

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ADDITIONAL STATED MEETING, MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2007

The Additional Stated Meeting of Monday, October 29, 2007 was brought to order at 7:00 PM by President Silvia Martinelli . A quorum was present as follows:

Mrs. Martinelli, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Padula

Ms. Fialla was absent.

Following the pledge of allegiance, Joseph D. Costa was given the Oath of Office by Magisterial District Judge Susan Evashavik and assumed his seat on the Board of Commissioners.

(7-213) MOVED PADULA-WILSON to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 8, 2007. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Question on the motion: Mr. Wilson questioned whether the minutes accurately reflected Ms. Fialla's statement "Does that mean you are not going to steal my signs this time?" under Mr. Wilson's comments. Mrs. Bradley stated that the minutes accurately reflected Ms. Fialla's comments. Mrs. Martinelli stated that she had been informed that although Ms. Fialla made the motion to approve the schedule of bills, amounting to over \$300,000. at the October 8th meeting. Ms. Fialla did not review and sign off on the bills from the October 8th meeting until October 20th.

Communications:

1. John & Carol Yocca of 4065 Greensburg Pike submitted a petition signed by sixty residents of Greensburg Pike reading as follows: "Dear Neighboring Residents: Some thirty (30) odd years ago, the property at 4065 Greensburg Pike was unknowingly rezoned from it's original state which was commercial land to R2 or residential ownership. We would like to see something done with the property, other than a car related business that would be more appropriate to the neighborhood. The possibilities are unlimited if the township's approval of it's being reinstated as commercial land is favorable. Thoughts of a woodcrafter/ice cream & coffee/craft shop have been some of the ideas that have come to mind. If you are in agreement with a change that would have to convert R2 back to commercial, we are asking if you would sign this petition. We will then present this letter along with our request to the board of commissioners on October 29, 2007 at the Wilkins Township Borough Building. Thank you for your time and support. Sincerely, John A. Yocca and Carol Yocca."

(7-214) MOVED PADULA-WILSON to accept the recommendation of the manager to refer this issue to the Wilkins Township Planning Commission. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

2. Fernando E. Armstrong, Regional Director of the United States Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau announcing the availability of permanent part-time jobs payng \$11.01 to \$15.29 per hour, and requesting the Township's assistance in announcing these jobs to the public.
3. The Honorable Paul Costa, State Representative, 34th Legislative District requesting the Board's consideration in painting crosswalks on Brown Avenue at the intersection with Roland Road (Leax Lane) and posting of School Crossing signs at this same intersection.

Action

- (7-215) MOVED WILSON-PADULA to authorize the Department of Public Works to paint crosswalks and install School Crossing signs at the intersection of Brown Avenue and Roland (Leax Lane) Road. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Citizens' Comments:

Dr. Michael Szoko of 4 Greyhurst addressed the Board on three concerns: Home inspections performed by the Township, the response time of WHEMS and the need for a consolidated public safety building; and making government more transparent to the public.

Agenda Items:

- (7-216) MOVED WILSON-COSTA to accept the recommendation of the Manager to award excess interest earned in the PMRS Plan as follows: Wilkins Township: \$5,538: Active Employees: \$8,595. and Retirees: \$33,792.

Sex Offender's Residency Requirements Ordinance: Solicitor Matta advised the Board that since the County of Allegheny has now adopted the sex offender's residency requirements ordinance, it is no longer necessary for the Board of Commissioners to adopt such an ordinance. Mr. Matta will provide the Township and Chief Guthrie with a copy of the County's ordinance.

Opticom System: Chief Guthrie stated that there is more than one supplier of the transmitter necessary for the opticom system. Prices range from \$900 per year vehicle to \$550-600 per vehicle. He needs a list of the types of vehicles and light bars. Commissioner Padula stated that if the Chief could just provide the supplier information to the Fire Departments, they can take care of the purchase on their own. Mrs. Bradley stated that funds for the purchase and installation of one transmitter will be provided to each VFC and the Police Department. She recommends that these funds be drawn from the Emergency Management Fund. When Penn Dot completes the repaving of Route 22 next year and installs the Opticom system, then the Board can take additional action to purchase and install transmitters in each police car. No vote was taken, pending Chief Guthrie's provision of additional information on the suppliers to the Fire Chiefs and the costs associated with the Police Department to the Manager.

- (7-217) MOVED PADULA-WILSON to authorize the Manager to advise the Turtle Creek Council of Governments that the Township will accept an additional \$10,312 in CDBG Funds from another community in Year 34 for the purpose of demolishing 838 and 840 Larimer Avenue and will forgo funds in Year 35. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Forest Hills Meeting: Mrs. Bradley announced that the Finance Committee of the Borough of Forest Hills will be hosting a meeting on November 1, 2007 at 8:30 PM in Borough Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing ways that communities can combat abandoned and blighted residential dwellings. All interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

- (7-218) MOVED WILSON-COSTA to approve the request of the Allegheny County Police Training Academy to use the Township Building for training on the following dates in 2008: January 7-8, 14-15, 28-29; February 4-5, 11-12, 25-26; March 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 and April 7-8, 14-15. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

- (7-219) MOVED PADULA-WILSON to authorize Chief Guthrie to contact alternative kennel operators for the purpose of determining costs for a multi-year contract for the removal and disposition of stray animals in the Township. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call of all present.
- (7-220) MOVED WILSON-COSTA to authorize the appropriate officials to execute a contract between Wilkins Township and Allegheny County for the removal of snow and ice, contingent upon the review and approval of the Solicitor. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.
- (7-221) MOVED COSTA-WILSON to accept the recommendation of the Wilkins Township Planning Commission to approve the land development submitted by Michael McWilliams for Wilkins GP Lot #3, contingent upon the following: the illumination level for exterior lighting is to be reduced to comply with the Township code; crosswalks and signage for pedestrian traffic are required and will be shown on the plan; the occupants of the facility are prohibited from utilizing a public address system. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.
- (7-222) MOVED PADULA-WILSON to authorize the manager to advertise the following budget meetings : November 12th, November 19th, December 10th, and December 17th – all beginning at 6:00 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Commissioners' Comments:

Mr. Wilson congratulated Mrs. Bradley on her speech that was given at the Third Annual Turtle Creek Watershed Association meeting on Thursday, October 25th, and congratulated Mr. Costa on his appointment to the Board of Commissioners. Also commented on the letter that Commissioner Fialla sent out. He stated that the only true statement in the flyer is "Enough is Enough." He further stated that the Board of Commissioners has about 5 constant critics and 4 of the 5, do not know what they're talking about. This group continues to hold meetings outside of Wilkins Township and continues to make statements that are not true. Finally, Mr. Wilson thanked Ms. Evashavik for performing the swearing in ceremony for Mr. Costa this evening and reminded the residents that the Elks Club will sponsor a Salute to Veterans at 1:00 PM on November 10th and all are welcome to attend.

Mr. Costa thanked the Board for his appointment and stated that he will try to do the best job that he can. Although it may get rough, he believes that the Board is off to a good start.

Mr. Padula welcomed everyone in attendance this evening and congratulated Mr. Costa on his recent appointment to the Board; thanked Chief Guthrie for looking into the potential to put a stop sign at the intersection of Churchill Road and Larimer, thanked the Recreation Advisory Board for holding the pumpkin patch party, which was extremely well-attended and successful; reminded the residents that Volunteer Fire Company #4 will be holding the annual Halloween Parade beginning at 5PM on Wednesday October 31st; stated that November 4th starts the National Home Fire Safety Campaign and reminded residents that when they change their clocks, they should change the battery in their smoke detectors. Wilkins VFC #3 received a grant of 9 volt batteries that any residents of that district can receive at the fire hall, or after the meeting tonight. For those residents who cannot install these batteries themselves, they can call one of the Fire Departments and a volunteer will come out and install the batteries; also reminded residents to be careful in the mornings because it is dark and children are walking to bus stops; reminded residents that if they have a street light that is out in their neighborhood, they can call the Duquesne Light Hotline at 888-393-7000 and Duquesne

Light will come out and fix the light. Finally, Mr. Padula commented on the fact that Commissioner Fialla, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, authorized the payment of \$313,380.67 in bills at the October 8th meeting without even having reviewed these bills until October 20th; stated that the tax abatement that the Board of Commissioners approved was not for wealthy developers, but for homeowners and all residents who make improvements to their properties; commented upon the fact that Dr. Szoko, who is running against Mr. Padula, has a business in Wilkins Township, but it is named “Churchill Vision Center.” Asked where Dr. Szoko gets the information that he has been scaring Township residents with (financial collapse; crumbling roads and sewers) – out on the street? Finally stated that it is good that Dr., Szoko, if elected, plans to donate his Commissioners’ pay to the Fire Department, but it would be better if Szoko joined a fire department, as they need people more than they need money.

Chairperson Martinelli offered her condolences to Mrs. Brittani (Fialla) on the loss of her mother-in-law. Stated that the township is financially sound, twenty-five new businesses have located in Wilkins Township during her tenure, Penn Center is at 95% occupancy – including 5 schools of higher education; as Commissioner Padula pointed out, the tax abatement which was approved by the Board of Commissioners was for homeowners, not developers; stated that over the past four years, the Township has spent \$2.5 million in infrastructure (paving) improvements; the Township is right on track with the EPA consent order for sanitary sewers and the Township is committed to continuing to work with the Turtle Creek Watershed Association and surrounding municipalities to solve the stormwater management issues that it currently faces.

(7-223) MOVED PADULA-WILSON to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley
Secretary

