

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
June 25, 2018

The second meeting of June 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:

Russell Lipari	Scott Palinkas
John Burke	Jeffrey Bracken
Justin Woodring	Pamela Taylor
James McGowan	Tony Verenna
David Jones	

ABSENT:

Mayor Barrett advised all in attendance that they are being recorded with both video and audio.

Also present were: Police Chief Christian Meehan, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Code Officer Paul Corriere, Director of Public Works Gregory Drake and Borough Manager Jill Garcia.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2018 meeting. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2018 meeting. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the May 30, 2018 meeting. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously approved.

GUEST:

Wilson Borough Fire Fighter Mark Cooke requested Council's approval to allow the fire department, on their own time, to participate in the MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) Boot Drive. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve participation. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Tara Zrinski of Sun Pulse Solar reviewed a proposal made to Council on adding solar panels to four of the Boroughs buildings; Borough Garage, Community Center, Meuser Pool and Municipal Building, in effort to combat energy costs. Council President, Mr. Verenna recommended to have the Building and Grounds Committee take a further look into this.

Joe Reibman updated Council on the progress with the sale of the Dixie Building. Mr. Reibman advised he has 3 interested buyers and should have a solid proposal within thirty to sixty days.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Kevin Kiernan of 1920 Fairview Ave requested Council's approval to close the 1900 block of Fairview Ave for their block party. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved. Ms. Taylor abstained.

Rodney Nace of 809 Balata St advised he has 17 dogs with in 20 yards of his home and 4 of them bark constantly. He would like Council to look into the noise ordinance for barking dogs.

Deb Bianco of 2101 Freemansburg Ave is concerned about people parking too close to a curb and asked if she could paint her curbs yellow. Council advised that Public Works can place a sign on that corner that says no parking from here to corner. Greg Drake will stop at her home to take a look at where the sign needs to be placed.

Abdul-Majid Umar of 1934 Washington Blvd has several complaints, they are as follows:

1. The Borough needs the street cleaner out more often
2. During snow emergencies the plows hit the curbs and leave them broken
3. Waste Management walks by garbage or recycle cans does not pick them up
4. He has an issue with a tree that is not on his property but creating problems for him. He was advised to speak to Shade Tree.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Shannon Heckman requested Council's approval to close the 1800 block of Fairview Ave for a block party. A motion made by Ms. Taylor to approve the closure. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved.

AARP would like to use the Community Center on July 19 & 20, 2018 for a Senior Driver Safety Education course. A motion made by Mr. McGowan to waive the fees. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett had a handicap application for 1837 Lehigh St. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve the handicap spot. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

Mayor Barrett had a handicap application for 2201 Forest St. A motion made by Mr. Verenna denying request due to the fact two spots are already located on this block. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously approved.

Mayor Barrett thanked Chief Meehan for a job well done with the shooting that occurred at 1453 Ferry St.

Mayor Barrett made a suggestion to publish landlord's names and their trouble properties when they are raided.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised the grant check from Northampton County Gaming Authority funds for \$34,440 has been received.

Ms. Garcia advised the Borough Engineers at T & M made two suggestions for the issues at Meuser Pool.

1. Have geophysical investigation conducted at the pool with the approximate cost of \$1800.
2. Have leak detection conducted with the approximate cost \$3000.

A motion made by Mr. Palinkas giving permission to proceed with the Engineers' suggestions. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan advised that the bike shed is full and welcomes suggestions on how to dispose of them.

FIRE:

Ms. Garcia spoke on behalf of Chief Sipel in his absence. Chief Sipel is recommending the following changes to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

- 3.4 Age and Residency Requirements
Change residency from five (5) miles to seven (7) miles for firefighters.
- 3.6 General Qualifications for Applicants for Promotion
B, 2, (b) : Change to – Applicant for the position of Fire Captain shall have at least three (3) years of experience as a Fire Lieutenant within the Wilson Borough Fire Department.
- 4.2 General Examination Requirements for Promotional Positions
B. Add – The Applicant is required to achieve a minimum score of seventy five (75) percent in each phase of the testing to continue in the testing process.
Add Fire Department Probationary Clause
- 5.5 Probationary Period
Change wording of 5.5 A – to fit Fire Department
B. Every successful applicant to the position of firefighter or a new promotional position with the Fire Department shall serve a twelve (12) month probationary period. During the probationary period, a newly hired firefighter may only be dismissed for cause for the reasons set forth in Section 3.7. A promoted officer, during this probationary

period may be returned to his prior rank for cause for the reasons set forth in Section 3.7. However, at the end of the twelve (12) month probationary period, if the conduct of the probationer has not been satisfactory to Borough Council, the probationer shall be notified in writing that he will not receive a permanent appointment. At that time, a newly hired firefighter employment shall end, and a promoted firefighter shall return to their previous rank. Any firefighter who is not notified in writing that his performance has been unsatisfactory, shall receive a permanent appointment to their position. Any probationer who is notified in writing that they will not be receiving a permanent appointment has no rights of appeal under the Rules and Regulations.

A motion to approve the changes was made by Mr. Burke. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

Chief Sipel requested permission to hire 2 call firefighters; Derek Flavelle & James Peters. A motion to hire was made by Mr. Palinkas. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Drake advised the street cleaner is out.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Lipari thanked the City of Easton for allowing our residents to use their pools. Mr. Lipari also thanked Public Works for completing the new basket ball courts at Meuser Park.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised of conditions upon hiring a Borough Chaplin for the Police/Fire Departments. The Chaplin must be non-denominational, limit his position to consulting and grief counseling and background checks must be completed. Chief Sipel and Chief Meehan will get together and discuss.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

Off for the summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Burke would like Council to revisit the use of social media and creating a new website for the Borough. Borough Manager will start looking into the changes.

Mr. Palinkas would like to amend Zoning Chapter 85 section 4 requiring the seller to notify the Borough of the buyer's name and address within three (3) business days of the transfer.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance #788 amending secret vote. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Mr. Burke. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #1239 to begin a Borough Junior Council Program. A motion to approve resolution #1239 by Ms. Taylor. Second by Mr. Burke.

CAUCUS:

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills in the amount of \$186,730.66 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Burke. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Burke made a Motion to adjourn at 9:33 pm. Second by Mr. Verenna and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER