

BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING

Legislative Session

December 21, 2005

CALL TO ORDER:

President Macklin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkesburg, PA.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Ms. Roberts, Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Edwards, Ms. McCoy, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin. Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Baker were excused. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

REPORT OF BOROUGH OFFICIALS:

Councilwoman Eugenia Moore – Reported on the following items:

- The branch library will be closed on December 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, January 1 and 2.
- The main library will be closed on December 23 at noon, 24, 25, 26, and will reopen Tuesday at 9:00 AM.

Councilwoman Patricia Baker – Absent

Councilwoman Denise Edwards – Reported on the following items:

- On behalf of the Public Property Committee, she thanked Councilwoman Moore, Councilwoman McCoy, and the other members of Council who have attended the meetings.

Councilwoman Johnette Wilson – No report at this time

Councilman Carl Lewis – Reported on the following items:

- The Finance Committee met on December 8. The only item on the agenda was the December Bill List, which is on the agenda tonight for adoption along with the proposed 2006 Municipal Budget and Municipal Tax Levy.

Councilwoman Sandra Roberts – No report at this time

Councilwoman Beverly McCoy – Reported on the following items:

- There will not be a meeting for the Parks and Recreation Committee the first week in January.

Councilman John Thompson – Absent

President Macklin – No report at this time

Mayor Wilbert Young – Reported on the following items:

- The Police Department is ending a very successful year. Crime has declined. Chief Krempasky is prepared to give a full report to the new Council.
- Economic development has also been a success this past year. The Save-A-Lot project went out to bid. Local contractors have submitted bids and hopefully they will be able to participate in this project. Penn Lincoln will be going out to bid the first of the year.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Borough Manager; Wes Johnson – No report at this time

Solicitor Patricia McGrail – Reported on the following items:

- The Municipal Authority has approved the extension of the agreement with Save-A-Lot. That project is in the final design stages and will be closing in the first quarter on 2006.

ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING:

2751

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Council of the Borough of Wilkesburg, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that the attached 2006 Municipal Budget is here by adopted.

Motioned by: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. McCoy

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

2752

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Council of the Borough of Wilkesburg, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

Section 1. That a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real property within the said Borough subject to taxation for Borough purposes for the fiscal year 2006 as follows:

Tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 12.40 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation

Tax rate for debt service purposes, the sum .89 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation

Tax rate for library purposes, the sum of .71 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation

Section 2. That any Ordinance or part of any Ordinance conflicting with this Ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.

Motioned by: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. McCoy

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

RESOLUTIONS:

11989

The Wilkesburg Borough Council hereby approves the minutes of Borough Council for 8/22, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7.

Motioned by: Ms. McCoy

Seconded by: Mr. Lewis

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

11990

The Wilkesburg Borough Council hereby approves the December Bill list in the amount as follows:

Pre-Paid Distributions	10/01/05 to 10/31/05	\$286,572.00
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Regular Distributions	10/14/05 to 11/10/05	\$ 94,000.39
Payroll Disbursements	10/01/05 to 10/31/05	\$223,196.48
Voided Checks	10/01/05 to 10/31/05	<u>\$(350.00)</u>
Total		\$603,418.87

Motioned by: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. Roberts

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

11991

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby authorizes the proper Borough Officials to execute the necessary documents to accept the proposal of First National Bank to provide the Borough's Tax and Revenue Anticipation Loan for 2006 in the amount of \$1,200,000 at an annual interest rate of 3.57%. Said loan has a maturity date of December 31, 2006.

Motioned by: Ms. Roberts

Seconded by: Mrs. Edwards

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

11992

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints Wilbert Young to the Wilkinsburg Borough Redevelopment Authority with term expiring on December 31, 2008.

Motioned by: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Mrs. Edwards

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

VOTED NO: Ms. Roberts

11993

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints George Edwards to the Wilkinsburg Borough Redevelopment Authority with term expiring on December 31, 2008.

Motioned by: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. McCoy

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Edwards

11994

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints Pamela Macklin to the Wilkinsburg Planning Commission with term expiring on December 31, 2009.

Motioned by: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Mrs. Edwards

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

VOTED NO: Ms. Roberts

11995

The Wilkinsburg Council hereby approves the conveyance of parcel 175-P-288 and parcel 175-P-299 to the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority in the anticipation of the Development of Peebles Square conditioned upon the transaction of Peebles Square closing within 2 years or on or before December 31, 2007.

Motioned by: Ms. McCoy

Seconded by: Mr. Lewis

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Edwards

11996

Whereas: In 1998, Wilkinsburg voters elected Wilbert A. Young to the office of Mayor. They returned him to office in 2002. Mayor Young served a total of 8 years.

Whereas: As a result of Mayor Young's extensive experience in economic development, he obtained \$300,000 to complete the construction of the National Church senior housing complex. This is the first in a series of initiatives led by Mayor Young to rebuild Wilkinsburg, reversing decades of disinvestment in the community;

Whereas: Under the direct command of Mayor Young, the Wilkinsburg Police Department changed from the 'army of occupation' to a professional law enforcement agency, sensitive to Wilkinsburg. It is noted that in this process, Mayor Young negotiated several contracts with the police officers' union where Wilkinsburg has saved over \$200,000. Professional service is efficient service;

Whereas: Mayor Young, dedicated to youth and education, established the Rally for Reading;

Whereas: Mayor Young established Wilkinsburg as a Weed and Seed community producing an investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars into law enforcement and redevelopment in Wilkinsburg without a tax increase;

Whereas: With Council President Macklin, Mayor Young convinced Governor Ed Rendell to establish the Wilkinsburg Task Force, an ongoing collaboration between Wilkinsburg, Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania resulting in over 14 commercial and housing projects currently underway;

Whereas: The Wilkinsburg Baseball Association, the largest youth recreation program in town, named Mayor Young, Commissioner of Baseball;

Whereas: On behalf of Wilkinsburg, Mayor Young has traveled to Harrisburg and Washington at his own expense to leverage investment in the Borough. We take pride that Mayor Young represented us to the President of the United States;

Whereas: The quality of life in Wilkinsburg dramatically improved under Mayor Young's leadership. We note that every resident benefited, including finding housing for the homeless, food for the hungry and compassion for the injured. We further recognize that doing the right thing is not always popular. We honor Mayor Young for his steadfast courage, his vision, his tenacity, his dignity and his creativity.

Therefore Be It Resolved: On behalf of the people of Wilkinsburg, Wilkinsburg Borough Council declares Mayor Wilbert A. Young an esteemed and honored resident. We present this plaque as a small token of our appreciation and respect;

Be It Further Resolved: That Wilbert A. Young will always be welcomed in the chambers of Borough Council, seriously considering his counsel, advice, wit and wisdom.

Motioned by: Mrs. Edwards

Seconded by: Ms. McCoy

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

11997

Whereas: In 1998, following the successful efforts of residents to rescue their schools from privatization Wilkinsburg Second Ward residents elected Pamela Macklin, one of the leaders of that struggle, to represent them on Borough Council;

Whereas: Wilkinsburg Borough Council elected Councilwoman Macklin vice president in 1998. President Ware appointed her chairwoman of the Finance Committee that same year.

Whereas: Bringing her professional skill and common sense to Wilkinsburg's chronic financial crisis, Wilkinsburg emerged from bankruptcy, Distressed status, in 1998, Councilwoman Macklin engineered balanced budgets for the next 8 years;

Whereas: Councilwoman Macklin guided the floating of a 4 million dollar bond. That capital investment in Wilkinsburg represented the first improvements in parks, equipment and streets in decades. It is remarkable and attests to Councilwoman Macklin's leadership ability, that the successful issuance of bonds took place only 1 year after Wilkinsburg emerged from bankruptcy;

Whereas: In 2002, Wilkinsburg Council elected Councilwoman Macklin president;

Whereas: President Macklin and Mayor Wilbert Young met with Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell resulting in the establishment of the Wilkinsburg Task Force. In just two years, under the leadership of President Macklin and Mayor Young, over 14 commercial and housing projects are underway. This represents the first new public and private investment, dollars, in Wilkinsburg in 20 years. This is performance, effective leadership

Therefore Be It Resolved: On behalf of the residents of Wilkinsburg, Second Ward residents in the first place, Wilkinsburg Borough Council and Mayor Wilbert Young offer deep appreciation to President Macklin for exemplary government and community leadership. We especially want to recognize President Macklin's courage, foresight and sensitivity which changed the lives of Wilkinsburg residents and employees. We present this plaque to President Macklin as a small token of our thanks

Therefore Be It Further Resolved: That Wilkinsburg Borough Council declares Councilman Pamela Macklin an honored and esteemed resident and opens our doors to her for future advice and guidance.

