

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
March 13, 2017

The First Meeting of March 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
Pamela Taylor
James McGowan

Scott Palinkas
David Jones
Russell Lipari

ABSENT:

Louis Starniri
Daniel Schaffer

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 February 27, 2017 Council meeting. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Donald Barrett, Jr. of 725 S. 23rd Street said he spoke with Mr. Rosie Amato at the High School and it was suggested that Warrior Lane be closed in addition to Washington Boulevard for Warrior Days. Mr. Drake said it would not be a good idea as it limits travel across the Borough. Mayor Perruso said the Boulevard closure will provide plenty of room.

Ms. Kristy Clements of 1610 Washington Street requested fees be waived for Wrestling's end of the year events to be held at the Community Center on March 22 and March 29, 2017. Motion by Mr. Jones to allow fees to be waived. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council concurred.

Ms. Clements also requested that Community Center fees previously paid for a Wrestling event on March 8th, be returned. Motion by Mr. Lipari to return fees. Second by Mr. Jones. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Sonia Hanes Henely of 429 S. 21st Street was present to speak about the relationship between the Borough, its staff and the sports associations. She spoke about coming up with ways to better the relationships. A chain of command would be helpful in resolving problems. Youth sports serves as a feeder program to the high school and teaches kids many skills and strengths. Mr. Jones said the Recreation Board should be the body solving association problems. Only if an issue can't be resolved should the Council become involved. She thanked the Borough for the new brooms and cleaning supplies in the Community Center which makes cleaning up after youth events easier. Mr. Verenna added that the associations should remember that they can now use the LINC Center for meetings.

Ms. Mary Ann Sofronie of 2415 Sycamore requested help from Council on an issue with feral cats in her neighborhood. Mr. Corriere said he can place hang tags reminding people not to feed the cats. Mr. Verenna said Council will look into the situation and see what might be done.

Ms. Sofronie also requested the Borough look into toters for garbage and recycling.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso said due to the impending winter storm the Borough will call a snow emergency at 6:00 pm. All cars will need to be moved from show emergency routes by 10:00 pm or they will be ticketed and towed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia reported that Ms. Kristen Altimare who opens and closes the Community Center for events has given her resignation. The office will advertise the position on the Borough web-site and applications will be accepted at the office.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Mrs. Dorothy Klass, Borough Tax Collector. She requested a raise in salary from \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per year. Ms. Klass has been the tax collector for sixteen years and has worked twelve years without a raise. She wrote that comparable surrounding area collectors make between \$12,000.00 and \$14,000.00 per year. Mr. McGowan objected, saying she will be collecting even more since the Borough now accepts installments. Solicitor Margle explained that she does not get paid per installment, rather a flat fee per year. Discussion was tabled by Mr. Verenna until it is discovered when a decision has to be made.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Motion by Mr. Feinberg to accept Officer Daniel Sciabica's resignation effective 3/1/2017.
Second by Mr. Lipari. Council concurred.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire Alex Keenhold for the open full time fire fighter position. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to conditionally hire Mr. Keenhold pending all required testing. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Chief Sipel reported that the new fire truck has been delivered. He is waiting for grant money to purchase supplies and do training.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Margle said he is still working on locating the owners of the damaged utility poles in the Borough. The Public Utilities Commission has been asked to provide the names and should do so soon.

Mr. Drake spoke of the upcoming snow storm. Streets will be plowed first and alleys second. Snow Emergency routes will be cleared of snow. He reminded residents that it is illegal to throw snow in the streets.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Motion by Mr. Lipari to have Mr. Margle draft an advertisement to accept offers for leasing of the concession stand at the pool. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Council unanimously agreed. Offers to include rental amount, menu, price list and plans for staffing.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to have Ms. Garcia advertise for all positions at the pool including: manager, assistant manager, lifeguards, ticket window help and cleaners. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council concurred.

ATTORNEY:

Mr. Margle reported that he has been in contact with Mr. Joseph Reibman, owner of the Dixie property. Mr. Reibman is actively involved in development of the property and wants to be compliant with Borough codes. He has invited Mr. Corriere and Council members to visit the building. Mr. Jones said he feels that Mr. Reibman should come back to Council and ask for another extension if need be. He is a few months past the original extension.

Solicitor Margle presented the draft RFPs for Fisk Field's Billboard/Scoreboard to Council. He asked that comments be sent to Ms. Garcia, who will forward.

COG:

None

MECAB:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Taylor spoke about the Borough's Arbor Day Celebration to be held on April 29 with the Shade Tree Commission. There will be a ceremony, Holiday Tree planting in the park and 100 trees planted around the Borough. Motion by Ms. Taylor to allow the Community Center to be used as the staging center for the Arbor Day Celebration/Tree Planting. Second by Mr. Lipari. Yes votes cast by Ms. Taylor, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Jones and Mr. Palinkas. No vote cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passes by a 6-1 vote.

Mr. Verenna reported there were 36 sewer shut off notices sent out. \$16,400.00 is due in full or services will be discontinued until paid.

Mr. Feinberg asked Chief Parkansky if there was a list available to hire a replacement for Mr. Sciabica. Chief Parkansky said there is and he would like a Caucus at the next meeting to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

Mr. Margle is working on the Moving Permit Ordinance and a Food Truck Ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$167,393.44 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Taylor. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 7:45 pm and exited at 8:06 pm. Personnel and potential litigation issues were discussed as permitted under the Sunshine law.

Upon the recommendation of Chief Sipel, Motion by Mr. Feinberg to terminate employee #294. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously agreed.

Employee #294 was not present at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Second by Mr. Feinberg and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER