

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Capital Planning Work Session
June 1, 2016

Call to Order

President Shattuck called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m. in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221. The delayed start was due to an Executive Session that took place right before the meeting.

Roll Call

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

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson arrived at approximately 7:28 PM.

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) Joe Davis – 401 Biddle Avenue – Spoke regarding the Purchase Request for Wilkinsburg Borough-Owned vacant property. Mr. Davis has permission from the borough to keep his dumpster on one of the properties by his business. If the property is sold, he won't be able to keep his business.
- 2) Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Avenue – We already have an ordinance that states that trash must be kept out of public view. Some people use only bags, it should be ok if people use just the bags.
- 3) Anne Elise Morris – 2130 Royal Ave – Wilkinsburg Historical Society wants to put up a temporary display celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Train Station and the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln Statue in the borough building lobby.

Agenda Items

1. Approving Council Meeting Minutes 4/6/16, 4/13/16, and 4/20/16.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

2. Approving April 1-30 Checks Issued.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

3. Approving Resolution No. 16-036 – Approving VPRP Applications for 809 Penn Avenue, 810 Taylor Way, 811 Penn Avenue and 821 North Avenue.
 - Speaker – Leon Haynes – 807 Wallace Avenue, Hosanna House
 - After demolition takes place, the properties will be used as green space until final plans for development are determined by the Wilkinsburg Borough and Allegheny County Economic Development.
 - Marc Taiani – Not willing to support or vote yes unless the Hosanna House commits to some sort of payment in lieu of taxes. Suggested a “Wilkinsburg Promise.
 - Motion to Table this issue until time is granted to discuss further with the Hosanna House.

Motion: Mr. Taiani

Second: Mr. Rose

A vote 3 – 5; Motion not carried, issue will not be tabled.

4. Motion to approve the VPRP Applications and that the resolution will be forwarded to the Redevelopment Authority upon successful execution of an agreement stating that the properties on Penn Avenue not be filed for tax exemption.

Motion: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

5. Approving Resolution No. 16-053 – Awarding Joe Palmeiri Construction as low bidder for the repairs of the retaining wall along Wylie Way in the amount of \$10,900.

Action: Consensus to hold. The engineer was instructed to go back and seek new bid proposals absent of wall debris removal.

Motion: -

Second: -

No vote taken.

6. Approving Resolution No. 16-054 – Use of South Avenue Parking Lot for the Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 8 – 0; Motion Carried.

7. Approving Resolution No. 16-055 – St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church Community Day Celebration.

Motion: *Ms. Grannemann*

Second: *Ms. Macklin*

A vote 8 – 0; Motion Carried.

8. Approving Groove Production Inc. letter of agreement for Art in the Park entertainment summer festival.

Action: No need for vote agreement prepared by the solicitor. Manager was told to execute the agreement as is.

Motion: -

Second: -

No vote taken.

9. Discussion regarding 1215 Hill Avenue along Wine Way – Borough Engineer.
 - Dave Gilliland, Borough Engineer – Provided Council with a summary of the issue. Council has directed the engineer to move forward in seeking bids for a French drain.

Action: Consensus amongst council to move forward.

Motion: -

Second: -

No vote taken.

10. Discussion authorizing the Assistant Borough Manager and Code Enforcement Director to advertise the adoption of an ordinance requiring garbage enclosures or attractively screened areas for dumpsters and garbage cans for dwellings with 3 or more units and commercial premises.
 - Eric Parrish, Code Enforcement Director – Informed council about the necessary language needed to adopt ordinance requiring garbage enclosures to screen dumpsters. He also pointed out that the existing ordinance that states trash cans must be moved out of public view is too loosely worded and would be difficult to enforce.

Action: Consensus amongst council to move forward with the Manager and the Solicitor.

Motion: -

Second: -

No vote taken.

11. Discussion to amend Chapter 226 of the Borough Code for additional wording requiring curb to curb paving after street opening is performed and adding an attachment

specification to the ordinance showing minimum engineering requirements for replacement of the curb work.

Action: Consensus amongst council to move forward.

Motion: -

Second: -

No vote taken.

12. Discussion regarding Cohen Law Group engagement letter for Cable Franchise Renewal Service (Comcast).

- Amanda Ford, Assistant Borough Manager – Spoke with Mr. Cohen, he’s looking to entertain council’s permission to do the renewal services with Comcast which will soon expire. Negotiations may include the use of an access channel.

Action: Council directed the Borough Manager to contact Attorney Cohen to meet with the Council for Executive Session at 6:30 PM on June 8, 2016.

Motion: -

Second: -

No vote taken.

Council Committee Reports:

- Administration Committee – Full Council
Last meeting was April 20, 2016, next meeting is July 20, 2016. Administration Committee meets every 3 months.

- Blight Committee – Patrick Shattuck, Chair
 - Meeting from May 25, 2016, Hearing was held for demolitions for approximately 65 properties. The people appealing the decisions will need to act quickly to settle any issues with the properties.
- Budget and Finance Committee – Michael Lefebvre, Chair
 - Ms. Macklin - Focused on how to increase revenue to avoid cutting services. Another main focus is for more analytical reporting of our income
- Capital Planning Committee – Patrick Shattuck
 - Meeting from May 25, 2016, Hearing was held for demolitions for approximately 65 properties. The people appealing the decisions will need to act quickly to settle any issues with the properties.
- Constituent and Community Relations Committee – Pamela Macklin, Chair
 - Met with Youth Places, developing a program for July. The youth will be ‘shadowing’ some of the employees to see what the jobs are about in Library, DPW, Code Enforcement, and the Police Department. Also working on Block Club projects, the objective is, block-by-block, the front of abandon homes will be cleaned up across the 3 wards to look more presentable.

- Personnel Committee – Paige Trice, Chair
 - Personnel Committee did not meet in May. They will have a closed meeting on June 2, 2016.
- Policy and Procedure Committee – Pamela Macklin, Chair
 - Working on a travel expense policy and reporting expense procedure.
- Public Safety Committee – Kate Grannemann, Chair
 - The committee met on May 16, 2016. The Citizen’s Police Academy will start in June. The Junior Police Academy will have 2 sections, The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf & students of Wilkinsburg, then another with just Wilkinsburg. The Public Safety Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month from 10AM-Noon and the 4th Thursdays from 5PM-7PM.
 - Cooling station locations will be posted on the website.
 - National Night Out will be on August 2nd.
 - Family day will be on July 2nd from 11AM-7PM at Hunter Park.
 - The Pennsylvania Pipeline safety program provides training surrounding natural gas lines and pipes.
 - A new Block Watch group in the area of Swissvale Avenue would like to see some public safety ordinances be revised or improved.
 - The Head of Emergency services of Pittsburgh is committed to sharing their resources with Wilkinsburg. Discussed the need for proclamations from council for the Firefighters involved in the fire from January 1st and the Public Safety officers involved in the shooting from March.
- Social Media and Promotions committee – Marita Garrett, Chair
 - The committee met on May 10th, they meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
 - The Facebook page is live and is over 200 likes.
 - Looking into creating a new article that’s distributed more frequently than once a month. Partnering with the Sun in that field.
 - A website overhaul is in discussion with the people from Imagebox and they’ve been invited to attend the next Social Media committee meeting on June 14th.
- Special Events Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair
 - The committee met on May 26th and discussed Art in the Park. Groove Productions has pulled out due to the condition of the stage. They will still help promote on social media. Rain dates will result in postponement. Looking for sponsorships from Allegheny County and Food Trucks for the event.
 - The Mayor’s Event on July 2nd at Hunter Park is not being called Community Day just yet it’s still in the works.
 - June 16th is the 100th anniversary of the train station, the Historical Society will be putting up a display in the Borough Building lobby.
 - Discussed the idea of a fireworks display, will work with the fire department.
 - Discussed the idea of Wilkinsburg days at Kennywood.
 - Next meeting is June 23rd at 6:30 PM.

Public Comment

1. Nicole Santella – Interested in purchasing 1300 Wood Street. Interested in renovating the property and hopefully acquiring some surrounding properties with the interest of investing into the community.
2. Leon Haynes, 807 Wallace Ave – Putting together a mini children’s museum at the Hosanna House. Setting up a partnership with them to get free admission for families to go to the museum on the North Side. On Wednesdays and Fridays, any kids that are members of non-profit groups can obtain tickets for their groups for no charge.
3. Anne Elise Morris, 2130 Royal Ave – Wants to move the big stone in front of the borough building a little bit to the left and have it refurbished.

Old Business

- 800 Block (rear) Stoner Way Clean-up – Eric Parrish
 - The individual involved with 818 Penn Ave. has done some of the demolition and clean-up and installed a fence. Majority of the garages have already collapsed. Will be working with DPW to get the clean-up done. Has received quote on temporary fencing for 6 months for approximately \$1900. Duquesne Light has advised that we have a pole-attachment permit. Now we can move forward with surveillance in hopes of catching illegal dumpers in Stoner Way. There is a Camera-Loan program through Illegal Dump Free PA being worked on. Working with DPW to install ‘No Dumping’ signs.
 - President Shattuck suggested a motion to have DPW move forward with the clean & remove debris

Motion: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 8 – 0; Motion Carried.

- Traffic study, Coal & Woodworth – Dave Gilliland
 - Stop sign is justified for Woodworth but not on Coal. PennDOT regulations prohibit the use of stop signs for speed regulation.
 - Motion suggested to contact the solicitor for an ordinance for a stop sign at Woodworth

Motion: Ms. Garrett

Second: Ms. Grannemann

A vote 8 – 0; Motion Carried.

New Business

- Art Installation in Borough Parking Lot (2 stalls) during Open market season
 - Considering adding a “Shower of Lights”
- Purchase request for Wilkinsburg Borough owned “vacant property”

- Marc Taiani is bidding for the vacant lot next to Biddle's escape and is willing to work with the owner to allow him to keep his dumpster there.
- Wilkinsburg Historical Society 100th year celebration display case
 - Ms. Trice suggested a motion to allow the display from the Wilkinsburg Historical Society 100 year celebration.

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Grannemann

A vote 8 – 0; Motion Carried.

- Marc Taiani – Ferguson Park – Garbage and graffiti is everywhere, basketball court is deteriorating. Liability concerns regarding the trees in the 400-500 block on Kelly Street near Kelly School. They need to be maintained.

Adjournment

- Assistant Borough Manager requested a brief executive session after adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Patrick M. Shattuck
President Council