

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Legislative Session
September 11, 2013

With the absence of the President and with the Vice President participating via telephone connection, it was the consensus of Council to have Mr. Lefebvre serve as Chairperson Pro Tem.

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Lefebvre called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Trice, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson (via telephone) and Ms. Moore. Also present were Marla P. Marcinko Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor Michael Witherel. Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Macklin, President Cohn, and Mayor John Thompson were absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wilbert Wright - 1315 Clark St. –Mr. Wright distributed a general federal complaint form which may be used by residents to register complaints against the banking industry. He further commented that the Department of Aging will be on-site at Community Life on September 13, 2013.

Menwhe Redd – 1526 Center St. – Expressed her concerns regarding the condition of two large trees whose branches are leaning over her house, with some branches falling on her roof. She stated that her sidewalk is heaved. Ms. Marcinko stated that she had contacted the Borough Arborist, Bob Crusan, who inspected the trees after the last time Ms. Redd addressed Council and has inspected the trees on several other occasions prior to the most recent inspection. The arborist has opined that the trees are healthy and there is no risk of failure. According to the Borough's ordinance, property owners are responsible for the maintenance and removal of trees. Ms. Redd inquired as to who is responsible for the vacant YWCA on Ross Avenue. Ms. Marcinko advised that it is privately owned and may be taken to sheriff's sale in the coming months. Ms. Marcinko suggested that Ms. Redd contact her office for more information.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Adopting of Ordinance No. 2914 – Establishing Handicap Parking Space 1014 Wallace Avenue.**

Moved: Ms. Goodman

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2915 – Amnesty Program for delinquent real estate taxes and Municipal Service Fees.

Ms. Moore questioned whether this had been reviewed by Council. Ms. Marcinko responded that this is the first time this document has been presented to Council but that it was the consensus and direction of Council to move forward with the amnesty program. The legislation is virtually identical to that which was used recently by the Wilkinsburg School District.

Moved: Ms. Goodman

Second: Ms. Moore

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

3. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2916 – Establishing Handicap Parking Space – 1518 Center Street.

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Goodman

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

4. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No 2916 – Establishing Handicap Parking Space – 1468 Elizabeth Blvd.

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Goodman

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

5. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2013.

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Goodman

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

6. Approving August Checks issued:

Regular Disbursements 08/01 – 08/31/13	\$	935,930.88
Payroll Disbursements		223,172.78
Voided Checks		-0-
Total Disbursement	\$	1,159,103.66

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Goodman

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre,

No: Ms. Trice

Motion carried 4:1

- 7. Approving Resolution No. 13-078 – Street Closure Biddle and Trenton Avenues to Biddle Avenue and Union Street for - Pet Parade - October 19, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. contingent upon submission of Certificate of Liability Insurance.**

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Goodman

Ms. Moore commented that the length of time for the closure is long for a parade. Ms. Marcinko suggested that most of this time may be spent with a gathering of residents. Ms. Trice questioned whether the certificate of insurance had been received. Ms. Marcinko will follow up.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion – Increasing Occupancy Permit Fees.**

Ms. Marcinko provided background information and suggested Council may not want to make a decision at this time. The occupancy permit ordinance previously in effect had been inadvertently repealed in 2004 with the adoption of the Uniform Construction Code. Council adopted a new occupancy permit ordinance. Mr. Gramz, Code Enforcement Director, is recommending an increase to those fees to cover the costs of the inspection. The current and proposed fee structures have been provided in the agenda packets. It was suggested that this discussion be deferred until it can be considered by full Council.

Ms. Moore questioned the dates for the budget work sessions. Ms. Marcinko stated that they will be held on September 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. (General Fund revenue), October 2, 2013 to discuss General Fund expenditures and November 6, 2013 to discuss all other funds.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion – Monthly Parking Permit Fees – Municipal parking lots.**

Ms. Marcinko suggested that this discussion be deferred to the budget work session next week.

Ms. Moore expressed her delight with the KaBOOM Project moving forward and questioned whether the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is involved. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson stated that the Board has been involved since the outset and the Design Day will take place on September 17. She will keep Council apprised. Ms. Marcinko commented that the Design Day

will begin with a tour of the site and will be followed by a children's design session and an adult's design session. The site is to be cleared by October 19, 2013 and the build day will take place on November 2, 2013. Ms. Moore thanked Ms. McCarthy-Johnson for her diligence and work on this project. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson stated that PUCS is contributing the local share of \$8,500 for the KaBOOM Project and has agreed to a \$5,000 local share for the DCNR Project if that moves forward.

Ms. Moore thanked Ms. Marcinko for attending to the issue of equipment left on the property on Center St. Ms. Moore thanked Kate Luxemburg for providing feedback on street signs. Ms. Moore reported that a large blue sign is covered by tree limbs at Graham Boulevard, Penn Avenue and Greensburg Pike. Ms. Marcinko informed Council that a stop sign has been posted at Park Triangle. Ms. Moore thanked Ms. Marcinko and Council for their strength in moving the community forward.

Ms. Moore stated that tree request forms are available on line should anyone wish to request a tree be planted on their property under the TreeVitalize project. The contact person is Alicia Donner, Green Links coordinator of NMRWA. Application deadline is September 20, 2013.

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Goodman, second by Ms. Trice the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Lefebvre, Chairperson Pro Tem