

**BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Planning Session**  
**April 5, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Edwards called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM in the library, second floor of Turner Elementary School, 1833 Laketon Road, Wilkinsburg, PA.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Cohn, Mrs. Evans, Ms. Ervin, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Moore, President Edwards, Jr. Councilperson Wideman and Mayor Thompson. Mrs. Baker arrived at 7:25 PM. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**PRESENTATION:**

**Wayne Jones – Tax Collection Issues**

- There will not be a tax collector in the Borough Building
- Berkheimer will be collecting the 2006 taxes
- If you did not receive the Act 77 discount and feel you are eligible, contact the Finance Office
- Two payments will be allowed
- Vice President Moore is the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and can help with any questions you may have

**LeRoy Hicks – Weed & Seed**

- Weed & Seed is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year in Wilkinsburg
- Loretta Rose is the Borough's Neighborhood Specialist
- The Weed part of the program focuses on crime while the Seed part of the program focuses on revitalization
- In conjunction with the Anti-Litter Campaign, the DPW has purchased trash cans
- There will also be development of our Parks and Playgrounds through the Parks & Recreation Committee, chaired by Ms. McCoy-Williams
- Soccer will also be coming into the community, children ages 5-14 will be able to participate

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Ms. Dexheimer: There needs to be an emergency demolition at 1204 Franklin Avenue where the recent murder occurred.
- Ms. Banks: Wanted to extend her thanks to the Weed & Seed Tall Team Committee for attending the Tall Team Leadership training on 2-11-06. Also praised the speech given by Lt. Ruggiero.

- Ms. Rhoads: Would like to see two extra garbage cans on Swissvale Avenue. Is also concerned with people driving their ATV's through the Parks.
- Mr. Spencer, 1342 Traymore Avenue: Is working with Mr. Hicks and Ms. Rose to establish MADDADS. This group will patrol the neighborhood and also be available for young people who need someone to talk with. Anyone who is interested can sign-up with Mr. Hicks. May 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> will mark the launch of MADDADS in Wilkinsburg.
- Ms, Thornton, 1600 block of Montier: There are 11 empty houses on her block. The trash is getting out of hand. Also, the trash cans near the playground on Park Place are always being knocked over and a lot of vandalism occurs in this area. Would like to see the school district sponsor a program where the children can volunteer to help clean-up the community.
- Ms. Joy Webb: Spoke on behalf of Wayne McKenith. Ms. Webb does not feel that his demotion within the Police Department is justified.
- Mr. Garrett: Voiced his concerns over the trash problem at 1417 Laketon Road.
- Mr. Lewis, 730 Hill Avenue: Mr. Lewis sits on the Wilkinsburg Penn Joint Water Authority. There are only 2 Wilkinsburg residents out of the 88 members. They meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

### **REPORT OF BOROUGH OFFICIALS:**

**Councilwoman Eugenia Moore** – Reported on the following items:

- The Finance Committee will meet on 4-16-06 at 6:00 PM
- The Angelfood Ministries is offering a new special this month. If you are interested, they are located at 710 Mulberry.

**Councilwoman Patricia Baker** – Reported on the following items:

- There are still openings on the various Boards and Commissions. Anyone who is interested is urged to fill out an application.

**Councilwoman Barbara Nicholas** – No report at this time

**Councilwoman Barbara Ervin** – Reported on the following items:

- The Public Property Committee met on 4-3-06
- One of the main topics at this meeting was street paving. The streets have not been paved since 2003.
- \$100,000 to \$150,000 will need to be allocated for street improvements
- The next Public Property Committee Meeting will take place on 5-1-06 at 6:00 PM

**Councilman Jason Cohn** – Reported on the following items:

- The Litter Task Force will meet on 4-22-06 as part of the Great PA Clean-Up

- There is a listing of where dumpsters will be placed throughout the Borough on this day
- If you need bags or gloves, DPW will provide them to you for free
- On 4-8-06 about 15 volunteers will be needed to identify levels of trash

**Councilwoman Sandra Roberts** – No report at this time

**Councilwoman Beverly McCoy** – Reported on the following items:

- The Parks & Recreation Committee will meet on 4-11-06 at 7:00 PM
- Would like to extend her thanks to the people who help to clean-up the parks, and also encourage people to volunteer for Clean-Up Day

**Councilwoman Tracey Evans** – Reported on the following items:

- The Municipal Authority and the Commercial & Industrial Development Authority will meet on 4-20-06 at 6:00 PM
- There will be a Landlord Association Meeting on 4-20-06 at 7:00 PM

**President Edwards** – No report at this time

**Mayor Thompson** – Reported on the following items:

- The Police Department is working hard to develop a relationship with the community. The Park, Walk, and Talk program is evidence of this.
- They are trying to take a proactive rather than a reactive approach
- Are looking to enforce curfew this summer at 11:30 PM on weekends
- MADDADS is the 1<sup>st</sup> and only chapter in PA
- Looking to hire part-time officers in the near future

**Justin Wideman** – Reported on the following items:

- Wanted to thank Ms. Darlene Hogue for her help with a lost dog

**REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Borough Manager; Wes Johnson** – No report at this time

**Solicitor Patricia McGrail** – No report at this time

**DISCUSSION ITEM:**

**CDBG Approvals:**

- Dumplin Hall Elderly High Rise Modernization
- Roof restoration at the 3 Rivers Center for Independent Living Foundation
- Stormwater Management through the Turtle Creek Valley COG
- Upper Princeton Boulevard Reconstruction through the Turtle Creek Valley COG

**Status of the Governor's Grant for Building Renovations:**

- The first project to be undertaken will be fixing the roof of the Borough Building
- The Handicap Improvements will begin soon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor restroom

**ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING:** None

**ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING:** None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**06-062**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby extends a conditional offer of employment to Brian Hunt as a Permanent Full-Time Firefighter in the Wilkinsburg Fire Department pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical and psychological examination.

**Moved:** Mrs. Baker

**Seconded:** Ms. McCoy-Williams

**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

**06-063**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby extends a conditional offer of employment to Jeremy Manke as a Permanent Full-Time Firefighter in the Wilkinsburg Fire Department pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical and psychological examination.

**Moved:** Ms. McCoy-Williams

**Seconded:** Mrs. Baker

**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

**06-064**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby extends a conditional offer of employment to Jason Heider as a Permanent Full-Time Firefighter in the Wilkinsburg Fire Department pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical and psychological examination.

**Moved:** Mrs. Baker

**Seconded:** Mrs. Ervin

**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

**06-068**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby declares the demolition of 215 Ross Avenue to be an emergency.

**Moved:** Ms. McCoy-Williams

**Seconded:** Mrs. Roberts

**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

CONSENT AGENDA

**06-069**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints Brenda Joyce-May to the Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water Authority with a term expiring on February 1, 2010.

**06-070**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints AB Carl to the Wilkinsburg Commercial and Industrial Authority with a term expiring on February 1, 2010.

**06-071**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints AB Carl to the Wilkinsburg Library Board with a term expiring on February 1, 2007.

**06-072**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints Robyn Crawley to the Wilkinsburg Library Board with a term expiring on February 1, 2008.

**06-073**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby reappoints Frederick Hildebrand, Jr. to the Wilkinsburg Library Board with a term expiring on February 1, 2010.

**06-074**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints Joan King to the Shade Tree Committee with a term expiring on February 1, 2009.

**06-075**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby appoints Melody Farrin to the Shade Tree Committee with a term expiring on February 1, 2009.

**Moved:** Ms. Nicholas

**Seconded:** Mr. Cohn

**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

**06-076**

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby establishes the Seniority List for Drivers/Operators in the Fire Department in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement as follows:

William Funk	01-01-91
Michael O'Connell	07-02-92
Mark Koutavas	03-31-94
Mark Sauter	07-06-97
John Farkasovsky	01-22-00
Charles Szymarek	01-28-02
Jeffrey Ballock	12-30-03
Timothy Staranko	12-07-05

Michael Nusida 04-05-06

**Moved:** Mrs. Baker **Seconded:** Mrs. Roberts  
**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

**06-077**

The Wilkesburg Borough Council hereby authorizes the South Hills Area Council of Governments to award the Significant Deficiency Correction Project contract to A. Merante Contracting, Inc. for \$414,750.00.

**Moved:** Ms. Nicholas **Seconded:** Mrs. Moore  
**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

**06-078**

The Wilkesburg Borough Council hereby reappoints Lucille Prater-Holliday to the Wilkesburg Civil Service Commission with a term expiring February 1, 2010.

**Moved:** Mrs. Baker **Seconded:** Ms. McCoy-Williams  
**Yes:** Mr. Cohn, Ms. Nicholas, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. McCoy-Williams, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Moore and President Edwards

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the assembly moved into the Executive Session at approximately 9:30 PM.

**Moved:** Mr. Cohn **Seconded by:** Ms. McCoy-Williams