

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
January 9, 2017

The First Meeting of January 2017 of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. Vice-President Starniri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

James McGowan  
Leonard Feinberg  
Louis Starniri  
Daniel Schaffer

Scott Palinkas  
David Jones  
Pamela Taylor  
Russell Lipari (late)

ABSENT:

Tony Verenna

Also present were: Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Police Chief Steven Parkansky, 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 26, 2016 Council meetings. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Paul Strikwerda of 1943 Fairview Avenue spoke to the Council and Residents concerning communication and perception issues. He urged people to get more involved and to have the correct facts before speaking. He spoke highly of the office staff and reminded residents that the staff are people with feelings and families. Mr. Strikwerda ended with asking that residents council and staff all work together to make the Borough better.

Mr. Neil Fehnel of 2340 Butler Street asked why the Borough does not allow moon bounces at Meuser Park. Ms. Garcia explained that the Borough's insurance carrier would not cover the bounces. Mr. Fehnel said that he is a full service business that provides a two million dollar liability policy. Solicitor Margle said an agreement can most likely be worked out where the business would name the Borough and its Employees and Council as an additional insured. The Borough would need a two to three week window for each event.

Mr. Henry Howell of 2302 Forest Street asked Council why past members of Council were still being paid. He was informed that Council members are not paid after they leave office.

Representatives of the Center for Animal Health and Welfare were present to request use of Meuser Park on May 20, 2017. This will be the 2017 Paws for a Cause Event. They requested fees be waived and pets be allowed in the park for this event. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to allow use of the park for this event. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council unanimously agreed. The Center will provide event insurance.

At this time a few residents and taxpayers spoke to Council regarding issues and concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso advised Council that he had received a request from St. Jane's School for use of the alley way between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Streets for its 9<sup>th</sup> annual marathon on April 21, 2017 from 8 am until 12 noon. There will also be a DJ present. Motion by Mr. Palinkas to allow this event, provided St. Jane's obtains event insurance. Second by Mr. McGowan. Council concurred.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg told Council that Ms. Garcia has notified the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority that Wilson Borough is interested in selling sewer capacity. The EAJSA has had a meeting and the Borough is anticipating a reponse.

Mr. Feinberg spoke regarding the Dixie's property taxes. They are being paid, but paid late. If the building is reassessed the Borough will lose tax revenue. The building has been determined to be blighted and will require two millions dollars in environmental remediation.

POLICE:

None

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council hire Gregory Doll as a part time fire fighter. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to hire Mr. Doll. Second by Mr. Schaffer. Council unanimously agreed.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Drake said Public Works has picked up 300 Christmas trees so far and will continue to do so.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

ATTORNEY:

COG:

None

MECAB:

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Council took public comment prior to voting on Resolution #1226 – 2017 Salary Resolution. This resolution cuts the manager's proposed increase by 67% and the clerk's proposed increase by 50%.

Some comments are listed below:

Ms. Cristie Caldwell of 43 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street said Lower Saucon has a much better budget format than Wilson.

Ms. Marci Sos of 1631 Ferry Street asked for more police presence.

Mr. Henry Howell of 2302 Forest Street said police need to interact more with residents.

Ms. Stacey Clearly of 2249 4<sup>th</sup> Street asked if the manager's experience and education were considered when she was hired. Ms. Taylor replied that they were.

Councilman Palinkas asked where all salary caps are and when is too much enough.

Councilman Jones said the Borough needs a five year plan.

Motion by my Feinberg to approve Salary Resolution #1226. Second by Mr. Schaffer. Yes votes cast by Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Schaffer, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Starniri, and Ms. Taylor. No votes cast by Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Jones. Motion carried by a vote of 5 to 3.

**BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Bills of \$12,173.85 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Schaffer. Second by Mr. Feinberg. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

**CAUCUS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council unanimously agreed.

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JILL A. GARCIA  
BOROUGH MANAGER