

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session
February 7, 2018

Call to Order

President Macklin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Macklin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Ms. Atkins, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Lee, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson (7:20pm arrival), Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Trice, President Macklin, Donn Henderson – Borough Manager and Amanda J. Ford – Assistant Borough Manager.

Absent was Mr. Rose and Mayor Garrett. A quorum was established.

Public Comment

1. Angela Butler, 900 South Avenue
 - a. Advises that there was raw sewage was in the basement.
 - b. Had plumbing company run a camera through the line and they found blockage in the line.
 - c. Mr. Henderson is aware of the issue and is working with Robinson Pipe Company to figure out what the problem is in order to get it fixed.
2. Gene Robinson, Owner/Landlord 900/902 South Avenue
 - a. Mr. Robinson gave more details of what the plumbers came out and did.
 - b. The process was explained further by Mr. Henderson and he advised Mr. Robinson that we are trying to get the issue resolved as soon as possible.

Agenda Items

1. Discussion regarding Park Permit for Wilkinsburg Baseball Association – Dave Reese.
 - a. They are requesting Hunter Park Ball Field usage for their 2018 baseball season.
2. Discussion regarding Baseball Parade Permit for Wilkinsburg Baseball Association – Dave Reese.
 - a. This is the official permit request to hold their annual parade through Wilkinsburg.
3. Discussion regarding Street Closure for WCDC Two-Way Street Festival – Marlee Gallagher.
4. Discussion regarding Public Property Use of Vacant Lot on South Ave @ Wood Street – WCDC.

5. Discussion regarding letter from Wilkinsburg School District requesting a Crossing Guard for Wallace Ave, Turner Elementary School.
 - a. There are a few vacancies for crossing guards, memo has been sent to the Chief of Police.
 - b. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson will also mention concerns regarding Crossing Guards and School Zone Blinking Lights to the Chief at the next public safety meeting.
6. Discussion regarding Resolution 18-013 – CITF Grant for Rosa Parks Park renovations.
 - a. Grant application is due to be submitted by February 20th.
 - b. Grant would be used for pavement/walkway replacement and lighting.

Motion: Ms. Edwards

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

7. Council Committee Reports:
 - Administrative Committee – Full Council
 - Majority of all active projects within the borough were reviewed.
 - Goals and objectives for 2018 were reviewed.
 - Blight/Capital Planning Committee – Patrick Shattuck, Chair
 - Large bond projects were reviewed as well as grants.
 - Budget and Finance Committee – Patrick Shattuck – Chair
 - Planning Commission – Patrick Shattuck, Member
 - Reorganization of the planning commission was reviewed.
 - A sub-committee to review recommendations related to changes coming forward for zoning.
 - Hearing to be held prior to next council meeting at 6PM
 - Business Outreach and Jobs Development - Pamela Macklin, Chair
 - The first meeting for this committee will be next Wednesday, February 14th in the Council Chambers at 6PM.
 - Constituent Service & Special Events Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair
 - First meeting is next Thursday, February 8th in the Council Chambers at 6PM.
 - Personnel & Policy Procedure Committee – Paige Trice, Chair
 - Made appointments to their boards and commissions
 - Discussed hiring part-time police officers
 - Public Safety Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair
 - The first meeting will be on the 12th at 9AM.
 - Social Media and Promotions Committee – Denise Edwards, Chair
 - Discussed setting goals and reviewed mission for 2018
 - Next Meeting is Monday, March 5th
 - Manager’s Report – Donn Henderson
 - TRID meeting was attended and discussed. Next meeting is on April 24th
 - Rosa Parks Park grant application will be submitted soon.

- Mr. Henderson received a consensus to have the Grow Grant application to be written by our engineer for lining sewers
- Text notifications were looked into and a company called Nixel will be coming out to do a demonstration before council.
- Would like to have the newsletter for the Wilkinsburg Sun sent out to all residents in March.
- Building improvements for Eastridge Library are still being reviewed.
- Working with Jody Guy for the Mural in the borough building steps and the Lincoln Statue.

Public Comment

1. Gene Robinson, 900/902 South Avenue
 - a. Several vacant properties in the areas surrounding his home. Is interested in finding out about programs acquiring some vacant property nearby.
 - b. Mr. Robinson was directed to speak with Mr. Parrish, Code Enforcement director.
 - c. He was also invited to the Blight & Capital Planning meeting.
2. Kate Luxemburg, 432 Rebecca Avenue
 - a. Kate mentioned that tonight’s meeting is not showing on the website.
 - b. Mentioned a few properties that were up for tax sale.

Old Business

1. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson advised that she received a complaint about a resident having to pay an occupancy fee. She was advised to check with Mr. Parrish in Code Enforcement for details about that.
2. Mr. Shattuck emailed council about a meeting with Port Authority about the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) program.
3. Ms. Lee asked if the TRID advisory committee meetings were open to the public. Mr. Shattuck and Mr. Henderson advised that the meetings are open to the public.

New Business

1. Ms. Edwards brought up her concern regarding utility shut-offs. Inquired if anyone knew what the utility shut-off rates are for Wilkinsburg for gas, electricity, and water. Wants to inquire with the utility companies to get the shut-off rates/information.
2. President Macklin plans to bring a template for the re-districting issue at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Pamela Macklin
President Council