

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session Minutes
February 6, 2019

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.

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum.

Council Members Present:

Ms. Atkins, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Lee, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Rose, Ms. Trice, President Macklin.

Council Members Absent:

N/A.

Mayor

Mayor Garrett - Present

A quorum was established.

Other attendees present:

Borough Manager – Donn Henderson
Assistant Borough Manager – Amanda Ford
Code Enforcement Director – Eric Parrish
Public Works Director – Roy Clark
Assistant Finance Director – Lloyd Fait
Officer – Detective Rourke

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Macklin.

Public Comment for Agenda Items

1. N/A

Agenda Items

1. Authorizing Borough Manager to advertise the Joint Tax Commission Ordinance.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

2. Approving Municipal Building Permit Use for Wilkinsburg Baseball Association Registration Sign-Up – David Reese

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Mr. Rose

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

3. Approving Park Permit Use for Whitney and Hunter Park Playground/Pavilion – Wilkinsburg Baseball Association – David Reese

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

4. Approving Street Closure Permit for Opening Day Parade contingent upon Police Department approval – Wilkinsburg Baseball Association – David Reese

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

5. Authorizing sale of 2009 Crown Victoria (Car 43) to highest bidder, Ralph Williams, for \$1,100.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

6. Resolution 19-005 – Approving Conditional Offer of Employment to Richard Grande as Police Officer.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

7. Resolution 19-006 – Approving CDBG Demolition Grant in the amount of \$203,643.00.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

8. Resolution 19-007 – Approving VPRP Application for 394 Center Street – Calypso Properties, LLC.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

9. Resolution 19-008 – Approving VPRP Application for 707 Grand Avenue – Donna McKinley.

Motion: Ms. Edwards

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

10. Resolution 19-009 - Approving Train Station Agreement.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

11. Discussion regarding Conditional Use for 501 and 505 South Avenue property owner CP Development – HEARING BEFORE COUNCIL, 6 P.M. Feb. 20th Code Director – Eric Parrish.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Trice

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

12. Discussion on proposed changes to Civil Service Rules and Regulations.
 - a. This item has been tabled.

13. Discussion regarding Vacant Council Seat.

- a. Council is asking the public to send letters of interest to vote someone in to fill the remainder of the term for the open seat.

14. Nixle Alert System (3) Three Year Agreement – 2019/\$6,555.00, 2020/\$5,500.00 and 2021/\$5,500.00.

- a. This is a community alert system for Wilkinsburg residents via text and robo-call.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

15. Council Committee Reports:

- a. Mayor’s Report – Marita Garrett

- i. Public Safety forum was just completed before the council meeting. The topic of discussion surrounded domestic abuse and toxic relationships.

- b. Blight/Capital Planning Committee – Pamela Macklin, Chair
 - i. Nothing to report.
- c. Budget and Finance Committee – Michael Lefebvre, Chair
 - i. Year-end review of 2018 was reviewed.
 - ii. Discussed a money-back credit card called P-Card.
 - iii. Discussed budget for the Wood Street 2-way project.
 - iv. Discussion regarding vacant properties.
- d. Business Outreach and Jobs Development – Denise Edwards, Chair
 - i. Thanked County Councilman Dewitt Walton who was in attendance.
 - ii. Mr. Walton announced his intentions to do job fairs on a recurring basis.
- e. Constituent Service & Special Events Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
 - i. Student from the University of Pitt & Chatham University came in on MLK Day and assisted with various projects in the Borough Building and at the Public Works office.
- f. Personnel, Policy & Procedure Committees – Paige Trice, Chair
 - i. Discussed re-forming the employee safety committee.
- g. Public Safety Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair
- h. Social Media and Promotions Committee – Denise Edwards, Chair
 - i. Discussed implementing a borough alert system
 - ii. Urges council to advise the borough manager of anything they want to go out in the Wilkesburg Sun.
 - iii. Ms. Atkins informed everyone that the senior activities will be taken over by Jeff Muster.
- i. Manager’s Report – Donn Henderson
 - i. Banner community designation was granted to Wilkesburg again.
 - ii. New intern is currently active and is compiling policies and procedures for each department within the borough.
 - iii. Borough manager is working on getting at least 2 interns a year.
 - iv. Alcosan regionalization meetings for sewer lines were attended by the Borough Manager and Public Works Director.
 - v. Application for Public Works have been received and will be reviewed shortly.
 - vi. Grant for the demolitions for the 800 block of Penn Avenue are being submitted.
 - vii. Wallace avenue demolitions are being worked out with unclaimed fire-escrow funds.
 - viii. Civil Service process is underway to fill 2, maybe 3 openings in the police department.
 - ix. The Annual Spring clean-up meetings will begin shortly.
 - x. Local Government week is being setup along with Councilwoman McCarthy-Johnson.

Public Comment

- 1. Anne Elise-Morris – 2130 Royal Avenue

- a. Will be a presenter at the upcoming Senior Fun Day. Plans to speak about the Lincoln Highway.
 - b. Spoke to council in regards to the Lincoln Highway and Lincoln Statue.
 - c. The Wilkinsburg Historical Society is raise funds to erect a new Abraham Lincoln statue made of bronze to replace the copper statue at the intersection of Penn Ave & Ardmore Blvd.
 - d. Fundraising will begin next week.
2. Kent Bey – 1183 South Avenue
 - a. Starting a garden at 1183 South Avenue and 1158 South Avenue.
 - b. President Macklin will provide him with contact information for the Sierra Club.

Old Business

1. N/A

New Business

1. Ms. Edwards advised that there was a well-attended meeting regarding the railroad overpass construction.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Mr. Lefebvre
Second – Ms. Trice
Meeting Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Pamela Macklin
President Council