

Wilkinsburg Borough Council
Legislative Meeting
Minutes
June 15, 2022
7:00 PM

Call to Order

President Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Roll Call

Ms. Atkins
Ms. Gibson
Ms. Haughton
Ms. Macklin
Mr. McMullen
Mr. Smith
Ms. Santella
Ms. Trice
President Edwards

Others attendees:

Rob Arnold – Borough Engineer
Owen McAfee – Interim Code Enforcement Director

Mayor

Present

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by President Edwards

Presentation

- Creating a Mobile Food Pantry – Ruth Kitner
- 9A-1P Monday – Friday
- 5,000 pounds of food giving away.
- 900-1,220 households a month

Public Comment Items on Agenda

Renee Haynes-Johnson – 2261 Laketon Road

- Recognizing Wilkinsburg
- A Celebration uniting the community
- July 2, 2022 12p to 4p, Wallace Avenue Lot - Adults and Children

June 15, 2022

Dean Brandt – 509 Coal Street

- Item #5, Resolution 22-057 - questions the Code Director's \$90 hour wage

Deb Rose – 726 Whitney Avenue

- Questions about the Land Bank.
- Who are the appointed board members?

Rayden Sorack – 412 Rebecca Avenue

- Mr. Sorack made a statement concerning the Wilkinsburg Land Bank
- Cares a great deal about these issues.

Pam Panchek – 425 Center Street

- Has concerns about the Land Bank
- What borough committee has this ordinance come out of, and which council members were involved since the creation of the ordinance? Would like future discussions with these members.

Jamal McDonald - 1300 Singer Place

- Process for purchasing property are very convoluted.
- Also, has questions about Land Bank.

Agenda Items

1. Approval Council Meeting Minutes for 05/04/2022 and 05/18/2022.
 - May 4, page 4, item #12 – Personnel Committee, Pam Macklin announced that the Personnel will announce that the Finance Director will be retiring, looking for replacement. Ms. Atkins stated that was not recommended by Personnel Committee.
 - May 18th, page 1, motion to have friendly amendment, Ms. Atkins was unaware of what the Friendly Amendment was pertaining to in the minutes.
 - Mr. McMullen stated that May 18th, page 1, Friendly Amendment is to show the accuracy of what Ms. Atkins said from the Minutes on page 1, on April 6, 2022.

Motion: Ms. Haughton
A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Trice

2. **Ordinance 22-002** – Second reading and approving to adopt an ordinance establishing a Borough of Wilkinsburg Land Bank.
 - First reading, June 1, meeting. Ordinance available for public comments.
 - Did not vote on June 1, meeting ordinance was not advertised. Unable to view or bring up questions.
 - Important to have meeting information a few days, to review, before actual meeting
 - Ordinance passes and will be sent to State for review.

Motion: Ms. Trice
A Vote of 7-1-1 Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Macklin
Abstain: Ms. Santella

3. **Resolution 22-055** – Accepting the low bidder of \$56,560.00 to Jadell Minniefield for CDBG Year 47 demolition project.

Motion: Ms. Haughton
A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Gibson

4. **Resolution 22-056** – Approving Conditional Offer of Employment to Tiante Cephas for DPW/Summer Seasonal employment effective June 20, 2022 at the hourly rate of \$13.00.

Motion: Ms. Trice
A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Gibson

5. **Resolution 22-057** – Approving the Conditional Offer of Employment to Owen McAfee as Interim Code Enforcement Director, effective June 3, 2022, for four months, up to 20 hours per week, at a rate of \$90 per hour.

Motion: Ms. Trice
A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Macklin

6. **Resolution 22-058** – Authorizing transfer of \$700,000.00 in American Recovery Plan funds to the General Fund for fiscal year 2021.

Motion: Ms. Macklin
A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Haughton

7. **Resolution 22-059** – Requesting U.S. Postal Service/Hay Street office to keep office location open.

Motion: Ms. Macklin
A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Santella

8. Authorizing Glenn Engineering to re-advertise for public bid the 605 Ross Avenue Roof Replacement Project.

➤ Only one bid has been received, error found, will rebid.

Motion: Ms. Trice
A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Haughton

9. Authorizing Civil and Environmental Consulting to re-advertise for public bid the temporary stop light project for Laketon and Graham intersection.

- This project should be in the permanent stage. Need to re-visit this temporary investment.
- Relatively high, cut the cost on this temporary project.
- Possibly look into in-house opposed to public bid
- There was only one bidder, which was high.
- Ms. Trice spoke with Roy Clark, Director of Public Works, on having DPW involved.
- Motion to table until Council gets clarification from the Department of Public Works.

Motion: Ms. Haughton

Second: Ms. Macklin

Motion to table: Ms. Haughton

Second: Ms. Gibson

A Vote of 9-0 to table: Motion Carried

10. Authorizing Borough manager to apply for an Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant for the purpose of improving the two school traffic zones in the Borough, application due June 30, no Borough match required.

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Atkins

A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

11. Accepting the resignation of Aaron Flook, Code Enforcement Officer effective May 27, 2022.

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Macklin

A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

12. Approving the termination of DPW employee number 82854, effective June 15, 2022.

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Santella

A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

13. Approving Public Property Permit Use/Harold Young, Sr. Parklet and Wallace Avenue municipal lot to Teen Works Charitable Org. for a "Harambee Soul Festival on Friday, July 29th thru July 31st 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Pearlina Story-Nelson

Motion: Mr. McMullen

Second: Ms. Trice

A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

14. Approving Public Property Permit Use/Whitney Park and Hunter Park (Ballfield) for 'Alive and Kickin' Women's Kickball Team' practice use for every Saturday, from July 16th thru August 30th 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and every Wednesday, from July 13th thru August 30th 2022 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Yvette Harrison

Motion: Ms. Haughton

Second: Mr. McMullen

A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

15. Approving Public Property Permit Use/Harold Young, Sr. Parklet for Boogie Skates, LLC on August 7, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Selena Singletary

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Gibson

A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

16. Approving Public Property Permit Use/Wallace Avenue municipal lot for a 'Wilkinsburg Celebration Fun Activities' on July 2, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Renee Haynes-Johnson

Motion: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Gibson

A Vote of 9-0: Motion Carried

Public Comment General Information

Amber Epps – 1923 Lincoln Ave, Ext., Protohaven 214 N. Trenton Ave

- 12,500 square feet – non-profit Make or Space Design, Fabrication School
- Wood and metal working equipment and much more!
- Memberships can be purchased
- Open classes for the public
- Income based rates
- Encourage everyone to come take a tour and see what there is to offer.

Lutfee Wally – 945 Rosella Court

- Representative for Colonial Life Insurance
- Networking, would like to help out the Wilkinsburg community
- Offering insurance plans

Rose Hammons - 1632 Laketon Road

- Vacancy recovery at 1630, resident stated she did everything she needed to do. But house was eventually put up for Sheriffs Sale
- Try to resolve with borough manager and Code Department
- Will be speaking with the Solicitor and Ms. Santella

Trudy Parker – 1124 Maple Street

- Problems with the vacant house next door.
- Rats, raccoons and trees falling
- First came to borough about this in 2019, spoke to borough manager
- Afraid that children playing around the structure will get hurt.

Deb Rose – 726 Whitney Avenue

- Questions are not being answered about the Land Bank ordinance
- When will the borough respond to Land Bank questions?

Pam Panchek – 425 Center Street

- Has concerns about the Land Bank
- What borough committee has this ordinance come out of, and what council members were involved since the creation of the ordinance?
- Trends showing the vacant properties have increased 54% in 12 years
- Borough has lost 1,550 residents in 10 years.

Mr. McDonald – 1300 Singer Place

- Reaching out to borough since March, on about a vacant lot. Has filled out all the necessary requirements.
- Borough fails to meet with Mr. McDonald
- Mr. Smith – Planning commission recommended and agree to submit Mr. McDonald's information to Council.
- Ms. Santella – Will meet with Code Enforcement and come up with a solution

Old Business

None

New Business

Ms. Atkins

- Arts in the Park, Anthony Wilson, 4YAADI, Reggae, Saturday June 18, 1P-3P, 739 Penn Avenue, Harold Young, Sr., Parklet.

Ms. Santella

- Tree Pittsburgh will be volunteering their services in Wilkesburg this Saturday, June 18, 2022

Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Trice – Time: 8:40pm

Denise Edwards, President