

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
July 22, 2024

The second meeting of July of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. Council President John Burke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Jeffrey Bracken	John Burke	Shaun Gable
Russell Lipari	Kimberlee Muzac	Scott Palinkas – via phone
Charles Wacik	Justin Woodring	

ABSENT:

Susan Allen

Also present were Solicitor Stanley Margle, Borough Manager Jill Garcia, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Police Chief Christian Meehan and Supervisor of Public Works Eric Flowers.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A motion by Mr. Wacik to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2024, meeting. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Wacik and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Buke reported that Ms. Jones is home and recovering well from surgery. He asked Council and the public to be patient with the office staff, as they are working diligently to cover for Mr. Jones during her extended absence.

Mr. Burke advised that there was an exceptional turnout for the most recent summer concert at Meuser Park. He intends to meet with Mr. Redington, Library Director, to collaborate on making these events even more enjoyable for the community.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised that the Hometown Heros Banner Project has been a success. He requested Council's permission to continue the program. He will also continue to coordinate. Motion by Ms. Gable. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Wacik and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

The Mayor reported on events happening in the Borough. The Lions will be holding their annual car show in Meuser Park on August 3, 2024. The Community Coalition group will be sponsoring Touch a Truck on August 11, 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia updated Council on the status of the Pickleball Court grant project at Meuser Park. Phase 1 (the courts) has received approval. Contracts have been signed and required contract documents/bonds have been received from Keystone Sports. The Preconstruction meeting will be held on August 2, 2024. Start of construction to be determined.

Ms. Garcia requested a motion to sign the Winter Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT. Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Gable. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Wacik and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY

Ms. Gable asked Solicitor Margle for an update on the Balata Street property. Solicitor Margle said he has been in contact with the owner's attorney. He is hoping for an end of August deadline.

Mr. Lipari requested Chief Meehan to assist in preventing bicycle and scooter riders from riding the wrong way down one-way streets. Mr. Lipari suggested ticketing those who do so as it creates a very dangerous situation.

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

Fire Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire Mr. Quinn Campbell as a part time call fighter. Motion by Ms. Gable. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, Mr. Wacik and Mr. Woodring. No vote cast by Mr. Palinkas. Motion passed with a 7-1 vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

Ms. Gable requested a meeting of the Parks Committee for next week. Mr. Lipari, Mr. Wacik and Mr. Flowers were requested to attend. Date to be determined.

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

Mayor Barrett advised there will be five more Concerts in the Park during the summer. Borough Yard Sale will be held on August 17, 2024, in Meuser Park and at residents' homes. A follow up on the same day will be Movies in the Park/Ghostbusters Frozen Empire at dusk. Borough Fall Fest will take place at Meuser Park, October 10th through 13th, 2024.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

NONE

CODE DEPARTMENT/ZONING/LAND DEVELOPMENT:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle reported on a recent meeting with Safavieh, owners of 1991 Northampton Street. They will be presenting Land Development Plans for the old Mack Printing Building. This will be a rehab of the 286,000 square foot building which may require zoning relief and a zoning map amendment. More details will be provided at a later date.

Mr. Margle advised the appraisal of the Beatty property located at the Lehigh Drive culvert has been completed by Laudone and Associates. Beatty will be sent a check for \$5,000 for the eminent domain/declaration of taking. Once Beatty cashes the check, he will have 30 days to appeal.

Mr. Margle addressed a resignation letter from Mr. Woodring, which was tabled at the last meeting. He thanked Mr. Woodring for his service to the Borough and advised Council that a motion should be made to accept the resignation. Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Wacik. Mr. Woodring abstained. Motion passed with an 7-0-1 vote.

Mr. Margle advised Council that two letters of interest had been received for Mr. Woodring's vacated seat. Both applicants, Mr. Michael Figueroa and Ms. Mary Bracken were in attendance. Council proceeded to interview the applicants. When the interviews were complete, Solicitor Margle advised Council that they have 30 days to appoint someone to the seat. After the 30 day window, the vacancy will go to the Court to fill.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to table the selection of a replacement for Mr. Woodring. Second by Ms. Muzac. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. No votes cast by Ms. Gable and Mr. Palinkas. Mr. Woodring and Mr. Bracken abstained. Motion passed with a 4-2 -2 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised that Skyline has made an offer to the Borough as the host municipality. The offer along with the TIF resolution votes will be upcoming. Borough Council will also need to act on rescinding the LERTA that is currently in place. Ms. Gable asked if there are limits to how the compensation may be spent. Solicitor Margle said no. Mr. Lipari asked when the Borough would see the compensation. Mr. Margle said at the close of the construction loan which may be in February 2025.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to approve Resolution # 1291-Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Commonwealth Financing Authority was made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Wacik and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$273,484.65 A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wacik. Seconded by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Wacik and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Mark McCarty of 2339 2nd St. advised there is a section of 24th Street that needs repaving. Mr. McCarty added that Chief Meehan should pass out Bicycle manuals to residents, so they know how to properly operate in traffic.

Mr. Sal Pugliese of 2225 Hackett Ave., owner of 1500 Spring Garden Street advised that neighbors are putting out bags of trash, not in cans and the squirrels are ripping them apart, leaving trash all over. Mr. Pugliese also reported water in his basement which he believes is from the repaving and new ramps at 15th and Spring Garden Streets. Ms. Garcia advised the Borough Engineer has been in contact with Mr. Pugliese and will provide her findings. Mr. Pugliese has requested that storm drains be added to 15th Street.

Mr. Steven Tucker of 1821 Fairview Avenue suggested the Borough look into "Fix it Tickets" for the Borough Code Officer.

CAUCUS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wacik made a Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Seconded by Mr. Lipari and Council concurred.