

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
October 9, 2017

The First Meeting of October 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  
David Jones

Russell Lipari  
Leonard Feinberg  
Scott Palinkas

ABSENT:

Pamela Taylor

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 25, 2017 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Solicitor Margle introduced Mr. Joseph Reibman, owner of the Dixie Warehouse property. Mr. Reibman was present to address Council regarding the state of the property and his plans for its future. Mr. Reibman said his financing fell through but he has engaged two money finders and will apply to the state for help with the remediation of the property. He said the building is structurally sound and he would be open to suggestions if the Borough has money to help. Mr. Lipari commented that it is not a taxpayer responsibility. Mr. Verenna told Mr. Reibman the broken windows need to be repaired. Mr. Reibman said they are impossible to replace right now and boarding them up would not be good as the light would be reduced inside the building. Mr. Drake told Mr. Reibman to inform Easton Hospital that they may not dump grass clippings in the Dixie parking lot as it clogs the storm drains. Mr. Reibman added that there is a plan in place for the development of a portion of the parking lot. Ms. Cindy Rosenkranz of 2412 Hay Street recommended putting an Olympic pool facility in the building. Mr. Reibman said it would not be feasible with all the concrete columns in the building. Mr. Jones added that the building needs to be better secured. Mr. Reibman said he has no answers at the moment for how the project will move forward. Ms. Mary Ann Sofronie of 2415 Sycamore Street read a prepared statement reviewing the history of the building and the condition it is in now. She spoke of the public's embarrassment with the deteriorating vacant building and said many refer to it as an eyesore. She said Council needs to enforce ordinances and code better and should be issuing more fines to blighted property owners. Ms. Sofronie also made mention of enacting a Quality of Life ordinance.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 7:38 pm and exited at 7:52 pm. The purpose of the Caucus was to discuss personnel matter and potential litigation.

Motion by Mr. Starniri to revoke the termination of employee #822 pending a loudermill hearing. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Starniri to grant Attorney Harrison's request of a continuance for employee #822's hearing before Council. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Starniri to grant Attorney Harrison's request for subpoenas in preparation for employee #822's hearing before Council. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Jim and Linda Smith of 2246 Ferry Street. They requested permission to hold a second block party on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of October 29<sup>th</sup>. Hours will be from 1pm – 4 pm and both sides of the street are requested to be blocked off. Through traffic will be allowed. They also asked for permission to have a bounce house for the event. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to allow the block party with the exception of the bounce house. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously agreed. Solicitor Margle added that the block party is granted but the Borough has not granted the bounce house and it is not a part of the action. Any use of a bounce house will be at the owner's risk and without the endorsement of Borough Council.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Chief Parkansky requested Council's permission to make a conditional offer of employment to Mr. Eugene Casterline as a part-time Officer. Mr. Casterline is a retired Easton Police Captain and works for the Easton Area School District. Motion by Mr. Starniri to conditionally hire Mr. Casterline. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Council concurred.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel reported that it is Fire Safety week. The Fire Department holds a coloring contest for the local elementary school children. For next year's grade level winners, the fire fighters would like permission to drive the kids to school in the fire truck. Motion by Mr. Starniri to allow, with insurance company's approval. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously agreed.

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas reported to Council that Wilson Midget Football has requested permission to change the fire suppression system at Fisk Field in order to accommodate extra fryers for the concession stand. Football will pick up the cost of \$629.34. Motion by Mr. Palinkas to allow the change to the suppression system. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council concurred.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to move Mr. Palinkas from his at large position on the recreation board to the Council representative position. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously agreed.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to appoint Ms. Corrie Burke to the open at large position on the Recreation Board. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council concurred.

ATTORNEY:

Mr. Margle reported that he has reached out to Mr. Negrao, owner of the vacant bank building at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Northampton Streets. Mr. Verenna said that Mr. Negrao had already been out and cleaned up the broken glass from the window that was discussed at the last meeting.

COG:

None

MECAB:

Mr. McGowan said the next meeting will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> in Freemansburg at 7:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$163,491.29 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Starniri. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Second by Ms. Starniri and Council concurred.

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JILL A. GARCIA  
BOROUGH MANAGER