

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
January 25, 2016

The Second 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	Russell Lipari
Leonard Feinberg	Scott Palinkas
David Jones	Daniel Schaffer

ABSENT:

James McGowan

Also present were: Police Sergeant Christian Meehan, Fire Chief Michael Collins, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Director of Public Works Gregory Drake, Foreman of Public Works Eric Flowers and Code Officer Paul Corriere.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Palinkas to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2016 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia advised Council that there is an opening on the Mary Meuser Library Board. Two letters of interest were received; one from Ms. Mary Jo Crowley and another from Mr. Arthur Mengucci. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to appoint Mr. Mengucci of 2226 Ferry Street to the open seat on the Library Board. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from St. Jane Frances de Chantal School regarding their upcoming 8th Annual Marathon. The date will be April 22, 2016. They requested use of the alleyway between 19th and 20th Streets behind the school from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. They will also have a DJ present. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow closure of the alley for the Marathon as requested. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Careen Ravier-Lewert of the Wilson Youth Basketball Association. She requested use of the large pavilion and band shell on April 16, 2016 for the group's end of year party. She also requested that the fees be waived. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow use of the facilities as requested, fee free. Second by Mr. Schaffer. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Kristy Clements. Treasurer of the Wilson Youth Wrestling Association. She requested use of the Community Center on February 24, 2016 for the Wrestling banquet and February 25, 2016 for the Cheering banquet. She also requested that the fees be waived. Motion by Mr. Jones to allow use of the facilities as requested, fee free. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Russell and Buffy Smith were present to request permission to use both pavilions, the band shell and the Community Center on April 30, 2016 for their 25th Anniversary vow renewal. They will also be doing a balloon release. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow the Smith's event. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso complimented and thanked the Borough's Public Works employees for a fantastic job on the cleanup of the past weekend's record snow storm. Mr. Drake advised Council that the snow will be removed during the week and corners will also be cleared.

Sergeant Meehan requested Council's permission to make a conditional offer of employment to Mr. Kyle Stoudt as a part time police officer. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to conditionally hire Mr. Stoudt. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council agreed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised Council of an opening on the Recreation Board and requests from Ms. Dawn Medellin Culver and Mr. Donald Barrett to fill this opening. Mr. Verenna asked that the matter be tabled until a later date.

Ms. Garcia informed Council that a CD will be coming due on January 28, 2016 for \$448,840.12. Council had been given rates from three local banks for various term lengths. \$125,000.00 of this CD will be used to balance the 2016 budget and the rest will be invested. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to reinvest the funds with ESSA Bank at a rate of 1.15% for two years. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council concurred.

Ms. Garcia told Solicitor Margle to prepare the advertisement for the Public Hearing to be held on February 22, 2016 regarding Lidl. The Borough will contact a stenographer to be present.

A Declaration of Disaster Emergency was presented to Council for approval. This will help Wilson Borough recoup some costs due to Winter Storm Jonas, if the state declares a disaster. Motion by Mr. Starniri to sign the Disaster Declaration. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Verenna told Council that he had Ms. Garcia place a copy of her job duties from the Borough Code in their packets. Council members should be going through Ms. Garcia with questions and requests of Borough employees.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

None

FIRE:

Chief Collins noted there were two fires over the weekend, one with a serious injury. A fire truck got stuck in the snow and Easton Auto Body was called to the scene.

The Chief also reviewed the progress of the repairs to the ladder truck and informed Council that the rescue truck will need some repairs as well.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Schaffer asked Mr. Drake to fix the broken lock at the Community Center. Mr. Drake said it has already been done.

Ms. Garcia read an email from Sharon and Jerry Policelli. They wrote to let the Public Works Staff know what a great job they did during the recent storm and that their hard work is appreciated.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Lipari told Council an ad will be placed shortly for a new pool manager. Applications will be received until March 15, 2016. One application has already been received.

Mr. Lipari discussed the upcoming changes to the pool. A slide will be added, as well as sprinklers in the baby pool. He would like to have Memorial Day be an open-house day for people to see what the pool has to offer. Mr. Schaffer asked what the pool rates will be for 2016. Mr. Lipari stated that he was not sure of the 2016 rates as they have not been set yet. He is considering setting the resident rate to include all Wilson School District residents. It is possible that the non-resident rates will be raised. Mr. Starniri asked what the School District contributes to support the pool's operations.

Mr. Schaffer asked about a \$326.74 charge the Recreation board received from the School District for custodian fees. Mr. Verenna explained that the charges are legitimate and are explained on the use of facilities form signed by the organization. Mr. Lipari stated that this form may need to be revised by the School Board.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle explained to Council that he had investigated reducing the number of Recreation Board members from nine to five. The Code clearly states this can be done.

COG:

None

MECAB:

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

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Corriere addressed Council regarding the Lions Club desire to install an electronic billboard at Northampton and Ferry Streets, in front of the IRCO Credit Union. This will be a "Welcome to Wilson" sign and will advertise Borough happenings. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to allow the Lions Club to proceed. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Donald Barrett of Wilson Midget Football asked Council's permission to install a new score board at Fisk Field. This will be completely paid for by Gary Lee's Brown Daub Kia. Mr. Drake requested he be present for the planning and placement. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow the new score board at Fisk Field. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Mr. Schaffer asked for the Borough's Recreation Board positions to be clarified. Mr. Verenna said Mr. Lipari and his committee will need to get together and discuss.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

CAUCUS:

Council entered into a caucus regarding personnel matter at 7:45 pm and exited at 7:52 pm.

Don Barrett of 725 S. 23rd Street, new president of Wilson Midget Football Association asked to speak to Council regarding one Council member's actions. He said that Mr. Palinkas has been very helpful with the Football Association but he has heard that Mr. Palinkas was making negative comments about the new association members. Mr. Feinberg asked what he wanted Council to do. Mr. Barrett said he just wanted it on the record. Ms. Atalie Luhrs of 1836 Fairview Avenue agreed with Mr. Barrett and has also heard discouraging comments by Mr. Palinkas. Mr. Jones added that the Recreation Board is its own entity.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$184,929.09 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Lipari. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER