

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Capital Planning Work Session
August 3, 2016

Call to Order

President Shattuck announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting for personnel and litigation purposes and called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 p.m. 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 Ms. Garrett, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Macklin, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, President Shattuck, Mayor John Thompson (arrival at 7:10 PM), Donn Henderson – Borough Manager and Amanda J. Ford – Assistant Borough Manager. A quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Shattuck, a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of victims of violent crimes.

Certificates of Appreciation

- Certificates of Appreciation were distributed by the Mayor to the kids from Youthworks for their hard work in cleaning up vacant properties to make the community a better place.

Public Comment

- 1) N/A

Agenda Items

1. Discussion regarding the Lincoln Highway signage presented by – Anne-Elise Morris, 2130 Royal Ave. – Wilkinsburg Historical Society.
 - The Lincoln concrete marker to indicate part of the Lincoln Highway located by the old Lincoln Statue has been gone for years. The Historical Society purchased a new marker and would like permission to install the new marker.
 - The marker is heavy and would require a 3-foot hole.
 - Consensus of council to have DPW assist with the install of the new marker.
2. Discussion regarding the WCACDC changing the committee name to Wilkinsburg Arts Commission.

- Consensus of council for the WCACDC to be known as (B/K/A) the Wilkinsburg Arts Commission.
3. Discussion regarding the amendment of the Sidewalk Ordinance – Eric Parrish, Code Enforcement Director.
 - Changes to the ordinance will include increasing the options of materials used when repairing sidewalks.
 - Would like to be 100% compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act for all intersections.
 - Any input/thoughts/concerns should be relayed to Mr. Parrish by the end of the month.
 4. Discussion regarding Gateway Sign Project – Vice-President Garrett
 - Located at intersection Penn Avenue and South Trenton was destroyed by a car accident.
 - The Wilkinsburg Arts Commission would like to put out an RFP to get a new sign
 - Council approves a line item not to exceed \$15,000 for 2017 Budget
 5. Accepting the retirement of Susan Holmes effective August 5, 2016
 - Commemoration will be held in a future meeting.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

6. Approving Resolution No. 16-066 – Appointing Professional for the purpose of Debt Refunding and/or Capital Financing.
 - There are several bonds we have that need refinanced to save approximately \$200,000.
 - Approving RBC Capital Markets, LLC to be appointed to handle this matter on behalf of the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

Motion: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

7. Approving Resolution No. 16-067 – Authorizing the application submission of the CDBG Grant Year 42 for demolition projects to the ACED
 - This grant is for Emergency Demolition Funding of \$150,000 to assist with a portion of our demolitions.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

8. Approving Resolution No. 16-068 – CD Slum Blight Demolition Declaration.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

9. Approving the termination of James Frank effective August 3, 2016.

Motion: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 8 – 1 abstain – Mr. Taiani; Motion carried.

10. Approving the termination of James Hayden effective August 3, 2016.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

11. Approving the authorization of the Borough Manager to move forward and submit the PIB Loan documents to Harrisburg.

- Mr. Lefebvre strongly advised that this is for a 2 million dollar loan. If the borough decides to move forward with this, it will need to be included in the budget for 2017.
- Could possibly be put to a referendum to the voters with a designated millage to address the payback of the loan.
- Amended motion that the referendum for the PIB loan clearly states, if it's approved, what the exact impact will be to tax rates if applicable.
- Discussion to be continued through the budgeting process.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

Second: Mr. Rose

A vote 3 – 5; Motion not carried.

12. Approving the Use of Public Property Permit for Beverly Lowden and Pastor Dorothy Stubbs – Municipal Parking Lot on Ross Ave for Back to School Bash.

Motion: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Grannemann

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

13. Approving the Use of Public Property Permit for Wendy Fowler – Wilkinsburg School District – Wallace Avenue Lot for Back to School Bash.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

14. Approving Street Closure for Kathleen Bruning – Pittsburgh Urban Christian School for School picnic.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

15. Approving Street Closure for Alfred Shields – ISI Choose Life Ministries – Unite youth, law enforcement, council, and teachers together.

Motion: Mr. Taiani

Second: Ms. Grannemann

A vote 9 - 0; Motion carried.

16. Approving Street Closure for Curtis Lewis – El Bethel Temple Church – Church Community Event.

Motion: Ms. Grannemann

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

17. Approving Handicap parking Permit – Christopher and Sabrina Wilson at 1302 Coal Street.

Motion: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Garrett

A vote 9 – 0; Motion carried.

18. Council Committee Reports:

- Blight Committee – Met Wednesday, July 27, 2016
 - Discussed demolition bids which should be back by the end of the month. Demolition hoping to start in September.
- Budget and Finance Committee – Met Monday, July 11, 2016
 - Discussed refinancing the Series A & B bonds which could save the borough approximately \$200,000.
 - Financial reports reviewed, Revenues are up more than expenses.
 - Legal Fees reviewed. Account will be monitored. Any calls to Special Labor Council should go through Manager’s office for review before calls are made.
 - Audit deficiencies reviewed. Will be working more towards fixing some issues (Disaster contingency plan, outstanding checks)
- Capital Planning Committee – Met Wednesday, July 27, 2016
 - Multi-modal application submitted for the Ardmore wall.

- Nine mile run spoke in regards to planting approximately 50 trees after the construction is completed sometime in 2017. Trees will likely be a smaller species due to wire concerns and to cause less damage as the trees age.
- Constituent and Community Relations Committee
 - Parks and Recreation organized for Dick's Sporting Goods to come help with improvements to Turner Field and some playgrounds.
- Public Safety Committee – Met Thursday, July 17, 2016
 - Discussed enforcement of the noise ordinance and if nuisance properties should be reviewed.
 - Discussed statutes for vendors and solicitation and if they should be upgraded.
 - Junior police academy organized at the Western PA School for the Deaf
 - Ceremony will be organized to honor the firefighters for the fire in January and the police officers responding to the mass shooting.
- Social Media Committee
 - Small Biz Monday's for the Facebook page and is off to a good start.
 - Next meeting to be held the 2nd Tuesday of September.
- Special Events Committee
 - Art in the Park final event to be held on August 25th, 2016.
 - A parade will be held on December 10th.
- Report from the Mayor
 - Family Festival from July 2nd was a success. Total cost came below budget.

Public Comment

1. Anne-Elise Morris, 2130 Royal Ave.
 - a. Would like to update the display in the lobby of the borough building to make a tribute "Saying Goodbye to Wilkesburg High".
 - b. Extended thanks to DPW for correctly positioning the 7 Mile Stone in the front of the borough building.
2. Alfred Shields, 1156 ½ South Ave.
 - a. Organizing a Block Party for August 28th, 2016 in Elvia Way.

Old Business

1. Imagebox Website Design
 - a. The Social Media Committee is ready to move forward with awarding Imagebox the task of re-designing our website and bypassing the RFP process.
 - b. Imagebox has been flexible with our budget and with the collaboration of Moses Workman, Borough Clerk-Secretary, we were able to reduce to normal costs of a project like this.
 - c. Motion to move forward with Imagebox doing the re-design for the borough website for an amount not to exceed \$7,000.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

Second: Mr. Rose

A vote 8 – 1 abstain – Ms. Trice; Motion carried.

2. Mr. Taiani would like to commend the Police Chief for the outstanding job with catching the folks associated with drugs.

New Business

1. The re-design of the administrative offices has been slightly altered to add an extra door near the rear of the department.
2. Eric Parrish advised that the camera grant was approved.
3. Mr. Rose mentioned a complaint received of high hedges located a Penn & Jackson. Jackson will be reviewed to see if it's on the paving list.
4. Coro Fellow offered another intern at no cost to the borough beginning August 23rd. The intern will be mapping tax delinquencies, and has expertise in non-displacement and gentrification work.
5. Reminder that there will be a Strategic Planning session in lieu of the council retreat on August 10th from 3PM - 9PM.

Adjournment

-Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Patrick M. Shattuck
President Council