

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
January 6, 2020

A Reorganization Meeting of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. Mayor Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

None

Also present were: Mayor Donald Barrett, Solicitor Stanley Margle and Borough Manager Jill Garcia.

Solicitor Margle reviewed proper procedures for the reorganization meeting.

Mayor Barrett asked Ms. Garcia to report if all members to be sworn in had turned in their County Certificate of Election and notarized Affidavit of Residency. This is a requirement in order to be sworn in. Ms. Garcia stated she had received appropriate documents from Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Lipari and Mr. McGowan. Mr. Palinkas commented that he had not had a chance to turn his documents in. Solicitor Margle explained that without the said documents Mr. Palinkas was not able to take the oath and be seated as a member of Council. The deadline is January 16, 2020.

Mayor Barrett performed the swearing in of Ms. Pamela Taylor, Mr. Anthony Verenna, Mr. Russell Lipari and Mr. James McGowan.

Mr. Jones nominated Mr. Verenna for Council President. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. McGowan, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Mr. Lipari and Mr. Verenna. Mr. Verenna was elected Council President by an 8 to 0 vote.

Mr. Verenna nominated Mr. Jones for Council Vice-President. Mr. Woodring nominated Mr. Burke for Council Vice-President. Voting for Mr. Jones commenced with Yes votes being cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. McGowan, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Jones. No votes cast by Mr. Woodring and Mr. Burke. Mr. Jones was elected Council Vice-President by a 6 to 2 vote.

Mr. Verenna nominated Mr. Lipari for Council President Pro Tem. Mr. Woodring nominated Mr. Burke for Council President Pro Tem. Voting for Mr. Lipari commenced with Yes votes being cast by Mr. McGowan, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Jones, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Lipari. No votes cast by Mr. Woodring, Mr. Bracken and Mr. Burke. Mr. Lipari was elected Council President Pro Tem by a 5 to 3 vote.

Gavel passed to Council President Verenna.

President Verenna appointed the following Committees of Council.

General Government:
Pamela Taylor (Chair)
James McGowan
Justin Woodring

Protection to Persons and Property:
Tony Verenna (Chair)
Pamela Taylor
John Burke

Public Works:
David Jones (Chair)
Russell Lipari
Jeffrey Bracken

Parks:
Russell Lipari (Chair)
David Jones
Justin Woodring

Codes:
John Burke (Chair)
Justin Woodring

MECAB:
James McGowan

Plans for the structure of a Recreation/Athletic Committee will be discussed at a future meeting.

Solicitor Margle advised that the Celebration Committee is an autonomous committee and not a committee of Council.

Council discussed appointing a new Vacancy Board Chairperson but tabled the discussion until a future meeting.

Solicitor Margle informed Council that the vote of the Zoning Hearing Board in the LAMAR matter had been taken and resulted in all six variances being approved.

Discussion was had regarding Wilson's Zoning Hearing Board's Solicitor McDonald. Attorney McDonald has presented the Board with a request to continue his service to the Board at the rate of \$200 per hour. The Zoning Hearing Board recommends its solicitor however, Council sets the rate of pay. Solicitor Margle advised Council that the average hourly rate for municipal solicitors is \$100 to \$150 per hour.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to set the rate for the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor at \$100 per hour and to have the Zoning Hearing Board present their choice for Solicitor to Council. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Mr. Verenna to set the rate for the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor at \$125 per hour and to have the Zoning Hearing Board present their choice for Solicitor to Council. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed: Yes votes cast by Mr. Verenna, Mr. Jones, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Burke and Mr. Woodring. No votes cast by Mr. McGowan and Mr. Lipari. Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 2.

Ms. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 6:37 pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER