

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Legislative Session
December 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkesburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Garrett, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, and President McCarthy-Johnson. Borough Manager Marla P. Marcinko, Mayor Thompson and Solicitor Mike Witherel were also present. Mr. Taiani and was absent. A quorum was established.

Mr. Taiani arrived at 7:03 with apologies for his tardiness.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Adopting Ordinance No. 2932 –Establishing a Handicap Parking Space – 836 Woodworth.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Mr. Taiani

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2. Adopting Ordinance No. 2933 – Establishing the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2015.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Taiani

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

3. Approving Resolution No. 14-097 – Adopting the 2015 Municipal Budget.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Garrett

Ms. Macklin noted that this is a very tight budget, as the ending cash balance will be about \$114,000. She further noted that Council is committed to increasing revenues. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson stated that the budget can be amended, and Ms. Marcinko responded that Council cannot

amend the budget. Mr. Witherel stated that the Borough must work within the budgeted expenses, and the budget cannot be amended, but funds can be moved within the adopted budget. Ms. Trice commented that the budget provides 3% cost of living increases, and Ms. McCarthy-Johnson said that they can remain at 3%. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson asked whether the budget included costs for vehicle leases as requested by Chief Coleman, and Ms. Marcinko responded the budget includes current lease payments, but not for any new leases.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approving Council Meeting minutes of 11/12/14 and 11/19/14

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

5. Approving November checks issued:

Regular Disbursements 11/01 – 11/30/14	\$ 1,004,553.43
Payroll Disbursements	255,834.59
Voided Checks	<u>(750.55)</u>
Total Disbursement	\$ 1,259,637.47

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Shattuck

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Taiani,
President McCarthy-Johnson

No: Ms. Trice, Ms. Macklin

Motion carried 7:2

6. Approving Resolution No. 14-098 – Setting employee contribution rate – Police Pension Plan.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

7. Approving Resolution No. 14-099 – Establishing sewer fees..

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

8. Approving Resolution No. 14-100 – Authorizing employment agreement – Cindy Bahn

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Mr. Taiani

Ms. Macklin suggested that this resolution be tabled until after a discussion of personnel issues in executive session. Ms. Trice inquired as to whether Ms. Macklin made a motion, and if she did, Ms. Trice seconded that motion.

Ms. Marcinko consulted with Mr. Witherel, who indicated that a vote could be taken on the motion to table.

Yes: Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Moore, Ms. Trice, Ms. Garrett, Ms. Macklin, President McCarthy-Johnson

No: Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Taiani, Mr. Lefebvre

Motion to table a vote on the Resolution carried 6:3

9. Approving Resolution No. 14-101 – Increasing building, planning and zoning fees.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Trice

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

10. Approving Resolution No. 14-102 – 2015 Council meeting schedule.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Garrett

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approving Resolution No. 14-103 –Declaration of emergency – Demolition 812 Coal Street.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Shattuck

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2. Discussion – Sale of Borough-owned property – Lot/Block #176-C-285

Mr. Shattuck indicated that he reviewed the appraisal and had someone review the foundation that currently exists on the property. He was told that the existing foundation on the property was well-built and does not decrease the value of the property. He noted that there will be increased interest by buyers because the property is located near the Regent Square area. Mr. Taiani noted

that a construction estimator is not a certified appraiser, and offered to pay for another appraisal of the property. Ms. Macklin stated her belief that the transaction should be above reproach, and that the property should go through a competitive bid process. Mr. Witherel stated that the Borough Code provides if the value is less than \$1500, the Borough may sell without a competitive bid, but believes that a sealed bid process would be hard for someone to challenge.

Motion: Ms. Macklin moved that the property known by the lot/block number 175-C-285 be sold through a competitive bid process.

Yes: Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Lefebvre, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Moore, Ms. Trice, Ms. Garrett, Ms. Macklin, President McCarthy-Johnson

No:

Abstain: Mr. Taiani

Motion carried 8:0

3. Ms. Macklin reiterated her request for a list of projects to date, with their respective dollar values, from the Borough Engineer. Ms. Marcinko indicated that she would obtain this information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approving Resolution No. 14-104 – Supporting the issuance of a Proclamation to Gregg Bowers, COO of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, recognizing his dedicated service to the Wilkinsburg community.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Grannemann

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Atkins, 2021 Kendon Drive West – Ms. Atkins noted that she is the Hilltop Block Watch Captain, and inquired about the process to obtain grants. She stated her belief that the Borough should have someone looking for grants. She further noted that the decorative lampposts in the Borough are redundant, and don't need to be fixed.

Jody Guy, 211 Bevington Road – Ms. Guy indicated that she is the Chairperson of the Wilkinsburg Community Art and Civic Design Commission, and she commented on the issues surrounding the re-location of the 7-mile marker, and the placement of the memorial bench. She noted that the tree near the proposed site for the bench was planted on Arbor Day, 2012 as a memorial to John Metzler.

Kate Luxemburg, 432 Rebecca Avenue – Ms. Luxemburg commented on the value of the property at lot/block #175-C-285 which Mr. Taiani is interested in purchasing. She noted that she would purchase the lot for \$1500. She further stated that as a member of the Redevelopment Authority, she would like to explain what was done at 400 Lamar.

Andre Scott, 861 Ardmore Boulevard – Mr. Scott reported that Representative Ed Gainey will host a Holiday Party at the Coliseum on Thursday, December 18th, 2014.

Council recessed into an Executive Session at approximately 8:03 pm.

Council reconvened the Legislative Session at approximately 10:45 pm.

Motion: Ms. Moore moved that the Borough Manager’s contract not be renewed at its expiration on December 31, 2014, and that the Borough Manager be placed on paid administrative leave, effective immediately, through the expiration of the contract.

Yes: Ms. Moore, President McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Trice, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Garrett

No: Mr. Lefebvre (via phone), Mr. Taiani

Motion carried 7:2

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:50 pm.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council