

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Budget Work Session
November 2, 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, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, President Shattuck, Donn Henderson – Borough Manager, and Amanda J. Ford – Assistant Borough Manager. Absent – 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.

Announcements

- President Shattuck announced that we're currently in Local Government Week. Some council members along with Manjot Singh (Coro Fellow) can be located on the Wilkinsburg Borough Facebook page reading books.
- An executive session was held before the meeting to discuss real estate matters.
- The first 3 houses for the Ardmore Demolition project have been taken down.

Public Comment

None.

Agenda Items

1. Approving **Ordinance 16-003** – Amending the Ordinance of 2759 Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

2. Approving Resolution 16-081 – Authorizing Police Disability Pension for Ronald Waz effective September 1, 2016.

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

3. Discussion to authorize Borough Manager to legal advertise the ordinance for the PIB Loan.
 - a. Motion to authorize Borough Manager to send the advertisement for the PIB Loan.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote 7 – 1 no (Mr. Taiani); Motion carried.

4. Discussion to authorize Borough Manager to legal advertise a new Ordinance for adopting MSF fees annual collections between February 1st through April 30th and to allow amending changes by resolution.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

5. Discussion regarding request for Michaela Diallo on vacant lot use at 805 Swissvale Avenue for community garden.
 - a. No update from Ms. Diallo, no action taken.
6. Discussion regarding applicants interested in “Vacant” Council seat.
 - a. Evan Diamond – 1454 Center Street
 - b. China Lee – 501 Holmes Street
 - c. Kathy Risko – 416 Todd Street
 - d. Marilyn Albert – 622 Hampton Avenue
*Short adjournment for executive session to make the appointment.
 - e. Motion to appoint Evan Diamond to fill the vacant council seat left by Kate Grannemann

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Trice

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

Budget Item

1. Other Funds
 - a. LED lighting conversion – may or may not happen. Depends on several factors. Will be determined at a later date. Could possibly be worked into the grant for Wood Street.
2. MSF Ordinance
 - a. To get to a near ‘break even’ situation, would require an increase of the MSF Fee from \$190 to \$200.

- b. Need to look into verifying if we're being charged for vacant/demolished homes to prevent being over-billed. Possible audit.
- 3. PIB Loan
 - a. 2 Million dollar loan would result in large monthly payments in return.
- 4. Discussion regarding cost savings / Additional revenue suggestions
 - a. Cost savings - 5% mandatory reductions from all departments and hold off on any new constructions.
 - b. Borough wide parking pass ordinance.
 - c. Reach out to neighboring communities to possibly form a regional police force to cut costs. Or inquire with the City of Pittsburgh to see what they would charge us for law enforcement services.
 - d. Put vacant lots up for sale to the community.
 - e. Selling materials from demolished structures.
 - f. Parking spot leasing option.
- 5. The Police Department is about 35% of the budget cost for general operating expenses, not including legal fees.
 - a. Motion to have the Borough Manager reach out to the City of Pittsburgh to provide a proposal to see if it makes sense to have them provide police service to the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Mr. Taiani

A vote 2 yes (Mr. Lefebvre & Mr. Taiani) – 6 no; Motion not carried.

Public Comment

- Pete Sofayov – 811 Wood Street – 412-508-6112
 - o Mr. Sofayov says that investors are not willing to invest in Wilkinsburg because they are scared. Thinks we need to discuss how we can urge investors to come to Wilkinsburg.
- Ellen Kitzerow – 527 Coal Street – 617-835-8091
 - o Wants us to lower the millage rate in Wilkinsburg. Spoke in favor of us looking at alternatives for police protection in hopes of lower taxes.
- Aaron Chaney – 571 Coal – 412-708-0916
 - o Wilkinsburg has the highest borough & school taxes in the county. As an investor he doesn't come to Wilkinsburg for this reason.

Old Business

- Kathleen from DPW provided the first monthly report in a long time for the Department of Public Works.
- TRID Application was submitted.
- Fire Department open house will be tomorrow Nov. 3rd also a press conference for Live Well will be at the Thursday Open Market.

- DPW and PittServe students did a great job with the cleanup over the past weekend.

New Business

- The street sweeper is very efficient, but it's difficult to clean the streets whenever people don't pay attention to the no parking signs.
- Tuesday November 8th is the presidential election, go vote.
- Would like to explore the option to look into YouTube.com for live streaming council meetings.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Patrick M. Shattuck
President Council