

Wilkinsburg Government Study Commission

Hosanna House

July 26, 2023

Attendees: Keywanda Battle, Janet Harris, Renee Haynes Johnson, Jacquet Kehm, Ruth Kittner, Beverly McCoy. Paul O'Hanlon was ill.

PEL Consultants in Attendance: Brian Jensen and Gerry Cross

Meeting convened at 5:45

There were no public comments on the agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes with minor wording correction about the closure of the Borough building last week. Ruth moved to approve, and Renee seconded. Unanimous approval.
2. Discussion of budget purchase of the zoom account. Addition of the tablet for doing the surveys Moved by Renee, second by KB approved by all.
3. Interviews with Borough staff and elected officials.
  - a. A recurring theme in the interviews is that there never seems to be enough money and staff, and in some cases, the staff are in the wrong jobs.
  - b. Residency Requirement becomes a hindrance.
  - c. Janet Harris brought up again that no one knows who to call.
  - d. Police Department is understaffed.
4. Update the meeting schedule.

Meeting on August 2 needs to be cleared with Hosanna House.

The WGSC VOTE planned for August 9.

5. Survey 2 is ready to go. The QR code for survey 2 was created and distributed to the Commission on July 14, 2023.
6. Community Engagement

Upcoming Community Meeting on July 31, 2023 at 530pm, organized by Renee Haynes-Johnson to review several initiatives. Renee shared her publicity poster. Meeting at Eastridge Auditorium.

7. Gerry and Brian. Explained some of the things we can recommend.
  - Storm water fee
  - Revise codes and ordinances to reflect 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - Increase property transfer tax.
  - Change in the ward system of representation. One member per ward, plus 3 at large, plus mayor.
  - Recommend the hiring of a grant writer.

Public Comment

Kate Luxemburg said she and Wilkinsburg finance director are working on swift sales of delinquent properties.

Jody Guy emphasized that any statement about the Commission needs to make it clear: What does success look like? It needs to include a vision statement about the future of Wilkinsburg

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm