

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2020

Call to Order

President Macklin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:19 P.M. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference.

Meeting began late due to the Conditional Use Hearing that was held just before the start of this meeting.

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum.

Council Members Present:

Ms. Atkins
Ms. Edmunds
Ms. Edwards
Ms. Haughton
Mr. Lefebvre
Mr. Petrulli
Mr. Scott
Ms. Trice
President Macklin

Council Members Absent:

N/A

Mayor

Mayor Garrett - Present

A quorum was established.

Other attendees:

Borough Manager – John Antinori
Assistant Borough Manager – Amanda Ford
Code Enforcement Director – James Barca
Finance Director – Carole Salisbury
Library Director – Anna Newborg
Asst. Library Director – Rachel Moore

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Macklin.

Proclamation

- N/A

Presentation

- N/A

Public Comment for Agenda Items

1. Anna Newborg, Library Director
 - a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.
 - b. Concerned that the Resolution doesn't state that this is a temporary reduction and also does not state how long it will last.
 - c. Mr. Antinori advised that it is only for the year 2021. Library will not see a reduction in service or staff. This is only allowing for the funds to be used elsewhere if necessary.
2. Rachel Moore, Asst. Library Director
 - a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.
 - b. Concerned that the Resolution doesn't state that this is a temporary reduction.
 - c. Wants council to consider tabling this item until we can get further input from community.
3. Rayden Sorock, resident
 - a. Wants to express his love for the library and does not want any setbacks in the budget for the library.
4. Da'Ja McGuire, resident
 - a. Wants to show support for the library and is against any reduction in funds in the budgets for the library.
5. Ben and Katie Fitzpatrick, residents
 - a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.
 - b. Would like to see wording that indicates how long this resolution is in effect for.
6. Jenna Chung, resident
 - a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.
 - b. Expressing support for the library.
7. Shannon Watson, resident
 - a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.
 - b. Does not support any funds being taken away from the library.
 - c. Wants to know if this item will be tabled or to get assured that this is temporary.
8. Ashley Comans, resident
 - a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.
 - b. Wants to know where the funds are being reallocated to.
9. Ross Tedder, resident
 - a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.

- b. Concerned with how much of the budget goes towards the police and wonders why the millage rate of the library is the only department being used.
10. Jody Guy, resident
- a. Speaking to item #1 on the agenda.
 - b. Wants to know how much of a role that the library board plays in the process of determining these types of changes.

Agenda Items

1. **Resolution 20-043** – Adjustment of millage distribution to align library expenses and revenues. Change general purpose from 10.12 mills to 10.59 mills; and change library mills from 0.94 to 0.47 for the fiscal year of 2021.
- Revenues (due to covid-19) have been reduced and needed to be offset.
 - It is unsure if tax revenue will come in as usual for the year 2021.
 - Eastridge library is closed for the winter and the employee there has been brought to the main library.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Trice

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

2. Approving Conditional Use Application for 756 Rebecca Avenue – Code Director – James Barca
- Motion to table this item.

Motion: Ms. Edmunds

Second: Mr. Petrulli

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

3. Authorizing Borough Manager to advertise the 2021 Fiscal Year Proposed-Budget for ten (10) days for public review.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Edwards

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

4. Approving Street Closure for Hosanna House Celebration of Hope Resource Distribution Day on December 11, 2020 – Andana Jefferson

Motion: Ms. Edmunds

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

5. Council Committee reports:

- Administrative Council Committee – Pamela Macklin - Chair & Council Members
 - i. President Macklin welcomed Mr. Antinori and Mr. Barca.
- Business & Job Development Committee – Andre Scott – Chair, Ian Petrulli, Pamela Macklin
 - i. Meeting format moved to zoom.
 - ii. Wants a more cohesive working relationship within the borough as a whole.
 - iii. Discussed putting together a building directory.
- Finance, Budget & Capital Planning – Pamela Macklin – Chair, Denise Edwards, Ariel Haughton
 - i. Focused on manage spending due to covid-19.
 - ii. Finance director has been seeking and applying for grants.
- Infrastructure & Blight Committee – Denise Edwards – Chair, Michael Lefebvre, Ian Petrulli
 - i. Nothing to report
- Joint Tax Committee – Denise Edwards – Chair, Michael Lefebvre, Pamela Macklin
 - i. Nothing to report
- Personnel, Polices & Procedures Committee – Paige Trice – Chair, Pamela Macklin, Denise Edwards
 - i. Nothing to report
- Public Safety Committee/Chief Coleman – Paige Trice – Chair, Yvonne Edmunds, Andre Scott
 - i. Discussed parking signage and bus stop litter.
 - ii. Police department is having a gun buyback event this weekend.
- Special Events, Music, Arts & Seniors Committee – Linda Atkins – Chair, Yvonne Edmunds, Ariel Haughton
 - i. Awaiting the reopening of the Eastridge Library.
 - ii. Going virtual and collaborating with the Library. Santa appearances and virtual reading. Virtual caroling as well. Everything will be posted on the Wilkinsburg Library’s Facebook page.
- Mayor’s Report – Marita Garrett
 - i. Holiday kick-off event was cancelled due to rising covid-19 cases.
 - ii. Wilkinsburg CDC has a merger analysis committee to review possibilities of a merger with the City of Pittsburgh.
 - iii. Hosanna House is having their celebration of hope on December 11th, 2020.
- Borough Manager’s Report – John Antinori
 - i. Ardmore Park Guardrails are still being delayed, but they are working to catch up.
 - ii. Beacon Hill Pump Stations had 2 sewage pumps replaced before Thanksgiving.
 - iii. Civil War Flags hanging in the stairwell will be getting some restoration thanks to Jody Guy who has secured the funding to do so.

Public Comment/General Information

1. Anne Elise Morris, 2130 Royal Avenue
 - a. Planning to put the new Lincoln Statue in the Wilkinsburg Borough Building lobby for 4 weeks before it goes to its permanent location at the Ardmore Wall.
2. Kyna James
 - a. Questions about Romir Talley.
 - b. President Macklin advised that council does not have any report on the District Attorney's investigation.
3. Jodi Guy
 - a. Spoke to the flags and mural in the stairwell at the Borough Building. Mural will be repaired and the flags will be restored.
 - b. Sacred spaces tour is happening again in May.
 - c. Mr. Shipman has passed away. He was in process of creating benches for the Parklet at Wood & South. Donations are welcomed at the Center for Civic Arts for the funding of additional benches.
4. Godfrey McCray
 - a. Sent email to council. He is working to reduce the gun violence within Wilkinsburg.
 - b. Would like to get council involved more with events around the Borough.
5. Brandi Fisher
 - a. Wanted to speak to the library situation. Does not support funding being taken from the library and re-allocated. Would like to know how the money will be used.
 - b. Wants to know if the borough is going to fire Officer Gowans.

Old Business

1. N/A

New Business

1. N/A

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Ms. Atkins
Seconded by – Mr. Petrulli
Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Pamela Macklin
President Council

