

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
September 14, 2015

The First Meeting of September 2015 of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. President Feinberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg
Joan Lilly-Kemmerer
Russell Lipari
James McGowan

Winnie Howey
Matthew Larimer
David Jones

ABSENT:

Louis Starniri
Pamela Taylor

Also present were: Police Chief Steven Parkansky, Fire Chief Michael Collins, Director of Public Works Greg Drake, Solicitor Stanley Margle and Code Officer Paul Corriere.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2015 Council meeting. Second by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Kenneth Wells of 2220 4th Street was present to request advice from Council on the problem he is having with stray cats. His neighbor is feeding between three and seven strays and they are destroying his property. Mr. Feinberg explained that the County has no facility to place cats. The Center for Animal Health and Welfare is a private facility and is not accepting any more. Mr. Wells is willing to pay to have them trapped and removed. Council requested Ms. Garcia to write a letter to Mr. Wells' neighbor regarding feeding the stray cats.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Mr. Larry Kleinhans of the Library Board. He submitted his resignation. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer to accept Mr. Kleinhans' resignation with regrets. Second by Mr. Jones. Council concurred. Mr. Lipari will be checking with the Library Board to see if a replacement must reside in a particular location. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

Ms. Garcia read an email from Courtney Kutz-Phillips. Her family had reserved the Strausser Community Center for a baby shower for her sister Jennifer Kutz-Flanagan. Mrs. Flanagan passed away while delivering her premature daughter. The family requested to cancel the Community Center reservation and move it to another day to have a memorial for Mrs. Flanagan and shower for the baby. The office honored this request. Mrs. Phillips also requested the Borough consider donating the fees for the rental to help the surviving family of Mrs. Flanagan. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer to donate the fees to the Flanagan family. Second by Mr. Lipari and Council unanimously agreed, with sympathy to the family.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso presented a handicapped parking application to Council from Jennie DeRohn of 20 N. 21st Street. There are no other handicapped spots on this block and Ms. DeRohn has no off street parking. Motion by Mr. Jones to approve the handicapped spot. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously agreed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia asked when Council would like to hold Trick or Treat in the Borough. Trick or Treat will be on October 31, 2015 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Chief Parkansky addressed the current situation with the crossing guards. He spoke with Mr. Wagner at the school district about having the senior students help with crossing. Mr. Wagner said that would not be possible because they would be missing class time.

The Chief asked Council to reconsider the salary resolution concerning the crossing guards. He recommended paying \$10 per shift. Motion by Mr. Lipari to pay guards \$10 per crossing shift. Second by Ms. Howey. Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer abstained. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to advertise for and hire crossing guards as needed. Second by Mr. Howey. Council unanimously agreed.

Chief Parkansky will contact previous guards and see if they would like to come back to work.

It was also noted that residents are complaining about the lack of crossing guards. None have come to Council or called Chief Parkansky with concerns.

Mr. Lipari asked what guards can do about disrespectful children. The Chief will speak to the school district about this and also, officers can speak to the children.

FIRE:

Chief Collins requested Council promote Adam Emsweller to the position of Driver. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer to promote Mr. Emsweller to Driver. Second by Ms. Howey. Council concurred.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Chief Parkansky told Council that for safety reasons, they may want to consider putting up “no parking” signs on 17th Street between Spring Garden Street and Wood Avenue. When both sides of the road are parked on it would be impossible for a fire truck to get through. After some discussion it was determined that the only time this is an issue is when there is a game at Fisk Field. Council talked about different options to help with the parking situation. Mr. Lipari asked about parking on the soft ball field. Mr. Drake said there is no way to access the field. Mr. Drake is going to contact Mr. Hopkins with the City of Easton to see about parking on Easton’s property next to the field.

Mr. Lipari said he had the Meuser Pool year-end report from Mr. Marstellar. The reports were just received tonight and will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Drake and Mr. Lipari spoke about a safety issue at the football games. Mr. Drake has volunteered his time to be the EMT at Wilson’s games at Fisk Field. He is concussion trained and has his own AED. He was told he wasn’t needed at the past game by a Rec Board representative. It should be stressed to the Rec Board that they are required to have a certified, concussion trained person with an AED at all home games. There is a \$150 fine each time this is not complied with. Mr. Drake asked Mr. Larimer to advise all coaches that they should be concussion trained and any child with a head injury should be kept on the ground until Mr. Drake assesses his condition.

ATTORNEY:

Mr. Margle requested a caucus for personnel matters.

He will be coordinating with Ms. Garcia regarding amending the Borough’s current Rental ordinance.

COG:

None

MECAB:

Mr. McGowan stated the September meeting will be held in Wilson at the Community Center on September 30th and 7:00 pm.

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

Mayor Perruso requested that the Borough contribute to an event to honor Mr. Minotti's years of service to the Borough. Current law allows for this. Motion by Mr. Lipari for the Borough to contribute \$8.00 per person to a retirement dinner for Mr. Minotti. Second by Mr. Jones. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer commented that she had asked for information on the housing rehab program and how contractors are paid and was not given an answer. Ms. Garcia noted that Mr. Corriere had given Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer the information she requested. Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer said it was not in the papers she received. Mr. Feinberg added that information Mr. Corriere had relayed to Council was accurate. Mr. Feinberg had been told the same information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer spoke of a flowering bush on Freemansburg Avenue across from JD Byrider. The bush is covering the sidewalk and forcing people to walk into the street. Mr. Lipari said there is a similar situation at 24th and Hay Street. Code Enforcement will follow up.

Mr. Lilly-Kemmerer asked Ms. Garcia why the treasurer line item is over budget by \$263.00. Ms. Garcia stated that she would need to investigate the numbers and present to Council at the next meeting.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$243,455.55 were paid on a Motion by Ms. Howey. Second by Mr. McGowan. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

CAUCUS:

A Caucus was held on personnel matters.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to suspend employee #626 for three days without pay. Second by Mr. Jones and Council concurred.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Second by Ms. Howey and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER