

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
2017 Budget Work Session
Minutes
September 7, 2016

Call to Order

President Shattuck called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 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, Ms. Macklin, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Taiani (via phone), Ms. Trice, President Shattuck, Donn Henderson – Borough Manager, Amanda J. Ford – Assistant Borough Manager. Absent – Mr. Lefebvre, Mayor 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

- 1) N/A

Presentation

- Michael McCaig & Wayne Gerhold – RBC Capital Markets.
 - Bond refinance – 2011 Series A and Series B bonds are close to being locked in to a lower interest rate.
 - Further discussion describing the savings of refinancing the bond.
- Tracey Evans – WCDC
 - Wilkinsburg Train Station restoration fundraising is going well. The goal is to reach 3 million dollars, through private fundraising they are only \$360,000.00 away from the goal. A campaign kickoff will be held in front of the train station on October 6th, 2016 at 10am to make the campaign public.
 - Working on a branding campaign for the business district.
 - Economic Development - Providing technical assistance to small businesses in Wilkinsburg.
 - Looking into several traffic concerns

Agenda Items

1. General Fund Review – 2017 Budget

- Overall real estate tax level is slightly lower than last year.
- Delinquent collections (MBM) – Conservative approach for budget regarding delinquent collections.
- Act 511 taxes – for 2016 it was over budget.
- Cable TV Franchise fee – Currently being audited.
- Police Seizure Funds – Funds collected in 2015 for vehicle purchase, not normally a budgeted item.
- Intergovernmental revenue – State snow removal has been changed from \$25,000 last year down to \$21,800. State Pension amount received has increased. Further discussion followed.
- MSF Fees – No increase at this time. If increased to \$200 per unit, it would generate around \$47,000. Still being looked into.
- Other Funding Sources – ‘Liquid fuels funds’ used for salt and lighting. If the winter is mild, funds can be transferred to other places.
- Grants – Remaining funds from existing JAG grants may be used in 2017, Finance Director will consult with the Chief of Police. Ballistic Vest Grant funds should come in by the end of the year. Recycling Grant will be included in next report for \$161,047.
- Estimation at this time shows us at approximately \$450,000 better than 2016.

Public Comment

1. Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave
 - a. Previous Borough Officials made commitments to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for grants related to public recreation space. The DCNR has sent a letter to the borough and has not gotten reply and is preparing to “take action” against the borough.
2. Alfred Shields – 1156 ½ South Ave
 - a. September 17, 2016, there will be a part 2 for the “Shake the Foundation” Back to school event. Requesting appearances from council if possible.
3. Rebecca Weiss – 708 ½ Pitt Street
 - a. Presenting petition for residential parking for her block of Pitt Street.

Old Business

- Request for Evergreen to put some focus on the Council Chambers area for cleaning.
- PA Historical Museum commission will be around walking and checking out the area.
- Coro Fellow intern started and has been working on TRID application and several other projects.

- Concern was raised regarding behavior on Wood Street- Jitney Drivers, car washing, drug use, barbecuing, etc...
- Several people expressing interested regarding low-income tax deals. They've been invited to come before council to speak.
- The buyer for Johnston School is scheduled to close later this month, he's been invited to come before council.
- VPRP Applications for Hosanna House – They have agreed to keep the properties as tax-generating properties.
- CMU Students are scheduled to come by to do a clean-up in the borough on 9/24/2016

New Business

- Imagebox is re-designing the borough logo and they will be reviewed at the Social Media Committee meeting on 9/13/2016 at 1 PM.
- CONNECT meeting will be hosted in Wilkesburg at the Hosanna House on 9/15/2016 at 10 AM.
- Al's Fish & Chicken sent a message regarding the intersection at Penn & Coal.
- Former Mayor Sylvia Lafranchi passed away on 8/31/2016. President Shattuck went to the funeral home.
- Accident at Franklin & Wood – Manhole cover wasn't seated right and popped up and knocked a hole into someone's gas tank. Verizon was responsible for the manhole.

Adjournment

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Patrick M. Shattuck
President Council