the audience.

- President Shattuck – Every quarter there will be a 3rd Wednesday evening meeting Administrative Work Session. The public hearing for the Green Street Park will be held on May 4th 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and a vote following the public hearing.
- Councilwoman McCarthy-Johnson – Announces that she will be out of the country from May 1st thru May 13th 2016 and will participate for the council meeting via FaceTime.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Patrick M. Shattuck
President Council