

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
January 11, 2016

The First Meeting of January 2016 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 Verenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Tony Verenna	Pamela Taylor
Louis Starniri	James McGowan
Leonard Feinberg	Scott Palinkas
David Jones	Daniel Schaffer

ABSENT:

Russell Lipari

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the December 28, 2015 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2016 Reorganization meeting. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Mike McGrath of Lidl and Kyle Bollinger of Kimley-Horn were present to speak about plans for a 36,000 square foot Lidl grocery store at 1120 S. 25th Street. They have already presented to the Wilson Borough Planning Commission. They are currently working with Penn Dot regarding traffic plans and also with DEP for storm water issues. Storm water plans involve using an existing infiltration basin. This is an industrial zone and the store is allowed by conditional use. Solicitor Margle explained that there will need to be a public hearing with a stenographer present. Council will vote at that meeting. Mr. Margle requested a letter from Mr. Corriere stating there are no code issues and also a letter from the Borough Engineer (T & M Associates) as to conditional use. A hearing may be held at the next Council Meeting on January 25, 2016 depending on time deadlines for advertising.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Joe Conicelli presented his idea to hold a farmers' market at Meuser Park. He would like it to be May – October, Fridays; from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Vendors will haul away their own trash. Issues of insurance, health licenses, business licenses and conflicts with others who may be using the park were touched on. Council President Verenna asked Mr. Conicelli to put his plan in writing and present to Ms. Garcia so she can forward to Council.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Mr. William Keck. He is a resident of Wilson and serves on the Planning Board. He requested to resign from the Planning Board and take the available spot on the Zoning Board. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to appoint Mr. Keck to the Zoning Board. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

A letter from Council Vice-President Louis Starniri was read by Ms. Garcia. Mr. Starniri requested to fill the open spot on the Planning Commission left by Mr. Keck's resignation. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to appoint Mr. Starniri to the Planning Commission. Second by Mr. Schaffer. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Careen Ravier-Lewert from the Wilson Youth Basketball Association regarding use of Meuser Park on April 9, 2016 for their year-end party. Mr. Drake stated that the water will not be on that early and the restrooms will not be open. Ms. Garcia will speak with Ms. Ravier-Lewert.

Mr. Verenna told Council that he would like to include a letter with all property tax bills, which will remind property owners of a few borough codes. Items will concern things like trash and moving permits. Council agreed this would be a good idea.

Mr. Corriere spoke regarding the Lions 3rd Annual Car Expo Saturday, August 13, 2016. (Rain date: Sunday, August 13, 2016.) He requested closure of Washington Boulevard from 22nd to 24th Streets, to the entrance of the Dixie Office parking lot. Closure will be from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm. Motion by Mr. Starniri to allow the closure for the Expo. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso told Council he received a very nice card from previous Solicitor Louis Minotti thanking all involved with his retirement event. He had a wonderful time and was glad to have worked with the Borough for so many years.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised Council that the 2016-2017 Committee Member lists were in the current packet. All appointments were acceptable other than the Shade Tree Commission. Ms. Taylor requested to remove Mary Anne Leslie and add Janice Galitzeck for a term of five years.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg made a request to amend Resolution #1213 Salaries. Mr. Richard Wamsley, who works full time as the Borough's rental administrator, was not included for Holiday, Vacation and Sick pay. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to amend Resolution #1213 to include paid time off for Mr. Wamsley. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously agreed.

POLICE:

Chief Parkansky said he has meet with the managers of Pints and Pies and they are making an effort to cut down on the outside noise. They have put up signs and have hired a doorman for every night. They want to work with the Borough and residents to solve the noise problems.

FIRE:

Motion by Mr. Starniri to hire Mr. Michael Stamets as a part time fire fighter. Second by Mr. Feinberg and Council concurred.

Chief Collins advised Council that he sent a certified letter to Safavieh giving them fifteen days to clean up the property at 2210 Northampton Street. He referenced two sections of the fire code.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Drake presented an updated alcohol and substance abuse policy for the public works department. This is a DOT policy. All public works employees will be signing an acknowledgement of the policy.

Mr. Drake reported that Penn Dot is still working on the no left turn sign to be put up at the intersection of Avona and Freemansburg Avenues.

Mr. Drake spoke about a light post on Warrior Lane that was destroyed by a car accident two years ago. There has been a difference of opinion between the School District and the Borough as to who owns the light and who needs to file the insurance claim. Mr. Verenna will arrange a meeting with Mr. Case at the school district.

Mr. Drake asked Ms. Taylor if she had heard from B'Nai Abraham Synagogue regarding the purchase cameras for the dumping area at 16th Street. Ms. Taylor has reached out to the Synagogue, but has not had a response.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Lipari advised Council of plans to upgrade Meuser Pool. One diving board will be removed and will be replaced with a slide. There is \$20,000 in the 2016 budget for this upgrade. The cost for a mushroom in the baby pool is prohibitive. Mr. Drake will be working on another plan to upgrade the baby pool. Ms. Garcia will speak with the Borough's insurer regarding these improvements.

ATTORNEY:

None

COG:

None

MECAB:

Mr. McGowan said the next meeting will be held on January 27, 2016 at Freemansburg.

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Garcia said the office staff has approached the Safety Committee to see about some safety improvements to the office. This would include a safety window, possibly bullet proof, and a working panic buzzer. Council asked Ms. Garcia and Mr. Drake to get detailed information and present at a future meeting.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

CAUCUS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$116,490.97 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Taylor. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER