

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
September 25, 2017

The Second Meeting of September 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:

James McGowan
Louis Starniri
Tony Verenna
Pamela Taylor

Russell Lipari
Leonard Feinberg
Scott Palinkas

ABSENT:

David Jones

Daniel Schaffer

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2017 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Barry Willever of 932 S 24th Street spoke to Council regarding his concerns surrounding the weed killer Roundup. He has read that it causes cancer and he requested Council ban its use in the Borough. Mr. Drake noted the Borough workers do not use Roundup. Mr. Margle said the Borough cannot ban its use unless the federal government says they have the right to.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia read an email from Mr. Thomas Hockin, Sr., Chairman of the Wilson Borough Civil Service Commission. As of October 1, 2017 he will be resigning his seat. Motion to accept Mr. Hockin's resignation with regrets by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred. Mr. Starniri noted the importance of finding an unbiased volunteer for the open seat. Attorney Margle added the opening should be advertised in the newspaper as well as the Borough web-site.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia reported to Council on the 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Borough's pension plans. These obligations are paid out of State Pension Aid. Amounts for 2018 are: Firemen's Fund \$22,524.00, Non Uniform Fund \$33,857.00 and Police Fund \$54,333.00.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Chief Parkansky requested Council's permission to make a conditional offer of employment to Mr. Peter Hamati-Attieh as a part-time Officer. Mr. Hamati-Attieh currently works part-time for Palmer Township and Franklin Township. He has his Act 120. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to conditionally hire Mr. Hamati-Attieh. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council concurred.

FIRE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Lipari reported that a tree lighting ceremony is being put together with Block Watch taking the lead. The tentative date is December 1, 2017. The high school band may also participate. Mr. Lipari thanked Ms. Winnie Howey and Ms. Nicole Lewert for their efforts.

Mr. Lipari is also working to have a gazebo placed in the park.

Mr. Lipari noted that at Saturday's high school football game, area veterans will be honored. Mr. Barry Willever will be donating two MIA POW flags to the school in memory of Captain Whittaker who was shot down in Vietnam on March 27, 1968.

ATTORNEY:

Mr. Margle said Mr. Reibman will be present at the Council meeting on October 9th. He will advise Mr. Reibman to be prepared to speak about how his plans are progressing as well as the issues of broken windows and people on the roof of the building watching football games.

Mr. Verenna asked Mr. Margle to reach out to Mr. Negrao, owner of the vacant bank building at 22nd and Northampton Streets. A window has been broken out and the building is becoming an eye sore. The Borough would like to find out what Mr. Negrao plans to do with the deteriorating building.

COG:

None

MECAB:

Mr. McGowan said the next meeting will be held on September 27th at the Strausser Community Center at 7:00 pm. There will be a speaker from PSAB.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Lipari said Mr. Phil Bell, Animal Control Officer had approached him and requested that he present some questions to Council. Mr. Verenna said Mr. Bell should be dealing with Chief Parkansky. Chief Parkansky said he had not heard from Mr. Bell. Ms. Garcia added that Mr. Bell had been working with Mr. Jones on changes to the current ordinance. Attorney Margle advised that limiting the number of pets in a household can be challenged.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Palinkas addressed Council regarding truck traffic in the Borough. He said trucks are going on streets in the Borough that are not wide enough to handle them, for example Spring Garden Street. They are taking down wires, hitting homes and getting stuck. He will be working on an ordinance to restrict truck traffic to certain streets that are capable of handling the traffic. Borough engineers have said no traffic study is needed. Signs will need to be posted.

ORDINANCES:

#784 – Bamboo

Yes votes cast by Mr. Verenna, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Lipari and Mr. Palinkas. No vote cast by Mr. McGowan. Ordinance passed by a 6-1 vote.

#785 – Street Sweeping

Yes votes cast by Mr. Verenna, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Lipari and Mr. Palinkas. No vote cast by Mr. McGowan. Ordinance passed by a 6-1 vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

CAUCUS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$188,937.80 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Starniri. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 7:33 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

**JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER**