

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
October 10, 2016

The First Meeting of October 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  
Leonard Feinberg  
Tony Verenna  
Pamela Taylor

Scott Palinkas  
Russell Lipari  
Louis Starniri

ABSENT:

David Jones  
Daniel Schaffer

Also present were: Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Police Chief Steven Parkansky, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Foreman of Public Works Eric Flowers and Code Enforcement Officer Paul Corriere.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2016 Council meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Ms. Jennifer Dutko-Miller of 2033 Washington Blvd. addressed Council regarding the decorative lights on Washington Boulevard. She said the lights are not coming on soon enough in the evening. Mr. Starniri asked if some type of sensor could be installed to prevent this issue from happening every year. Mr. Verenna said there are sensors that will work and he will speak to Mr. Drake about them.

Ms. Miller also requested the Borough consider changing Trick or Treat back to 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, as working parents can't get home and get their children ready in time. Because the 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm times had already been advertised Mayor Perruso agreed to extend Trick or Treat until 8:00 pm to accommodate everyone.

Mr. Michael Shannon of 2230 Fox Run voiced displeasure regarding the Borough pool. He said the pool was basically closed for the whole month of August and as a season pass holder, he was not happy. Mr. Lipari corrected his information agreeing that certain days the pool did close early due to lack of staff. However the pool was open 78 full days and was one the few to remain open the last two weeks of the swim season. Borough Staff are working diligently to improve things that were an issue this summer.

Ms. Winnie Howey of the Wilson Bock Watch Association was present to request use of the Community Center on December 11<sup>th</sup> for the annual Breakfast with Santa. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow use of the Center, fee free. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council concurred.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso stated Chief Parkansky would need a caucus to discuss a personnel matter.

He also welcomed new Fire Chief Joseph Sipel.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Officer Ricky Knecht. He resigned his position with the Wilson Borough Police as of October 3, 2016. Motion by Mr. Starniri to accept Officer Knecht's resignation with regrets. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia informed Council that the Borough Fire Department has been successful with its attempt to obtain a Northampton County Uncommitted Gaming Funds Grant. The Borough will receive \$24,630.00 to replace out dated self contained breathing apparatus.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

##### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

##### POLICE:

None

##### FIRE:

Mr. Starniri asked Chief Sipel to speak about the old fire communications system in the fire station. Chief Sipel explained it was the old radio dispatch system, but the license is outdated. The system will require a significant expenditure to bring it up to modern standards. Mr. Starniri asked if the system is needed. Mr. Sipel said it has not been used in ten to fifteen years. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to discontinue the system. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

##### PUBLIC WORKS:

None

##### PARKS AND RECREATION:

The first meeting regarding next year's swim season will be held in two weeks. Mr. Lipari said he is looking to hire more mature guards who can work all summer. The pool has also been sandblasted and painted for next season.

##### ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle said he had received a response from DA John Morganelli regarding possible forfeiture of 2328 Forest Street. The DA's office is currently investigating.

The tabulation of costs incurred by the Borough in the demolition of fire destroyed properties at 1820-1822 Ferry Street is almost complete. Mr. Hughs of 1822 Ferry Street has been in contact and is interested in settling his obligation. A lien will be placed against 1820 Ferry Street.

Mr. Margle has researched amending Ordinance #537. It can be amended but it may also be subject to legal challenges. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to have Mr. Margle draft an amendment to Ordinance #537 as it relates to for profit as opposed to nonprofit. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council agreed. A draft will be available in two weeks.

##### COG:

None

##### MECAB:

Mr. McGowan thanked Becky Bradley of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for her presentation at last week's MECAB meeting. He also thanked the Borough representative who attended. The next meeting will be on October 27, 2016.

##### OLD BUSINESS:

At their last meeting, Council voted to give Joseph Sipel a non competitive test for Fire Chief while under the assumption that it was mandatory. Mr. Starniri explained that this is not necessary and neither Mr. Sipel nor the Borough wishes to do so. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to rescind the motion to test Mr. Sipel. Second by Mr. Starniri.

##### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Lipari noted the need for more space for the Borough's Police Department, both inside and outside. Mr. Feinberg said there had been plans drawn up to expand into the hillside. Chief Parkansky has a set of the plans he can provide. Mr. Lipari asked Council to revisit this issue.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$222,930.11 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Feinberg. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 7:30 pm and exited at 7:40 pm. Personnel matters were discussed.

Motion by Mr. Starniri to appoint Joseph Sipel as Wilson Borough's permanent Fire Chief. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Sipel will be sworn in at the next meeting on October 24, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Taylor made a Motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Second by Mr. Lipari and Council unanimously agreed.

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JILL A. GARCIA  
BOROUGH MANAGER