Motioned by: Ms. McCoy

Seconded by: Mr. Lewis

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

11998

Whereas: Wilkinsburg Third Ward residents elected Carl Lewis to represent them on Borough Council in 2002;

Whereas: Councilman Lewis made history becoming the youngest African-American elected official in Allegheny County;

Whereas: During his service on the Wilkinsburg Pension Board, Councilman Lewis provided leadership which not only protected pension funds, the hard earned future security for Borough employees, but expanded the funds by 3 million dollars. This is especially significant during an era of pension underfunding and bankruptcy;

Whereas: Councilman Lewis spearheaded the creation "Junior Council Members" position which provides residents and elected officials with the outlook and insights of Wilkinsburg's youth;

Whereas: Based on his contributions, Borough Council elected Councilman Lewis vice president in 2005;

Whereas: Council President Pamela Macklin appointed Councilman Lewis Chairman of the Finance Committee in 2005;

Whereas: Councilman Lewis led the successful 2005 Budget process which balanced the budget with no tax increase;

Whereas: With attention to the democratic and efficient delivery of services to all residents of the Third Ward and tenacity to see the jobs through, Councilman Lewis faithfully executed his duties and improved the quality of life for all Wilkinsburg residents.

Therefore Be It Resolved: On behalf of the residents of Wilkinsburg, starting with the Third Ward, Wilkinsburg Borough Council and Mayor Wilbert Young offer sincere appreciation to Councilman Lewis for outstanding and effective community service which made a difference in the lives of Wilkinsburg residents and employees. We ask Councilman Lewis to accept this plaque as a token of our thanks.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved: That Wilkinsburg Borough Council declares Councilman Carl Lewis an honored and esteemed resident and opens our doors to him for future advice and guidance.

Motioned by: Mrs. Baker

Seconded by: Mrs. Edwards

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

11999

Whereas: In 1998, Wilkinsburg First Ward voters elected Johnette Wilson to represent them on Borough Council, a position she held for two terms;

Whereas: In service to Wilkinsburg residents, Councilwoman Wilson focused on rebuilding the Code Department offering valuable insights toward the 2001 Zoning Ordinance;

Whereas: Councilwoman Wilson's educated ability to read and analyze building plans protected the residents and their tax dollars during the reconstruction of Holmes, Park Place and Hunter parks and playgrounds;

Whereas: On her own time and expense, Councilwoman Wilson improved the appearance of the people's building, the Municipal Building;

Whereas: Responding to First Ward residents, Councilwoman Wilson faithfully and consistently performed her duties on Borough Council instilling the best of democratic, representative local government.

Therefore Be It Resolved: On behalf of the residents of Wilkinsburg, starting with the First Ward, Wilkinsburg Borough Council and Mayor Wilbert Young offer sincere appreciation to Councilwoman Wilson for outstanding and effective community service which has improved the lives of Wilkinsburg residents. We hope Councilwoman Wilson will accept this plaque as a token of our thanks.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved: That Wilkinsburg Borough Council declares Councilwoman Johnette Wilson an honored and esteemed resident and opens our doors to her for future advice and guidance.

Motioned by: Ms. Roberts

Seconded by: Mr. Lewis

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

12000

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby authorizes that the area currently occupied on the first floor as the mayor's office, and the area directly adjacent to the mayor's office, be installed with file cabinets and work stations for Borough Council and that the area be designated as a Council Workshop and that the office of the Mayor be returned to its original location on the first floor of the Borough Building in Room 105.

Motioned by: Mrs. Edwards

Seconded by: Ms. Baker

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

VOTED NO: Mrs. Roberts

12001

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby authorizes that the Nextel phone and plan currently used by Mayor Young be returned to the appropriate Borough official at the end of the current billing cycle on December 31, or returned to the Nextel company in elimination of that plan.

Motioned by: Mr. Lewis

Seconded by: Ms. Baker

VOTED YES: Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Moore, Ms. McCoy, Mr. Lewis and President Macklin.

VOTED NO: Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Roberts

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mr. Lewis – There has been, and remains, an ongoing misunderstanding between the Borough and Hosanna House as far as its contract under Weed and Seed
- Mrs. Moore – The Pittsburgh Symphony will be in Wilkinsburg January 14, 2006 at Wilkinsburg High School at 7:00Pm. Tickets are as follows: Adult - \$7 and Children - \$3.

NEW BUSINESS:

CITIZENS HEARINGS:

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the assembly moved into the Executive Session at approximately 8:15 PM.

Moved: Mrs. Edwards

Seconded by: Mr. Lewis