

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session Minutes
April 3, 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. Scott (Sworn in after roll call)
Ms. Trice
President Macklin.

Council Members Absent:

Mr. Rose

Mayor

Mayor Garrett - Absent

A quorum was established.

Other attendees:

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 – Hamlin

Swearing-in

Following roll-call, the newly appointed councilman, Andre Scott, was formally sworn in by Moses Workman, Borough Clerk/Secretary/Notary Public and took his seat.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Macklin.

Public Comment

1. Carl Morton, 2173 Village Drive – Question regarding school taxes. He was advised to attend a school board meeting for his school tax related questions.

Presentation

1. Dee Briggs and Jennifer Newsome – Art Project – Swissvale Ave & Glenn Ave also on Hunter Street.
 - a. “Dream the Combine”
 - b. Funder has committed to a 3 year donation - \$10,000 per year
 - c. Letter of support has been requested from the borough.
 - d. Meeting with funders on 4/4/2019
 - e. Motion was made to support the project and compose a letter of support.

Motion: Ms. Edwards

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

Agenda Items

1. Proclamation reading for National Library Week 2019.
 - a. The National Library Week 2019 proclamation was read by President Macklin and presented to Bob Metz on behalf of the Wilkinsburg Public Library.
2. Discussion regarding (Vacant Lot) sale on Mifflin Way.
 - a. There is a small area of property owned by the Borough that the owner would like to acquire next to a property being brought out of bankruptcy.
 - b. Appraisal came back at approximately \$250.
 - c. No action was taken on this item at this time.
3. **Resolution 19-020** – Extending Community Champions Foreclosure Registry Agreement effective February 24, 2018 to February 24, 2019.
 - a. This would be for this third party company to enforce the Foreclosure Registry so that banks don’t foreclose on properties then leave properties sitting stagnant.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

4. Approving Public Property Use/Wallace Avenue Lot for Wilkinsburg Fresh Market (Free Fresh Produce Distribution) – Civically, Inc. – Beverly Garrett.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

A vote 8 – 0; Motion carried.

5. Council Committee Reports
 - a. Mayor's Report – Marita Garrett
 - i. Included in council packets
 - b. Blight/Capital Planning Committee – Pamela Macklin, Chair
 - i. Several projects in the borough were reviewed.
 - ii. Ardmore Wall construction to start soon.
 - c. Budget and Finance Committee – Michael Lefebvre, Chair
 - i. Reviewed February financial reports.
 - ii. Discussed some proposals for interest bearing accounts.
 - d. Business Outreach and Jobs Development – Denise Edwards, Chair
 - i. The job fair was discussed. Trying to focus on more local jobs.
 - e. Constituent Service & Special Events Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair
 - i. Art in the Park 2019 event starts on June 20th and goes through August 29th. Thursday nights from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.
 - ii. Local Government Week will begin April 8th. Several events will be held. Flyers are available in the lobby.
 - f. Personnel, Policy, and Procedure Committees – Paige Trice, Chair
 - i. Personnel issues were reviewed.
 - ii. RFPs for a new Borough Solicitor were reviewed, recommendation will be sent to council.
 - iii. Residential Parking issues were reviewed and the application for acquiring a permit.
 - g. Public Safety Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair
 - i. Report showing the costs versus calls for the fire department will be sent to all of council for review.
 - h. Social Media and Promotions Committee – Denise Edwards, Chair
 - i. The Wilksburg Sun magazine should be mailed to all Wilksburg residents next week.
 - ii. The Nixle system to notify residents will be rolling out soon.
 - iii. Online community survey to be posted online soon.
 - i. Manager's Report – Donn Henderson
 - i. Fire truck is still owned by Wilksburg, but being used by Pittsburgh. May look into options to give the truck to Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire.
 - ii. Nixle notification training will be next week.
 - iii. Ardmore Wall Construction starting soon, traffic delays expected.
 - iv. Ardmore Park bids will go out soon.
 - v. Wilksburg Historical Society is raising money for the Lincoln Statue.
 - vi. Wood Street 2-way project bids were rejected. A new proposal will be submitted to Council at the next meeting.
 - vii. Lighting at Rosa Park Playground lighting is back up and running.

- viii. Office renovations will be starting and Administrative Offices will relocate to the 2nd floor temporarily.
- ix. Looking at the possibility of a solar roof, more to come soon.
 - x. Parking ticket issue involving tickets issued to wrong vehicles is being looked into.
 - xi. Reviewing option of allowing residents to pay online for parking permits.
 - xii. Current intern to provide a presentation of accomplishments so far at the next council meeting.
- xiii. Local government week begins April 8th, 2019.
- xiv. Storm sewers are being reviewed and repaired as necessary.
- xv. Clean-up day is on April 27th.
- xvi. A few employment opportunities are available.
- xvii. Parklet at South and Wood Street plan has been reviewed, additional funding is needed, about \$50,000. Will be reviewed by council at the next meeting.

Public Comment

- 1. N/A

Old Business

None.

New Business

- 1. Vice-President McCarthy Johnson announced that there is an event at the “Sleeping Octopus” at 1300 Wood Street called Sweets from the Middle-East on Saturday from 1pm-4pm.
- 2. Ms. Atkins announced that the Hilltop Block Watch will be hosting Anne-Elise Morris from the Wilkinsburg Historical Society to give updates and information about the Abraham Lincoln Statue and other historical items in Wilkinsburg. Also an Easter egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th at the Penn Avenue Parklet.
- 3. Ms. Atkins would like to start discussing plans to fix the damaged brick roads within Wilkinsburg.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Denise Edwards
Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Pamela Macklin
President Council