

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Council Work Session Minutes**  
**May 1, 2019**

**Call to Order**

President Macklin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 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 (Arrival at 7:09pm)  
Mr. Lefebvre  
Ms. McCarthy-Johnson  
Mr. Scott  
President Macklin.

**Council Members Absent:**

Mr. Rose  
Ms. Trice

**Mayor**

Mayor Garrett - Present

A quorum was established.

**Other attendees:**

Borough Manager – Donn Henderson (Via Phone)  
Assistant Borough Manager – Amanda Ford  
Code Enforcement Director – Eric Parrish  
Assistant Finance Director – Lloyd Fait  
Library Director – Robert Metz  
Officer – M. Wilson

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Macklin.

## **Public Comment**

1. N/A

## **Agenda Items**

1. Discussion regarding Residential Accessible Parking Permit for 522 Holmes Street – Jennifer Jackson.
  - a. Motion was made to approve the application.

***Motion: Ms. Edwards***

***Second: Mr. Lefebvre***

***A vote 6 – 0; Motion carried.***

2. Discussion regarding Street Closure Permit for Birthday Party for (one year old) – Ngozi Fitzpatrick.
  - a. Street closure will not affect Wendy’s on Penn Avenue.
  - b. Motion was made to approve the application.

***Motion: Ms. Edwards***

***Second: Mr. Lefebvre***

***A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.***

3. Discussion regarding WCDC request for NPP Support Letter.
  - a. Ms. Lee questioned part of the letter that states that the WCDC created affordable housing and asked if there was any evidence to support that claim. No one in attendance could answer.
  - b. President Macklin advised that she will compile all the questions that arise and request that the WCDC can possibly attend the next meeting to speak to any items.
  - c. Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson advised that their Strategic Plan overview that focuses on the Business District’s future plans did not mention affordable housing.
  - d. Ms. Atkins requested more information about the “Thousands of youth” that were engaged as referenced in the letter.
4. Discussion regarding Ferguson Park Tessellation Art Project – Jody Guy
  - a. Ms. Guy was in attendance to speak to this item.
  - b. Ms. Guy is working with students from Pittsburgh Urban Christian School to create a geometric type mural on the wall outside of Ferguson Playground at the intersection of Center Street & South Avenue.
  - c. Motion was made to approve the project.
  - d. Ms. Edwards requested to gather a little feedback from the attendees in the audience.

***Motion: Mr. Lefebvre***

***Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson***

*A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.*

5. Discussion regarding converting Wylie Way to ‘No Parking’ – Eric Parrish – Code Director
  - a. Several complaints received regarding people parking in the alleyway and blocking access.
  - b. Police have been notified and spoken to the individuals who are parking there, but it still continues to be an issues.
  - c. Mr. Lefebvre suggests amending the ‘No Parking’ ordinance to include Wylie Way.
  - d. President Macklin suggests posting notices in the alleyway to advise residents that the parking in the alleyway will be discussed and possibly changed to ‘No Parking’
  - e. Ms. Edwards made a motion to organize a public hearing regarding removing the ability to park in the alleyway.
  - f. Mr. Henderson advised against calling it a public hearing and call it a public meeting to discuss the future of the alleyway.
  - g. Ms. Edwards and President Macklin agreed. President Macklin advised that this issue does not require a vote and instructed the Borough Manager to move forward with organizing the meeting.
  
6. **Resolution 19-022** Approving the Conditional Offer of Employment for summer Seasonal Applicants: Stephon Byrd, Javon Clark, Raymond Lowe, Richard Brown, and Orlando Allen at summer pay rate of \$13.00/hr.

*Motion: Ms. Edwards*

*Second: Mr. Lefebvre*

*A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.*

7. Council Committee Reports:
  - a. Mayor’s Report
    - i. Easter Egg Roll event was held and a big success.
    - ii. Public Safety forum was held prior to today’s council meeting. A lot of tips were given to attendees regarding safety and not securing your valuables in your car.
  - b. Administrative Committee
    - i. Nothing to report.
  - c. Blight & Capital Planning
    - i. Projects were reviewed.
    - ii. The Ardmore Wall project will be starting in May. Traffic delays expected.
  - d. Budget and Finance

- i. March Financial Revenues & Expenses were reviewed.
  - ii. Small discussion regarding the financing for the Parklet at Wood & South.
- e. Business Outreach and Jobs Development
  - i. Welcome to County Councilman Dewitt Walton.
  - ii. Discussed another opportunity fair for 2019 including high-tech training and other opportunities.
  - iii. Job opportunities from Pittsburgh was added to the Wilkinsburg Jobs page.
  - iv. Revival Chili (New owners of Nancy's Diner) grants employees the opportunity for work even if you have a record. They offer also professional development and have the opportunity to make \$15/hr within the first 6 months of employment.
- f. Planning Commission
  - i. The TRID report was discussed. A copy of track changes were requested.
  - ii. Discussed a letter of support for the fertile ground installation.
  - iii. Discussed housekeeping rules for the planning commission.
- g. Constituent Service & Special Events Committee
  - i. Schedule is done for Art in the Park and there are plans to work with the Sleeping Octopus (1300 Wood Street) and some artists that work with them. The first event in the series is June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- h. Personnel, Policy, and Procedure
  - i. Discussed using fire escrow funds for demolition.
- i. Public Safety
  - i. Nothing to report.
- j. Social Media & Promotions Committee
  - i. Discussed implementing Nixle which is a tool to notify residents via text and robocalls.
- k. Manager's Report
  - i. Thanks everyone that came to participate in the clean-up day held on April 27, 2019. More cleanup (bigger jobs) will be done over the summer with Public Works.
  - ii. About 15 residents came out to clean up the Princeton Park area.
  - iii. WTAE & Guardian Storage installed a flower bed on Ardmore Blvd as a "Welcome to Wilkinsburg"

**Public Comment**

1. Victor Muhammad – 1001 South Avenue, Nation of Islam
  - a. Spoke of a young man who was killed in front of their Mosque. This upcoming Saturday, will be 1 year since Brother Dwayne Muhammed's death. There will be a vigil and celebration of his life from 2pm to 4pm.
2. Michael Anolite – 513 Wallace Avenue
  - a. Working with Mr. Henderson and Mr. Parrish with some abandoned properties next door to his property.
  - b. Wanted to introduce himself to council.
3. Cherri Banks – 2024 Beech Street

- a. Displeased with the condition of James Street between Mill Street and Coal Street.
  - b. Has been speaking with the Borough Manager and Director of Code to find solutions to get this area cleaned up.
4. Elaine Harris-Fulton – Wake Up the Vote
- a. Expressed her intent to repeat efforts of Wake up the Vote from last year.
  - b. Would like to see action from council to help engage people to get out and vote.
  - c. Ms. Edwards made a motion to put up a banner across Penn Avenue approximately 2 weeks before Election Day.
  - d. Mr. Henderson advised his concern with conflicts with other banner permits that may have been passed. Will try to obtain a banner before the Election Day in May, but we may not have time to get it done. We should be able to have one by November.

***Motion: Ms. Edwards***

***Second: Ms. Lee***

***A vote 7 – 0; Motion carried.***

5. Ron Buchanan – 317 Maple Avenue
- a. Mr. Buchanan believes that Wilkinsburg Borough is out of compliance with the the Municipal Code Ordinance Compliance Act through the state. He says denying an occupancy certificate due to a point-of-sale inspection issue is prohibited and there has to be a vehicle for a temporary occupancy permit.
  - b. Mr. Parrish advised we do not have an ordinance for point-of-sale inspections.
  - c. Mr. Henderson advises council that the organization that Mr. Buchanan represents has threatened Wilkinsburg Borough with litigation in regards to this issue. The letter was included in council's packet.
  - d. President Macklin concurred with Mr. Henderson and chose not to continue the conversation without legal counsel present.

### **Old Business**

1. Ms. Edwards commented on the meeting in Monroeville held regarding People's Gas rate increase. She read the resolution from Wilkinsburg Council to oppose this increase to the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission.
  - a. Yvonne Edmunds (from the audience) spoke to the same issue as well and opposes the rate increase.
2. County Councilman Dewitt Walton was in attendance. Spoke about a Task Force that the County Executive has created. There was an initiative on the past ballot to create an increase in the millage to fund early childhood education. The County voters voted against this. Councilman Walton also spoke in support of several projects happening in Wilkinsburg.

### **New Business**

1. Ms. McCarthy Johnson gave everyone a reminder that ticketing for “No Parking” zones on residential streets will begin today, May 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Mr. Scott advised that on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> he will be meeting with the after school program at the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg to discuss bullying.
3. Ms. Ford advised council that Chief Coleman intends to re-hire a former Library employee as a crossing guard which may come up at a future meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn – Mr. Lefebvre  
Meeting Adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

---

Pamela Macklin  
Council President