

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009

The Regular Meeting of Monday, April 13, 2009 was brought to order at 7:00 PM by President William G. Wilson. A quorum was present as follows:

Mr. Wilson	Mr. Padula
Mr. Costa	Mr. Szoko

A moment of silence was observed following the Pledge of Allegiance in honor and memory of the three City of Pittsburgh Police Officers killed in the line of fire last week when responding to a domestic call in Stanton Heights.

(9-111) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 30, 2009, as presented. The motion was passed by unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Ms. Fialla arrived at 7:10 PM.

Communications:

Mr. Gary Nese, President of Bellagio Real Estate, L.P., One Monroeville Center, Suite 1050, Monroeville, PA 15146 submitted correspondence to the Board of Commissioners requesting consideration of a waiver of the provisions of Section 148-29 of the Codified Book of Ordinances, as it relates to the payment of \$500.00 per lot in a development. Bellagio's development includes twenty (20) planned dwelling units. To date, eleven (11) of the units have been sold and payment in the amount of \$5,500.00 was received by the Township. Mr. Nese is requesting that the Board permit the payment of \$500.00 at the time of sale of each additional lot, instead of requiring payment of the remaining \$4,500.00 at this time.

(9-112) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to grant the request of Mr. Nese to permit payment of \$500.00 at the time of sale of each of the remaining eleven (11) lots at Vinesian Place, due to the current economic conditions. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

(9-113) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the manager to place \$5,500.00, representing the payment made by Bellagio, into an interest bearing account for the express purpose of utilizing those funds for exterior renovations for the Community Center, in accordance with Section 148-29 of the Codified Book of Ordinances. The motion was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote with Ms. Fialla and Mr. Szoko voting "NO".

Ms. Michelle M. Lucas of 331 Frazier Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15235, submitted correspondence requesting consideration for appointment to the Code Appeals Board in the position of alternate. Mrs. Bradley advised the Board that due to the passing of Mr. Harmon, there was an existing vacancy on the Code Appeals Board and that Mr. James Dick, who currently serves as the alternate on the Code Appeals Board, is interested in appointment as a regular member of the Board.

(9-114) MOVED FIALLA-COSTA to appoint Mr. James Dick of 815 Elizabeth Street to the Board of Code Appeals to fulfill the unexpired term of Mr. Patrick Harmon through December 31, 2011 and appointing Ms. Michelle Lucas of 331 Frazier Drive to fulfill the unexpired term of Mr. Dick as an alternate. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Paul J. Palko, Post Quartermaster of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, John Dayton Rodgers Post #6681 of 429 Cline Street, East Pittsburgh PA 15112 submitted correspondence requesting the donation of \$300.00 by the Township to support the operation of the Post.

- (9-115) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to authorize the donation of \$300.00 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, John Dayton Rodgers Post #6681 to support the operation of the Post. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Citizens' Comments:

Ms. Patty Stewart of 118 Gardenia Drive stated that she was upset about information that has been circulated through the Township insinuating that the Township spent \$300,000. in taxpayers money to renovate the Community Center. This is not true. The Township received \$150,000. in grant funds to pay for the renovations and the Township's Public Works Department employees have performed all of the labor.

Mr. William Stewart of 118 Gardenia Drive expressed his support for the Community Center.

Mr. Michael DeSilva, a resident of Penhurst and Mr. Tyler Morrow, a resident of Eastmont, both seniors at the Woodland Hills School District stated that they have been working on a project to paint paw prints on public roadways throughout the district. The paw prints represent the Woodland Hills School District mascot the Wolverine. Mr. DeSilva and Mr. Morrow presented two different sketches of the paw prints and requested input from the Board of Commissioners.

- (9-116) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the Woodland Hills School District to paint paw prints on Municipally owned roadways, including the Township Parks and recommending that the claws/talons on the samples that were presented be removed from the stencils. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Rhonda Lazarus of 221 Farnsworth Drive questioned the Solicitor relative to comments made at the meeting of March 30, 2009 as they pertained to the Guthrie settlement; answered questions posed by Commissioner Costa relative to campaign signs which he believes insinuate that the sitting Board of Commissioners is corrupt and dishonest; and requested information as to how to obtain a tape recording of the meeting of March 30, 2009.

- (9-117) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to rescind the vote to make Mr. Krancic permanent Chief of Police until Mr. Guthrie's lawsuit is removed from the supervision of the Courts and that Mr. Krancic is returned to the position of Interim Chief of Police. No vote taken on this motion at this time.

- (9-118) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to table the motion to rescind the vote to make Mr. Krancic permanent Chief of Police until Mr. Guthrie's lawsuit is removed from the supervision of the Courts and that Mr. Krancic is returned to the position of Interim Chief of Police, pending an Executive Session to discuss these matters. The motion failed by a 3 to 2 vote with Messrs. Costa and Padula abstaining and Mr. Wilson voting "NO".

- (9-119) MOVED FIALLA-SZOKO to rescind the vote to make Mr. Krancic permanent Chief of Police until Mr. Guthrie's lawsuit is removed from the supervision of the Courts and that Mr. Krancic is returned to the position of Interim Chief of Police. The motion failed by a 3 to 2 vote with Messrs. Costa, Padula and Wilson voting "NO".

Ms. Sylvia Martinelli of 210 George Street reminded the Board of Commissioners that the Spring Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 beginning with a breakfast provided by the Senior Citizens at the Municipal Building at 9:00 AM and ending with a pizza lunch sponsored by the Century Club at 12:00; questioned Commissioner Szoko relative to the situation with ProCare and was questioned by Commissioner Szoko relative to the 2008 General Fund Budget.

Reports:

Police Report for March 2009:

	2008	2009
Total Police Calls Logged	281	288
Total Criminal Offenses reported	27	26
Criminal Arrests/Persons Charged	16	16
Criminal Offenses Cleared	15	16
Traffic Citations Issued	57	54
Parking Tags Issued	12	18
Parking Citations Issued	0	14
Monies received during month	\$5,208.19	\$4,068.44

Mr. Paul Vargo’s DPW Report is on file in the Manager’s Office.

WT/VFD #1 reported the following for the month of February 2009:

- Twenty Five (25) Fires, Man-hours 128.50
- Three (3) Practices, Man-hours 122.50
- Two (2) Meetings, Man-hours 61 -- Total man-hours for month of February 2009 – 312

WT/VFD #1 reported the following for the month of March 2009:

- Nine (9) Fires, Man-hours 28.
- Four (4) Practices, Man-hours 175
- One (1) Training Practice, 96 -- Total man-hours for month of March 2009 - 299

WT/VFD #3 reported the following for the month of March 2009:

- Eight (8) Fires, Man-hours 9
- Two (2) Training Sessions, Man-hours 11.32
- Twenty Three Activities, Man-hours 530.67 -- Total man-hours for the month - 542.07

WT/VFD #4 reported the following for the month of February 2009:

- Fifteen (15) Fires, Man-hours 72.75
- Six (6) Fire Schools, Man-hours 142
- One (1) Drill, Man-hours 17.5
- Six (6) Work Details, Man-hours 36
- Two (2) Drivers Training, man-hours 48
- Four (4) Meetings, Man-hours 90 -- Total man-hours for the month of February 406.25

WT/VFD #4 reported the following for the month of March 2009:

- Nine (9) Fires, Man-hours 33
- Nine (9) Fire Schools, Man-hours 42.5
- Three (3) Drills, Man-hours 56
- Twelve (12) Work Details, Man-hours 152.75
- Two (2) Meetings, Man-hours 32. Total man-hours for the month of March 316.25

The WHEMS Report for March 2009 is on file with the above VFD Reports.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Monday, April 13, 2009 – Page Four

There were four (4) Building Permits issued during March 2009: #2577, 2578 and 2579 for Sprinkler and Interior Alterations. BP #2580 was issued to Chad Mullin, 358 Frazier Drive for construction of a deck.

The Township received \$1,553.18 in real estate transfer taxes during the month of March representing deed transfers which were recorded by the County in February. Total Real Estate Transfer Tax collections to date are: \$54,475.53 or 8.95% over budget.

Tax Collectors Report for March 2009:

Balance Collectable	\$ 1,600,091.78
Deductions: Exonerations	-9,197.95
Adjusted Collectable	1,590,893.83
Less Face Collections	256,512.97
Balance Collectable	1,334,380.86
Face Amount	256,512.97
Less Discounts	5,130.32
Total Cash Collected	\$251,382.65

PA Municipal Services – Act 511 Tax Report – March 2009

Earned Income Taxes:

Current Month	\$35,035.50	Previous Year	\$31,929.23	Difference
Current YTD	179,136.99	Previous YTD	130,200.12	\$ 48,936.87

Local Service Tax:

Current Month	-0-	Previous Year	12,412.45	Difference
Current YTD	42,162.23	Previous YTD	19,798.06	\$22,364.17

Mercantile Tax:

Current Month	-0-	Previous YTD	-0-	Difference
Current YTD	-0-	Previous YTD	-0-	\$-0-

Business Privilege Tax:

Current Month	-0-	Previous Year	772.00	Difference
Current YTD	-0-	Previous YTD	3,497.13	(\$3,497.13)

The Solicitor's Report for the month of March 2009 is on file in the Manager's Office.

The Wilkins Township Recreation Advisory Board Report is on file in the Manager's Office.

The March Engineers Report is on file in the Managers' Office.

(9-120) MOVED SZOKO-PADULA to approve the Schedule of Bills contingent upon Commissioner Fialla reviewing and signing off on the vouchers presented for the Recreation Department. The motion was adopted by a 4 to 1 vote with Ms. Fialla Abstaining.

(9-121) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to accept the recommendation of the Wilkins Township Recreation Advisory Board to authorize the appropriate officials to execute a contract between the Township and the Saddle-Up Band for performance at the Summer Festival, contingent upon the review and approval of the Solicitor, at a cost of \$1,500.00. The motion was adopted by a 3 to 2 vote with Ms. Fialla and Mr. Szoko voting "NO".

RESOLUTION NO. 5-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING LINE ITEM TRANSFERS WITHIN THE 2009 GENERAL FUND BUDGET.

- (9-122) MOVED COSTA-PADULA to adopt Resolution No. 5-2009. The motion was adopted by a 4 to 1 vote with Mr. Szoko voting “NO”.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ENTERING INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE USE OF THE DOTGRANTS SYSTEM.

- (9-123) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to adopt Resolution No. 6-2009. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
- (9-124) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to authorize the Manager to advertise a public hearing for the purpose of presenting the recommendations of the Planning Commission for the proposed rezoning of Larimer Avenue, Ridgecrest Drive, Jefferson Heights Road and Brown Avenue on Monday, June 1, 2009 beginning at 6:00 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Szoko commented that he is dissatisfied with the ineffective performance of the attorneys representing the Township in the Guthrie case; questioned Mr. Guthrie as to whether he had signed a letter of resignation, had signed a settlement agreement and whether the locks in the building had been changed; and stated that he had never seen a signed letter of resignation and a signed settlement agreement, and until he had, he believes that Mr. Guthrie is still the Chief.

Commissioner Fialla commented that she believes that Mr. Guthrie has shown the same type of restraint and “grace under fire” as the Pittsburgh Police Officers who last week apprehended a suspect believed to have killed three other Officers.

Commissioner Padula thanked Chief Krancic and the Police Department for their attendance at the funerals of the three City of Pittsburgh Police Officers who were killed in the line of duty during a domestic call in Stanton Heights last week; announced that Senator Costa would like to meet with representatives of Forest Hills, Churchill and Wilkins to discuss police regionalization sometime in May; thanked the paramedics who responded to St. Maurice on Good Friday for their professionalism; thanked Mrs. Martinelli for spearheading the Spring Clean-Up which will be held next Saturday and invited all members in attendance at the meeting to participate and made the following motion:

- (9-125) MOVED PADULA-SZOKO to authorize the Solicitor to review and report back to the Board whether or not it is possible to require mandatory random drug testing for elected and appointed officials of the Township. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Costa read Chief Guthrie’s retirement application into the record and stated that this application, which was voted on by the Board of Commissioners, is the application made by Mr. Guthrie for retirement benefits and that Commissioner Szoko as well as the rest of the Board had received a copy of it; and thanked Chief Krancic for the fine job that he has done during the last month.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Monday, April 13, 2009 – Page Six

Commissioner Wilson thanked the Volunteer Fire Departments for the tremendous amount of volunteer work that they perform in Wilkins Township; and thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

(9-126) MOVED PADULA-COSTA to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley  
Secretary