

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Council Work Session Minutes**  
**August 5, 2020**

**Call to Order**

President Macklin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:09 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. Edmunds  
Ms. Edwards  
Ms. Haughton (Via Zoom)  
Mr. Lefebvre (Via Zoom)  
Mr. Petrulli  
Mr. Scott  
Ms. Trice (Via Zoom)  
President Macklin.

**Council Members Absent:**

N/A

**Mayor**

Mayor Garrett - Absent

A quorum was established.

**Other attendees:**

Assistant Borough Manager – Amanda Ford  
Acting Code Enforcement Director – Brenda Joyce-May  
Finance Director – Carole Salisbury  
Library Director – Anna Newborg  
Public Works Director – Roy Clark

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Macklin.

**Proclamation**

- N/A

### **Presentation**

- WCDC, Train Station - Tracey Evans
  - Train Station construction is nearing completion. Ribbon cutting event is scheduled for September 18, 2020 at 10am.
  - Possible coffee shop/restaurant tenant lined up.

### **Public Comment for Agenda Items**

1. N/A

### **Agenda Items**

1. Approving Financial Audit Report ended December 31, 2019.
  - Bob Bellikis – Maher Duessel spoke to the financial audit.
  - Audit was fine.

*Motion: Ms. Edwards*

*Second: Mr. Scott*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

2. **Ordinance 20-002** – Approving refinancing of 2011 Series and 2015 Series Bond Debt.
  - Mike McCague – RDC Capital Markets spoke to refinancing 2 of the 3 bonds that Wilksburg has outstanding. Cannot do all 3 at this time due to time limit on how often they can be refinanced. Interest rates are lower at this time, terms will not be extended. This would save roughly \$500k.

*Motion: Ms. Edwards*

*Second: Ms. Atkins*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

3. **Resolution 20-024** – Authorizing Finance Director and Interim Borough Manager to apply for Allegheny County Cares Act Grant in the amount of \$175,000.00.

*Motion: Ms. Edwards*

*Second: Ms. Edmunds*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

4. **Resolution 20-025** – Approving Conditional Use for 335 Pitt Street.

*Motion: Ms. Edwards*

*Second: Mr. Petrulli*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

5. **Resolution 20-026** – Approving Conditional Use for 822 Wood Street.

*Motion: Ms. Edwards*

*Second: Mr. Lefebvre*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

6. Approving the “Shipman Bench” installation for Wood Street Parklet designed by James Shipman.

*Motion: Ms. Edmunds*

*Second: Ms. Edwards*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

7. Approving Anna Newborg as Library Director effective August 5, 2020.

*Motion: Ms. Edmunds*

*Second: Mr. Scott*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

8. Approving Public Property Use/Penn Avenue Parklet for “Back to School” Event on August 7, 2020.

- President Macklin advised that this application was not approved by the Police Department because the applicant is refusing to adhere to the current social distancing guidelines. This item has been removed from the agenda.

9. Approving Residential Accessible Parking Permit for 310 Pitt Street Apt 2 – Stephanie Houser

*Motion: Ms. Edwards*

*Second: Mr. Scott*

*A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.*

10. Council Committees

- Infrastructure and Blight – Ms. Edwards advised that Rosa Parks Park was discussed and they are hoping to get some sort of playground equipment there soon.
- Penn Avenue Parklet will receive a new name and will be called the Harold Young Parklet. Proclamation will be presented to Harold Young’s daughter on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **Public Comment/General Information**

1. Kim Brown – 2405 Laketon Rd  
a. Condolences to the family that lost their son

- b. Wilkinsburg employees are required to live in Wilkinsburg, but Police Officers are not.
2. Rose Price – 412-668-6304
  - a. Romir Talley was killed December 19, 2019 and the family hasn't gotten answers they are seeking.
  - b. Demands that Chief Coleman is investigated and relieved of her duties for misconduct. Demands the name of the officer who shot Romir Talley. Demands the name of the Borough Employee that pressured the property owner to remove the mural of Romir Talley. Demands that Mayor Garrett step down as mayor.
3. Latasha Talley, Paul Jubas (attorney)
  - a. Wants the Wilkinsburg Police to utilize dash-cams and body-cams
4. Keywanda Battle – 1106 Sherman Street
  - a. Vacant property next door (1104 Sherman) for over 30 years, falling apart and rodents. Wants the borough to demolish it.
5. Michele Dalton – 1432 Woodlawn
  - a. The name of the officer that killed Romir Talley
6. Fon Nanji – 1569 Princeton Blvd
  - a. Has a non-profit called True for You Foundation. Would like to get community involved a lot more.

### **Executive Session**

- President Macklin advised that at this time council will go into a brief executive session.
- At the conclusion of the executive session, President Macklin released the name of the officer involved in the shooting incident. The officer named was Robert Gowans.

### **Old Business**

1. N/A

### **New Business**

1. N/A

### **Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Pamela Macklin  
President Council