

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Work Session
Minutes
March 4, 2015

Call to Order

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

Roll Call

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Lefebvre, (face-time) Mr. Taiani, Ms. Moore, Ms. Garrett, Ms. Trice, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Ford, and President McCarthy-Johnson. Mayor, John Thompson – absent. A quorum was established.

- President McCarthy-Johnson – Announced Ms. Moore’s arrival at 6:40 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Following the pledge of allegiance was lead: by President McCarthy-Johnson and Commemoration - Mayor Martin (Marty) O’Malley and Victims of Violent Crimes

Public Comment - None

Capital Planning

1. Approving Resolution No. 15-012 – VPRP application 420 Rebecca Avenue. Tabled until 3/11/15.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Trice

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

No: Mr. Lefebvre

Abstained: Mr. Taiani

Mr. Shattuck – Reported minutes and the activities of the Planning Commission Board.

Public Safety

Ms. Grannemann – No report.

General Matters

1. Traffic Circulation Study – Completion of Phase 1 – Anthony Castellone – Pennoni Associates Inc.
- Presentation Questions & Answers – From Council Members.

No Action

- 31 INTERSECTION
 - \$300,000 Construction
 - SPC –Funding Sign-up Traffic lights in sync.
 - \$200,000 for phase -1 Construction
 - D=Stat, SPC Liquids Fuels, Gen. Fund, “Green Light Go”
 - Let see construction happen
 - Keystone Community Grants (Another Funding Source)
2. Discussion regarding a \$100 donation in honor of Mayor Martin O’Malley.

Moved: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Grannemann

- Mr. Taiani amended the motion as a donation from Borough Council Members individually in honor of former Mayor, Martin O’Malley to the Thomas Merton Center.

Yes: Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, and President, McCarthy-Johnson.

No: Ms. Moore, Ms. Garrett

Vote – 7-2.

3. Discussion – regarding the update of the Emergency Management Operations Manual.
- Amanda Ford – Borough Manager – Darryl Jones, Fire Chief of the City of Pittsburgh Fire Department has designated Owen McAfee to assist the Emergency Management Coordinator of Wilkesburg Borough to update the Emergency Operations Plan Manual to FEMA and PEMA standards.

Moved: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Grannemann

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

4. Discussion- regarding Talent Bank Applications and Appointments
 - President McCarthy-Johnson – Suggest that all Boards and Commission be reviewed and vacancies filled ASAP.
 - Sun Newsletter and the Borough website should be utilize to help get the information out to the public. Talent Bank Application should be posted on the website for availability.
5. Discussion regarding Eastridge Branch Library Survey
 - Interim Borough Manager - Met with Ms. Betsey Swartz regarding the Library Survey that was completed by 136 surveyors. Survey provides a list of ideas to implement in the renovation of the Eastridge Library.
 - Council rejected the survey results due to the out dated information provided by the surveyors.
 - Mr. Shattuck suggested that Ms. Swartz attend the next Planning Commission meeting in April 22, 2015 to present the fundraising ideas for renovation and another survey conducted by the general public.

Old Business

- Ms. Garrett - I have a couple of items: the first one is related to the Gateway sign and I believe I mentioned last month after the meeting I had mentioned to council that the office of Pittsburgh Office of Public Arts was interested in providing a presentation of next steps forward on something that they would recommend on the replacement of the gateway sign. The office got back to me and they would like to come speak March 18th at 6:30p.m. Are we still having three council meetings a month?
- President McCarthy-Johnson – Committees were to start in March and be prepared to present the committees activities in April. If we can get through everything on that first meeting during the Planning Session; we would not need the third meeting.
- Ms. Garrett - The second thing is in regards to the Green Street Park, hopefully everyone saw the emails that council person Taiani and I, did meet with the School Board President Ed Donovan and Vice President LaTonya Washington as well as our Solicitor Michael Witherel and their Solicitor Matt Hoffman was also present. It was proposed by Councilman Taiani coming up with a deal with splitting the parcel between the School Boards and friends of Green Street Park and the School Board was not in agreement with that proposal.
- Solicitor Witherel commented that if council was still interested in potentially withdrawing the motion again; this would be the time to do so. Solicitor Witherel response was that everyone was Cc, on his review of the rules of civil procedure particularly 229A. Solicitor Witherel is of the opinion that the motion to intervene does not prevent this office; if directed by Borough Council to file a motion to discontinue

pursuant to said rule and affectively terminate the civil action. So, what I got from that was that Borough Council is able to file a motion to discontinue pursuant actions against the School Board.

- Ms. Garrett - This was sent by the Solicitor last Wednesday, February 25th at 3:31p.m. President McCarthy-Johnson confirms that the Solicitor sent the email to all of Council.
- Motion read by Ms. Garrett for Borough Council to discontinue pursuant to said rule and terminate the civil action against the Wilkinsburg School Board in regards to the sale of Green Street Park.

Moved: Ms. Garrett

Second: Ms. Macklin

Yes: Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Moore, Ms. Trice, Ms. Garrett and president McCarthy-Johnson.

No: Mr. Taiani and Mr. Lefebvre

- Mr. Taiani - I think we need to have a discussion before you go on to the other agenda items
- Mr. Taiani – Please, I will address Paige. I appreciate your concern but we were directed by this council to go and talk with the School District to try and avoid the cost of any further litigation or increased cost related to our solicitor or their solicitor. That is what we did.
- Ms. Trice- I appreciate that however, the terms that you have set-up to say you're going to take half and they will take the other half. I don't think that was brought back to council for us to agree. I don't think we agreed to those items you presented.
- Mr. Taiani - I understand that so let me explain. I wear multiple hats, I have filed as an intervener on the petition and as a private individual for which I can act independent. At no time, did I authorize or say to the school board that this was an action that the Borough Council was proposing.
- Mr. Frank - I worked and live in the Borough Wilkinsburg. So, I am guessing in 1983 this Board of Council of Wilkinsburg made an agreement with the land and DCNR. That should have been brought up in 2011 when we decided to hand it over to the borough, in everybody research it never came up. There was no public meeting.
- President McCarthy-Johnson - There was a public meeting held by the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and it was advertised. There was no reason we needed to give notice to give the park back. We did not give the parks away as far as our records. The park was owned by the School District as far as we know, we did not have to go any further. The park was owed by the School District, it was out of our hands at that moment. We own Whitney Park and we are taking the time and investment and asking

people to come in and make comments on making changes on Whitney Park those are two different things. Those are absolutely two different things

- President McCarthy-Johnson - I would like to know whether any applicants have applied for the Borough Manager's position and whether or not the ad has been sent to additional places besides the three newspapers.
- Ms. Ford – Yes, receipt of two resumes on Monday and a lot of responses have come in through online applications submittal with the Post-Gazette advertisement we have a thirty day electronic listing for Monster, and through Monster you can apply online through Indeed.com as well so we have a lot. I have been submitting those to Councilwoman Trice and stamp dating them and putting in separate envelopes to give to the Hiring Committee. Other places we posted: Post-Gazette, Tribute, Pittsburgh New Courier, Cindy Bahn has also provided information for me for local Government Academy and CONNECT will publish it.
- Ms. Ford - There is a number of other listings and one thing I did want to ask Mr. Taiani was she Cindy was not familiar with the acronym SSHE. Mr. Taiani explained what SSHE is (State System of Higher Education) that comprises of all 14 States higher education universities and there is public and private colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and state related specifically University of Pennsylvania and Penn State are a combination private and state related. Whereas IUP and Slippery Rock are exclusively state funded, so SSHE is just the acronym for the State System of Higher Education that comprises of 14 Universities which most have master and graduate programs some which may work and some that may not.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Moore-Black History Dinner- Pittsburg Courier. Wilkesburg Borough made the news in a positive note. News report the grand opening of Nancy's Restaurant.
- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank – Interest rate of at 1.625% for possible funding for paving of roadways.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Robert Firth – He left the meeting.
2. Jody Guy – Parklet (Borough owned lot at South Avenue at Wood Street) PSU would like to submit a Tree Revitalize Application. PSU needs to inform Council of maintenance of the parklet.
3. Denise Edwards - 118 Peebles Street sign replacement with correct spelling, Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

There is no actions to be taken, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at officially at 9:49 pm.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council