

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 10, 2020

The first meeting of February 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
Scott Palinkas
John Burke
Pam Taylor
Jeffrey Bracken

Justin Woodring
Tony Verenna
David Jones
Russell Lipari

ABSENT: NONE

Also present were: Police Chief Christian Meehan, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Code Officer Paul Corriere, Code Officer Emanuel Machado, Borough Manager Jill Garcia, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel and Supervisor of Public Works Eric Flowers.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve Council meeting minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting with corrections. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

CAUCUS:

Council entered into caucus at 7:01pm. Motion made by Mr. Burke to go into caucus. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

Council returned from caucus at 8:05 pm. Motion made by Mr. Lipari to return from caucus. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Solicitor Margle advised the purpose of the Caucus was to discuss matters involving personnel, pending litigation and real estate.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised the Borough is exploring all options pertaining to the Dixie Building.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised the Borough Engineering firm, T&M, was asked to put together a pool plan that would meet the Borough's Budget of \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000. For T&M to stay in the budget they agreed to charge the Borough hourly for the work not too exceed \$5,000. A motion to grant permission to Ms. Garcia to proceed with the new agreement was made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Jones. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised the Borough is applying for the Green Light Go grant and asking for \$306,000 to redo two intersections in the Borough: Butler Street and Freemansburg Avenue and S. 18th and Palmer Streets. A motion to allow Ms. Garcia to sign the grant documents was made by Mr. Burke. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia was asked by the Sewer Authority to have a motion to reappoint Mr. McGowan to the Sewer Authority for another five years. A motion by Mr. Woodring to appoint Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Mr. McGowan abstained. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised when the new fee schedule was made there was an oversight on the street opening/excavation fees. The fee was set at \$25.00 per sq. ft, however, should read \$10 per sq. ft. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to accept the change. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised the spring PSAB conference will be held in Hershey, PA on June 7-10, 2020. A motion to allow Council persons to attend was made by Ms. Taylor. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Ms. Taylor advised something has come to Council's attention after the budget was passed without objections. For years there have been numerous public complaints about our Manager's salary being too high. Complaints are still happening. Ms. Taylor advised Council looked at comparable Boroughs and found the Borough Office staff is the lowest paid. Ms. Taylor wanted to advise the community that the Borough has a fabulous Manager that saves it money every day.

Mr. Lipari commented when looking at the salary comparisons presented, only one Borough that has a comparable budget was Fountain Hill Borough and their Manager makes \$4,000 more a year. The other Municipalities have half of Wilson Borough's budget and their managers make \$10-15,000 more. Mr. Lipari feels Ms. Garcia is underpaid.

POLICE:

Chief Meehan will be placing the Police Department's speed trailer on Muncibid.

Chief Meehan requested permission to hire Part-Time Officer Mark Sorrentino, pending background investigations. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

Chief Meehan requested permission to hire Full-Time Officer James Parson, pending background investigations. A motion made by Mr. Burke to approve. Second by Ms. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Jones read a letter of Retirement from Teddy Bare, his last day will be March 20, 2020. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to accept the letter of retirement. Second by Mr. Burke. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

Mr. Jones requested a motion to advertise for a mechanics position. A motion made by Mr. Burke to advertise for a mechanic. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Burke advised the 2020 Committee has raised nearly \$30,000 for the event.

Mayor Barrett advised the 2020 Committee was contacted by Sheep Dog Cigar Club to have a booth at the 2020 Celebration. They would require a small area for a smoking section. Solicitor Margle suggests looking at the Ordinance closer and tabling to the next Council meeting.

Mr. Verenna advised the Recreation Board will now be called the Athletic Commission and it will consist of three voting members and recommend a non-voting Secretary with a small stipend.

Mr. Lipari thanked Public Works for the work done at the pool.

Mr. Lipari thanked the Fire Department for a great job done at the fire on 24th Street.

CODE:

Mr. Corriere advised the Ordinance Committee is currently working on The Quality of Life initiative.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised he needed a motion and vote on the 15th Street issue. Solicitor Margle reminded Council they had already passed the Resolution of the inter-municipal liquor license. Solicitor Margle asked Council to vote on the Imposition of Conditions that allows the Borough to control activity at the site. If Council does not pass the Imposition of Conditions tonight Council will lose the ability to do what they want to in the event of an issue. A motion was made to implement the Imposition of Conditions by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote

Solicitor Margle advised that Borough Council had taken action to protect the citizens of Wilson Borough and will authorize the Police Chief, Zoning Officer and the Solicitor to take protective action if there is a violation.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

Next meeting on 2/26/2020 in North Catasauqua.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Taylor advised Shade Tree Commission has an opening and anyone interested should send a letter of interested to the Borough Office.

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$142,019.79. A motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Lipari Council unanimously approved. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Taylor made a Motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER