

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session
June 10, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:01 pm 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, Mr. Shattuck, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, President McCarthy-Johnson. Amanda Ford, Interim Borough Manager and Solicitor Witherel. (Ms. Macklin and Mayor Thompson were absent.) A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PRESENTATION

- Wilkesburg Lining Wall Design – Hunter Park – Hassan Rahaman

Speaker – Hassan Rahaman

Requesting council's permission to contact Public Works for assistance of turning the dirt and moving tires to other project area at 1718 North Ave.

*Council agreed to have DPW assist in whatever way possible, according to their operational schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 05/06/2015 and 05/13/2015

Councilman Shattuck referenced missing information on 05/06/2015 minutes. Councilwoman Grannemann noted that minutes reflect her being absent; she was present at that meeting

Action: Borough Manager Ford will revised and make corrections.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 - 0. Motion carried.

2. Approving May Checks Issued

Checks	\$ 857,286.18
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 250,506.21
Voided Checks	\$ 4,497.91
Total Disbursements	\$1,108294.48

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

A vote in favor of the motion, 6 - 2. Motion carried.

3. Approving termination of Sergeant John Snyder effective June 10, 2015.

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote in favor of the motion, 6 – 1 and 1 abstain. Motion carried.

4. Approving Resolution No. 15-038 – the Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market Crosswalk Design.

Crosswalk Designs to be painted at two location sites.

- Penn Avenue
- Ross Street

Action: Borough Manager Ford request that Jerry Gaudi submit the plans for the Crosswalk Design to Penn Dot for approval.

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Trice

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 - 0. Motion carried.

- 5. Approving Ordinance 2934 – Establishing MSF at \$180, and providing for establishment of fees by resolution of Borough Council.**

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Moore

A vote in favor of the motion, 5 – 3. Motion carried.

- 6. Approving Resolution No. 15-039 – Approving VPRP Application – 509 Peebles Street.**

Councilman Shattuck informed Council that the application has not been present to the Planning Commission. This item should be disabled by Council until Planning Commission approves the application.

Action: Tabled item (No Vote). The item will be placed on the agenda for July 8th meeting.

- 7. Approving Resolution No. 15-040 – Street Closure for MAD DAD’s Fatherhood Celebration.**

Scheduled event for June 20, 2015

Moved: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Shattuck

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 – 0. Motion carried.

- 8. Approving Resolution No. 15-041 – Street Closure of Whitney Avenue between Todd and Hays Street for Block Party.**

Scheduled for June 29th, 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second Ms. Grannemann

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 – 0. Motion carried.

- 9. Approving Resolution No. 15-042 – Sponsoring Banner for Thursday Open Market.**

Moved: Mr. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 – 0. Motion carried

10. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2935 – Enhanced Tax Abatement.

Councilman Shattuck reiterates that the prepared language he provided includes residential and commercial zoning use by building type, Borough wide.

Councilman Shattuck also, added a requirement for applicants to affirm, in order to prevent verification or displacement for residents or businesses

Tom Hardy from WCDC continuing to edit numbers and content of the policy. Will also help write the policy.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote in favor of the motion, 8 – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Frances Butts – 521 Hill Ave – (Mrs. Butts had to leave but left information) Informed Council of a Memorial Dedication for Barbara Ervin. Presented by the Hill Avenue, 500 Block Club. Scheduled for June 20, 2015, at 10:30 am. Located on the corner of Hill Avenue and Pitt Street (across from People’s Gas Building).
2. Gerald Brooks – Grindware Basketball League, would like to use Ferguson Park for a basketball league for age 18 and under, to give youth a positive activity for the summer.

Council President McCarthy-Johnson has concerns with this event held at Ferguson Park, because it would be too intrusive for the time period needed plus parking and seating are limited. She suggest Hunter or Park Avenue Parks as an alternative. Mr. Brooks is invited to come to Parks and Recreation meeting on Thursday, June 18th to continue this discussion.

3. Golan Barak – 1019 Beechwood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA. 15218
 - Property owner of several properties in the Wilkinsburg Area would like the vacant properties and late night activities to be cleaned up.
 - Request for Council to work with organizations that want to redevelop in Wilkinsburg. Taxes are too high to buy and renovate property, need to adjust tax Abatement Program to work with property buyers.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Garrett – Eastridge Library removed old sign but have not replaced with a new sign

- Need electrician and mason to complete installation.

Mr. Taiani – Status on Council’s decision to terminate Wilkinsburg Redevelopment Authority.

- Solicitor comments on Resolution prepared and sent to Borough Manger Ford. Will be included in July’s Agenda.

Ms. Grannemann – Update on Whitney Tunnel and Liquor License Ordinance

- Whitney Tunnel is structurally sound, it will be scrapped and painted by summer help. Water leaks will be reported to the Engineer.
- Liquor License Ordinance - Borough Manger Ford’s recollection was that Council President McCarthy-Johnson asked Council to provide suggestive language to submit to Borough Manager so she could pass along the information to the Solicitor. No one has done this so far. Moved forward with sample information to Solicitor Witherel for the updating of ordinance.

Council President McCarthy-Johnson – CDBG Grants two approved and two rejected.

- Approved – Wood Street handicap ramp \$33,000.00
- Approved – Street reconstruction \$61,000.00
- Rejected - Waterline replacement
- Rejected - Demolition
(rejections due to lack of funds)

Civil Service Commission temporary seat:

- Appoints Ms. Grannemann and removed Mr. Lefebvre

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Garrett – Library Summer Program, 1900 Graham Boulevard.

- Community conversation series held Thursday, June 25, 2015
 - Focuses on arts, culture, and community

Borough Manger Ford – informs Council about the new hires for Code Enforcement Director and Administrative Assistant to Code Enforcement.

- **Eric Parish** – Code Enforcement Director
 - Start date: June 22, 2015
- **Brenda Joyce** – Code Enforcement Administrative Assistant
 - Start date: July 6, 2015

Ms. Moore – Summer Reading Program

Eastridge Branch and Wilkinsburg Branch Libraries

Both starts June 22, 2015 through August 14, 2015

Wilkinsburg Library recipient of \$2500.00 grant

-May 29th celebrated the ending of lifetime art grant that provided funding for oil painting classes. Hope to bring it back next year.

-Future programs: tai chi, Japanese brush painting, quilting, memoir writing, poetry and jewelry making, book art, and genealogy.

Council President McCarthy-Johnson –

Reminders: -Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market and Art in the Park

June 18, 2015

3:00 – 6:30 pm Open Market

6:30 – 8:30 pm Art in the Park (2 Bands)

-July 5, 2015 - Family Festival

-Council commitment to serve School Board Pizza from Ticket Sale Competition

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Announce of Executive Session for purpose of legal litigation and matters of personnel.

Executive Session start time: 8:25 pm

Executive Session end time: 9:12 pm

(No action taken during Executive Session)

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council