Wilkinsburg Borough Council

Work Session

Minutes

September 16, 2026

7:00 PM

Call to Order

President NaTisha Washington

Roll Call

President NaTisha Washington

Vice President Moses Workman

Pro-Tempore Linda Atkins

Councilperson Nicole Santella

Councilperson Chavaysha Chaney

Councilperson Sabrina Gibson

Councilperson Renee Haynes-Johnson

Councilperson Kellen Lovejoy

Councilperson Alexandria Johnson

Mayor Dontae Comans

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation

An Executive Session of Council took place before tonight's Council Legislative Session.

Borough Audit Report – Chris Robertson

Public Comment Items on Agenda

Agenda Items

0. Council Committees:
    - **Public Safety Committee – Sabrina Gibson (Chair), Chavaysha Chaney, Moses Workman**

-Councilwoman Gibson spoke on the Public Safety Meeting updates on Cleanways and the number of tires they picked up. She also spoke on the Update on the security on the building and Library. The street closures meeting held earlier in the day was a success. They also wanted to talk about calming traffic ideas and deer extractions. She spoke about the updates on Gable ridge, Wood Street Towers and Douglas apartments with Duquesne Light at the meeting on September 10th.

- **Finance, Budget, & Capital Planning Committee – Renée Haynes-Johnson (Chair), Moses Workman, NaTisha Washington, Linda Atkins**

-Councilwoman Haynes-Johnson spoke about the Audit we just had and the fact that we are in Budget season. She highlighted that we have a serious short fall and is purposing an idea that would help take care of that problem. She spoke about the Home Rule Charter and the ability to raise taxes. The decision has been reviewed for a year. Currently Wilkinsburg has 1% income tax on residents and 0% income tax for nonresidents.

- **Personnel Committee – Kellen Lovejoy (Chair), Alexandria Johnson, Renée Haynes-Johnson**

-Kellen Lovejoy stated there were no updates at this time.

- **Infrastructure and Blight Committee – NaTisha Washington (Chair), Nicole Santella (Vice-Chair), Kellen Lovejoy**

-Meeting will be moved to September 24th at 6pm due to Labor Day.

- **Land Bank – NaTisha Washington**

-Moving forward on properties and working on getting the properties closed. They will have a presentation at the next meeting and drone usage. Renee Donley spike about the properties conference happening next week.

- **Special Events Committee – Linda Atkins (Chair), Alexandria Johnson**

-Linda Atkins spoke about the special things planned for Veterans Month. She spoke about the veteran's box located in the lobby of the Borough Building.

- **Shade Tree Advisory Committee – Linda Atkins (Chair), Renee Dolney**

-Spoke about the efforts to help the community with the trees. She spoke about the Borough Arborist walked around the Borough to see what trees are healthy and where can trees be planted on Penn Ave. They also trimmed the trees on Wood Street.

- **Mayoral Report – Dontae** Comans
  - **Managerial Report – Scott Andrejchak o Finance Report**

1. Approving checks issued:

August 2026	**$**	**310,080.34**
Payroll Disbursement	**$**	**155,828.87**
Void/Reissued	**$**	**0.00**
Total Disbursement	**$**	**465,906.21**

Motion: Ms. Renee Haynes-Johnson Second: Ms. Alexandria Johnson

A Vote of 10-0-0 Motion Carried

2. **Resolution 26-089** – Approving the 2025 Borough Audit Report.

Motion: Ms. Renee Haynes-Johnson Second: Vice President Workman
A Vote of 10-0-0 Motion Carried

3. **Resolution 26-090** – Approving entering into a Professional Service Contract with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels for Dog Law Enforcement Services at a monthly cost of $575.00, for a three-year term of contract.

Motion: Mayor Donate Comans Second: Ms. Sabrina Gibson
A Vote of 10-0-0 Motion Carried

4. **Resolution 26-091** – Approving the Borough's 2027 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of $456,663.00.

Motion: Ms. Renee Haynes-Johnson Second: Ms. Alexandria Johnson
A Vote of 10-0-0 Motion Carried

5. **Resolution 26-092** – Approving the appointment of Chavaysha Chaney to the Board of Directors of the Wilkinsburg Penn Joint Water Authority.

Motion: Ms. Nicole Santella Second: Ms. Alexandria Johnson
A Vote of 9-0-1 Motion Carried

6. **Resolution 26-093** – Approving the appointment of Christopher Duncan as the Wilkinsburg Police Department's Chief of Police, effective September 17, 2026.

Motion: Mayor Donate Comans Second: Vice President Workman
A Vote of 9-0-1 Motion Carried

7. **Resolution 26-094** – Authorizing the Assistant Borough Manager to advertise the Borough's intention to increase resident and non-resident Earned Income Tax (EIT).

Motion: Ms. Renee Haynes-Johnson Second: Ms. Alexandria Johnson
A Vote of 10-0-0 Motion Carried

Public Comment General Information

- Katy Peplin- 523 Trenton 15221 spoke on behalf of the Wilkinsburg library board spoke about the RFP
- Sam Cusack 2144 N. Trenton Ave spoke on a permit for a building sign.
- Janine Howser-810 Wood Tower asked about the security situation for the building
- Elaine Fulton-Spoke about Voting signs and posters to pass around in the community to help remind them about voting.

Old Business

NaTisha Washington just wanted to update people on the extension of the public comments that are still available.

New Business

- Chavaysha Chaney spoke about zoning ordinance for signage and if it can be looked at and updated.
- Nicole Santella commented on the Earned Income Tax presentation and the uniqueness of the Borough and how to increase revenue.
- Alexandria Johnson promoted the Be Your Neighbor Day.
- Sabrina Gibson included that The Train station and Free store will be involved in the Be Your Neighbor Day.
- Natisha Washington talked about Grounded community design recruitment through October 16th, a stipend will be provided for participation.

Adjournment NaTisha Washington

*****Upcoming Council Meetings Date Reminder*****
Council Legislative Session Scheduled for 7:00 p.m., October 7, 2026
Council Work Session Scheduled for 7:00 p.m., October 21, 2026