

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
June 13, 2016

The First Meeting of June 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:

James McGowan
Scott Palinkas
Leonard Feinberg
Tony Verenna

Pamela Taylor
Russell Lipari
Daniel Schaffer
Louis Starniri

ABSENT:

David Jones

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2016 Council meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Ms. Winnie Howey of the Wilson Block Watch Association requested use of Meuser Park and pavilions for the Borough's National Night Out celebration to be held July 30, 2016. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to allow use of Meuser Park Facilities fee free for the requested date. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Kevin Kiernan of 1920 Fairview Avenue asked Council if diversion meters are available for residents of Wilson Borough. Diversion meters prevent consumers from being billed sewer charges for water usage that does not enter the sewer system, such as water used for filling pools. Ms. Garcia said the Borough does not allow them. Council requested Ms. Garcia look into what would need to be done to allow residents to have such meters.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia explained to Council that the Wilson High School Track Team had requested use of the large pavilion fee free for June 9, 2016. Since there was no time for approval by Council, the team was allowed to use the facility with a deposit. Ms. Garcia asked for Council's permission to waive fees and return the deposit. Motion by Mr. Lipari to return deposit. Second by Mr. McGowan and Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Kim of Fairview Avenue requesting closure of the 1900 block of Fairview Avenue on August 20, 2016 from 7 am until 10 pm for the annual block party. The street sweeper is requested to come through the Friday before the event. There will be a DJ and the Fire Department is invited to attend between 10 am and 2 pm. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to allow the block closure. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council concurred with Ms. Taylor and Mr. Schaffer abstaining.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Chief Parkansky said there are no ordinances in the Borough covering the parks. It is difficult to enforce signs in the parks without ordinances in place. Solicitor Margle asked for a list of concerns regarding the parks and a list of signs that are currently in place. He will report back to Council after his review.

The Chief said Borough Officers have used Narcan a three times in the past two months and have had two successful saves.

FIRE:

Motion by Mr. Starniri to have Mr. Margle review a Draft Code of Conduct for the Fire Department. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Chief Collins noted that the Borough just received a PA Fire Grant of approximately \$13,000.

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Lipari reported on the Pool's successful Memorial Day weekend. Over 900 people took advantage of the free day and most were well behaved, although the Police did have to speak to a couple of patrons. Management decided to close early to get the crowd out, and the Pool cleaned up. Some changes will be made for the next time.

Pool receipts to date are \$13,788.00.

Mr. Lipari thanked Mr. Drake and his crew for all their hard work at the pool.

Mr. Feinberg asked what the occupancy rules are for the pool. Mr. Drake said the maximum is 30 people in the water per guard.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to hire Anthony Sagrastano as a lifeguard. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Verenna asked if there had been any agreement reached with the Nutty Bavarian. Mr. Lipari said Mr. Rich will be contributing to the utility expense at the refreshment stand. He added there have been many positive comments about the stand.

Mr. Lipari spoke about the unused bocce court. He recommended searching for a grant that would help turn the area into a children's play area within the pool. Mr. Drake will speak with the Borough's grant writer.

ATTORNEY:

None

COG:

None

MECAB:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Taylor spoke to Council regarding information learned at the recent PSAB annual conference. A Supreme Court decision, Reed vs. Town of Gilbert, challenges the legality of municipal sign ordinances. Solicitor Margle will look at the information and report back to Council.

Mr. Starniri also presented Council with information from the PSAB conference. Four resolutions concerning pending legislation were given to Council to review and take action on at the next meeting on June 27, 2016.

ORDINANCES:

Mr. Margle presented Ordinance #777: Amendment to Recreation Board Ordinance #543. This Ordinance modifies the number of members, method of appointment, term of office and power and duties of the Recreation Board. The Ordinance was advertised as required by law and Recreation Board members and Association heads were notified as a courtesy. Mr. Starniri said he would vote no since there have been no issues with the Recreation Board for 38 years. Mr. Lipari agreed.

Ms. Sonia Henely, Mr. Bob Stoudt, Ms. Alyssa Harvey and Mr. Don Barrett all spoke against the passing of the ordinance.

Mr. Margle added the bylaws of the Board will remain in effect. It will be up to the Board to change them if so desired.

Motion by Mr. Palinkas to adopt Ordinance #777. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Yes votes cast by Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Verenna, Ms. Taylor and Mr. Schaffer. No votes cast by Mr. McGowan, Mr. Lipari and Mr. Starniri. Motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

The current Recreation Board will remain in place for its next meeting on June 16, 2016. The new ordinance begins on Friday June 17, 2016. Council will make the new appointments at the next Council meeting on June 27, 2016 and the new Recreation Board will be in place for its meeting in July.

RESOLUTIONS:

Motion by Mr. Feinberg to adopt Resolution #1217: Tuition Reimbursement Program and Policy. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council unanimously agreed.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 8:09 pm regarding personnel matters and returned at 8:40 pm.

Ms. Garcia will send Mr. Ortiz an email revising his salary to an hourly rate. Mr. Margle will be copied on all correspondence

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$166,920.78 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Schaffer. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to adjourn at 8:43 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER