

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session Minutes
May 15, 2019

Call to Order

Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 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 (via phone)
Mr. Scott
Ms. Trice
President Macklin (via phone)

Council Members Absent:

N/A.

Mayor

Mayor Garrett - Absent

A quorum was established.

Other attendees:

Borough Manager – Donn Henderson
Assistant Borough Manager – Amanda Ford
Administrative Assistant Code Enforcement – Brenda Joyce-May
Solicitor – Matt Kalina

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson.

Presentation

1. Chatham University has invested in Graham Field for their Soccer & Lacrosse sports.
2. Walt Flower, Leonard Travino, and Julia Bluegraf from Chatham were in attendance to give a brief overview of the renovations of Graham Field.
3. It's a 3.1 Million dollar project that would install artificial turf, renovate the bleacher areas, locker rooms, etc...
4. Motion was made to submit a letter of support that also includes that this project is in line with the Wilkinsburg Comprehensive Plan.

Motion: Ms. Edwards

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

Public Comment

1. Brian McQuillan – 420 Hampton Avenue
 - a. Spoke in regards to Item #13 on the Agenda.
 - b. Mr. McQuillan feels as though the change to ‘No Parking’ is aimed at one person.
 - c. He would like to see a compromise made between the person that parks back there and the individual(s) complaining.
2. Kate Holsinger – 107 Hay Street
 - a. Spoke in regards to Item #13 on the Agenda.
 - b. Doesn't think there's any issues with parking in the alleyway.
 - c. Worried about safety and concerned with people speeding through the alleyway.
 - d. There's a large pothole and some bushes that need cut back.
3. Benford Mitchell –
 - a. Spoke in regards to Item #13 on the Agenda.
 - b. Owns the truck parked in Wylie Way. Mr Mitchell has been living there for 50 years with no problems.
4. Chad Chalmers – 408 Hampton Avenue
 - a. Spoke in regards to Item #13 on the Agenda.
 - b. Mr. Chalmers has issues with the amount of diesel smoke being emitted from the property
 - c. Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson suggested getting a mediator to help solve the issues between the neighbors.

Agenda Items

1. Approving Checks Issued for April 1-30, 2019:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| April 1-30, 2019 | \$1,303,660.76 |
| Payroll Disbursements | \$426,468.67 |
| Voided Checks | \$1,326.77 |
| Total Disbursements | \$1,728,802.66 |

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

2. Approving WCDC request for NPP Support Letter – Tracey Evans
 - a. Neighborhood Partnership Program is a tax credit program. The WCDC has completed 10 years of NPP projects.
 - b. Ms. Edwards asked questions about where the investments were going as outlined in the letter. Ms. Evans answered accordingly.
 - c. Ms. Lee suggested a change in the letter verbiage. Does not like that the letter says “Creating affordable housing” and would like for it to be adjusted along the lines of saying “partnering” for affordable housing.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Lee

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

3. Approving Street Closure Permit for Block Party – Kelsey Patterson – CP Development

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Lee

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

4. Approving Public Playground/Hunter Park Permit for Wilkinsburg Athletic Association – Phylicia Tarpley.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

5. Approving Street Closure Permit for Block Party for Madeleine Bakery & Bistro – Julia Begg

Motion: Ms. Edwards

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

6. Approving Banner Application for advertising Hosanna House Enrollment Opening – Hosanna House, Inc. – Erica Glenn

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

7. Approving Public Playground/Hunter Park for Class Reunion – Calvin Lester

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

8. Approving Street Closure Permit for Block Party for The Bible Chapel – Ted Mitchell

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Lee

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

9. Resolution 19-022 – Conditional Offer of Employment for Summer Seasonal Applicants: Stephon Byrd, Javon Clark, Richard Brown, and Orlando Allen at summer pay rate of \$13.00.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

10. Resolution 19-023 – Conditional Offer of Employment for Full-Time position to Raymond Lowe as DPW Laborer at pay rate of \$13.96.

Motion: Ms. Edwards

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

11. Discussion regarding Council allowing an easement to place part of a fire escape on the right of way known as “alley” between Swissvale Avenue and 504 Coal Street.

a. Motion was made to direct the Solicitor to prepare and easement contingent upon approval of the zoning hearing board.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Lee

A vote 8 – 1 abstain (Rose); Motion carried.

12. Approving construction project for South Ave. @ Wood St. Parklet Project – Jody Guy.

Motion: Mr. Scott

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

13. Approving Wylie Way to ‘No Parking’ effective May 15, 2019.

a. Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson removed this item from the agenda and will revisit after a mediation occurs between the neighbors if necessary.

14. Approving Residential Accessible Parking Permit for 722 Hill Avenue – Runetta Gee.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

15. Approving Street Closure Permit for Block Party 4th of July – Shanell Wright

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Lee

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

Public Comment

1. Paulette Stone – 559 Ardmore Blvd
 - a. Spoke in regards to the area in front of her home. She does not want asphalt in front because it does not hold up.
2. Jeremy Smith – 521 Franklin Avenue
 - a. Spoke to issues surrounding occupancy abandonment.
3. Brenda Joyce-May – Administrative Assistant Code Enforcement
 - a. Provided some clarification to Mr. Smith’s comments regarding occupancy abandonment
4. Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Avenue
 - a. Spoke to sheriff sales and property descriptions that may indicate multi-unit properties, but not necessarily be listed as such with code enforcement due to occupancy abandonment.
 - b. Unhappy with litter in the business district.
5. Yvonne Edmonds – 410 Ross Avenue #202
 - a. There was a house fire a few years ago on this block. People are dumping televisions there.

Old Business

New Business

1. Ms. Atkins advised there is a donut dash this Saturday at Eastridge Library starting at 9:30am.
2. Vice-President McCarthy advised that the 2-Way Street Festival is this Saturday as well.
3. Ms. Trice advised of the Grand Re-Opening for the Park Avenue playground on Friday May 17, 2019 at 6pm.

Adjournment

-Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson advised that council will be going into executive session to discuss real-estate and personnel matters. No decisions will be made.

-Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Pamela Macklin
President Council