

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
March 14, 2016

The First Meeting of March 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
James McGowan
Scott Palinkas

Pamela Taylor
Russell Lipari
Daniel Schaffer

ABSENT:

Louis Starniri
David Jones
Leonard Feinberg

Also present were: Police Chief Steven Parkansky, Solicitor Stanley Margle and Foreman of Public Works Eric Flowers.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2016 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Daniel Redington, Director of Mary Meuser Memorial Library addressed Council regarding the Library's Summer Concert Series. The series will begin Sunday May 22nd and July 4th will be omitted.

Mr. Redington also advised Council that the owner of Stone Hedge, Landscaping in Hackettstown NJ, has volunteered to clean up the sunken garden area on the Library grounds and possibly plant a tree in memory of her mother who was an avid Library patron. Ms. Garcia asked that Council be presented with the idea since it is Borough property and the Public Works Department would be responsible for the maintenance. Council approved the plans to clean and improve the area.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Don Meadows of Calvary Baptist Church asked permission to use Meuser Park Pavilions for their yearly Vacation Bible School. Children from Wilson Borough Elementary School attend the week long program. This will be the 3rd year. Last year 120 children participated. It will run June 20th through the 24th from 9 am to 12 pm. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow Calvary Baptist to use the Meuser Pavilions fee free. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council concurred.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Council President Daniel DePaul of West Easton. He requested a seat on the Recreation Board for West Easton. After some discussion, Council agreed the most logical approach would be to have Mr. DePaul to speak with the Wilson Area School Board to obtain a seat.

Mr. Palinkas requested the office obtain a key to the Recreation Board filing cabinet. He would like Board members to be able to access the cabinet when necessary. Mr. Margle said this would be fine as long as the individual is acting on behalf of the Recreation Board with the president's approval. Ms. Garcia will get a copy of the key.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

The Lions will be holding a breakfast at the Community Center on Sunday March 20, 2016. Proceeds will benefit the victims of the Ferry Street fires. Mayor Perruso has tickets.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia spoke about the possibility of the Borough designing a tuition reimbursement plan. She surveyed surrounding Communities and presented Council with the results as well as Borough Clerk, Ms. Jones' request for tuition reimbursement. Guidelines such as dollar and subject matter limitations will need to be discussed. Motion by Mr. Lipari to have Ms. Taylor and Ms. Garcia put together a plan for review, with the guidance of Solicitor Margle. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia presented Council with pricing for bullet proof glass for the Police Secretary \$5,870.00 and Business Office \$7,455.00. Council tabled the discussion with Mr. Lipari adding that the employees' safety is a great concern and he would vote to find the funds to protect them.

Ms. Garcia requested Council's permission to send Ms. Taylor and Mr. Drake to Tree Tender training. This training is required for a grant and will cost \$30.00 per applicant. The Borough engineer will also be attending. Motion by Mr. Schaffer to send Ms. Taylor and Mr. Drake to Tree Tender training. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council concurred.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Chief Parkansky requested a Caucus to be held near the end of the meeting.

Chief Parkansky explained to council that one of the Police Department's SUVs was recently totaled in an accident. The car has 60,000 miles on it. The frame was twisted and had a hole in it. The Borough will get a check for \$17,125.00 from its insurance carrier. The Chief asked for \$15,000.00 from the LST account to add to the insurance funds so that the car can be replaced. He added there is an urgency due to the fact that he has one car ready to go for scrap and four cars with over 70,000 miles each. Motion by Ms. Taylor to take \$15,000.00 from the LST account and order a replacement Police SUV. Second by Mr. Schaffer. Council unanimously agreed.

FIRE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Motion by Mr. Lipari to have an Open House Day at the Meuser Pool on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2016. This will be a fee free day for all to see what the pool has to offer. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to provide all Wilson School District Residents with the Resident Pool Rate for 2016. Second by Mr. Schaffer. Yes votes cast by Mr. Verenna, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Schaffer. No vote cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passed by a 5 to 1 vote.

Mr. Margle noted that opening the rates up to all School District Residents could set a precedent for other fees. Mr. McGowan commented that this had been voted down a few years prior.

Mr. Verenna said he believed the Borough Engineers should be involved with the installation of the slide. Solicitor Margle agreed. Motion by Mr. Lipari to have T&M Associates oversee the slide installation. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

ATTORNEY:

None

COG:

None

MECAB:

Mr. McGowan said the next meeting will be held on March 30, 2016, place to be determined.

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Ms. Garcia asked for a motion to pass Resolution #1214, a Resolution to destroy documents in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual and Act 428 of 1968. Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council unanimously agreed.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into a Caucus to discuss personnel matters.

Council exited the Caucus and upon the recommendation of Chief Parkansky, Mr. Verenna made a motion to suspend Officer #102 for one day without pay. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Yes votes cast by Mr. Palinkas and Ms. Taylor. No votes cast by Mr. McGowan, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Schaffer. Motion failed.

Mr. Margle told Chief Parkansky to issue a written reprimand to Officer #102.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$156,362.86 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Taylor. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER