

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
January 23, 2017

The Second 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. President Verenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Tony Verenna  
Leonard Feinberg  
Louis Starniri  
James McGowan

Pamela Taylor  
Daniel Schaffer  
David Jones

ABSENT:

Russell Lipari  
Scott Palinkas

Also present were: Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Police Chief Steven Parkansky, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Director of Public Works Gregory Drake, Code Officer Paul Corriere and Borough Engineer Monica Wall.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the December 29, 2016 and January 9, 2017 Council meetings. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Kyle Bollinger of Kimley Horn was present to request Council's approval of a subdivision of the Lidl site. The Planning Commission recommended approval at its meeting on December 6, 2016. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to accept the subdivision plans. Second by Mr. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Chief Parkansky informed Council that crime rates in the Borough dropped 3% from 2015 – 2016.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia noted that one of the Borough's CDs is coming due in February. She asked if Council would like her to research new rates. Motion by Mr. McGowan to have Ms. Garcia obtain new rates. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg spoke to correct some misinformation that is being shared in the Borough. He told Council and Residents in attendance that the web-site has been updated.

He also noted that Council made a motion in November 2016 to apply for RCAP funds for the Police Station expansion. There is \$500,000 in RCAP funds set aside for this purpose. There is also approximately \$19,000,000 marked for the Dixie Warehouse project.

Lastly he added that the Code Officer and Rental Program Administrator collected over \$5,000 in fines last year.

POLICE:

None

#### FIRE:

Chief Sipel reported that two of his fire fighters are currently in South Dakota reviewing the new fire truck. Delivery will be sometime mid February.

Chief Sipel asked Council and the Solicitor what to do about the old fire truck. The bidder has not responded to messages to pick up the truck. Mr. Margle said the Chief should send a letter giving the bidder 20 days to retrieve the truck or it will be put out for bid again.

On January 9, 2017 the Fire Department along with the Red Cross installed 160 smoke alarms in Borough homes. The Red Cross would like to return at a later date to install more.

The Borough Fire Department has received a \$25,000 gaming grant. Four SCBA have been purchased for the new fire truck.

Chief Sipel informed Council that the Civil Service testing has been completed. He asked Council if he could proceed with physical and psychological testing. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to continue with hiring a new fire fighter. Second by Ms. Taylor and council unanimously agreed.

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Drake told Council that Ms. Garcia and he met with two representatives of the Northampton County DCED. There are CDBG funds that the Borough can apply for to redo roads. Mr. Drake will be applying for \$400,000 in 2017 to be spent in 2018.

The lights on Washington Boulevard have been fixed with the help of Council President Tony Verenna. It's possible the lights may be switched over to LED in the future. Mr. Starniri asked if the timing could be addressed and Mr. Drake said they will be trying dusk to dawn timing again.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Drake explained that he looked into fogging for gnats at Liberty Park and it can't be done since they are airborne. It was an exceptionally bad year for gnats in Wilson and the surrounding areas.

Mr. Drake suggested delaying the opening of the pool until the end of school. This will save chemicals and maintenance costs for two weeks prior to opening. He will bring the idea to Mr. Lipari.

#### ATTORNEY:

Mr. Margle addressed resident Mr. Donald Barrett regarding his theory that Ms. Garcia's pay raises were illegal. Mr. Margle researched the issue and composed a letter to Borough Council with his findings. Ms. Garcia is an at-will employee and it not covered by an employment contract. Therefore, Council can adjust Ms. Garcia's salary as they see fit. No laws or procedures have been violated.

Solicitor Margle said he has spoken to Mr. Reibman, owner of the Dixie property. Mr. Margle is drafting a letter to Code Officer Paul Corriere to have him look at the Dixie's current uses and permitting.

No response has been received from Mr. Negroao, owner of the old bank building at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Northampton.

#### COG:

None

#### MECAB:

Mr. McGowan said MECAB will be meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Catasauqua. Bob Morgan and April Niver from Congressman Cartwright's office will be presenting.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Taylor said the Borough has been awarded a \$5,000 Tree Vitalize Grant. The amount is half of what was requested. A map of the types of trees and each tree's placement has been created. These will all be curb trees except for a few in Meuser Park. Mr. Taylor is hoping to have the trees planted by Volunteers as part of an Arbor Day celebration. The \$5,000 will cover 50 trees. Ms. Taylor made a motion to plant 100 trees and use \$5,000 from the shade tree line item. Second by Mr. Schaffer and Council concurred.

Mr. Drake requested a pine tree be placed in Meuser Park to be used for an annual tree lighting ceremony.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Feinberg spoke with Mr. Guldin of BB&T/PIRMA regarding bounce houses at Meuser Park. He spoke about subrogation of insurance. Mr. Margle asked Ms. Garcia to check with the Borough's insurance carrier to see what is recommended.

Mr. Feinberg recommended having Community Center renters provide a one day insurance policy for all events at the center.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$201,827.51 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Starniri. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 7:37 pm and exited at 8:02 pm. A personnel issue was discussed as permitted under the Sunshine law section 708 A 1.

Chief Sipel made a recommendation to terminate employee #294.

Motion by Mr. Schaffer to terminate employee #294. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Council unanimously agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

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JILL A. GARCIA  
BOROUGH MANAGER