

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
August 12, 2024

The first meeting of August 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	Charles Wacik
Russell Lipari	Kimberlee Muzac	Susan Allen

ABSENT:

Scott Palinkas Shaun Gable

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A motion by Mr. Bracken to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2024, meeting. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett reported that he attended the Touch a Truck event on Sunday held by The Wilson Area Communities That Care Coalition. The event was a success with hundreds attending. He thanked Public Works, the Fire Department and the Police Department for their participation. Mr. Lipari added that he had spoken with various residents who agreed it was a wonderful event.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia asked for approval to advertise for bids for the 2024 Liquid Fuels Paving Project which will include milling and overlaying of Liberty Street from N. 15th Street to N. 17th Street and N. 17th Street from Northampton Street to Wood Avenue. Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia updated Council on the status of the Pickleball/Tennis Court grant project at Meuser Park. There will be two tennis courts and six pickleball courts. Demolition of the old courts has begun. Mr. Lipari thanked Borough Engineer Monica Wall for a job well done in obtaining and coordinating approximately \$500,000 in grants for this project.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY

NONE

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Flowers is working with Borough Engineer Monica Wall to obtain a grant to replace the large pavilion in Meuser Park along with new fencing for the rest of the park.

Mr. Lipari asked about the status of the pool bath house. Ms. Garcia noted that the building may be needed for record storage at some point.

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

The next meeting of the code committee will be held on August 26, 2024 at 6 pm in Council Chambers.

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke reported the Community Yard Sale will be held this upcoming weekend. It is not at Meuser park, but instead residents can provide their addresses to be listed on the Celebration Website Yard Sale Map.

Saturday, August 17, 2024, will be the last Movies in the Park. Ghost Busters Frozen Empire will be shown at 8 pm.

There are two more concerts left in the Summer Concert Series: The Nazareth Community Band and The Easton Municipal Band.

Bingo at the Bandshell will be held on Saturday September 21, 2024. This is a fundraiser for the Celebration Committee and will be a cash bingo.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Ms. Garcia stated that the Borough Engineers are waiting for a grant round to open to assist in paying for a new comprehensive plan. Estimated costs for a new plan are approximately \$100,000.

CODE DEPARTMENT/ZONING/LAND DEVELOPMENT:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised a Planning Commission meeting was held on August 6, 2024. The applicant was Wood Avenue PropCo/Scannell for the Easton Commerce Park located at 1525 Wood Avenue. The project will bring jobs and much needed improvements to the area. Traffic concerns are being addressed by PennDot and the applicant. The Planning Commission made a favorable recommendation to Borough Council.

Mr. Margle addressed the vacancy on Council created by the resignation of Mr. Woodring. Council interviewed two applicants at a meeting on July 22, 2024: Ms. Mary Bracken and Mr. Michael Figueroa. Motion by Mr. Lipari to appoint Mr. Figueroa to the vacant seat. Second by Ms. Allen. Mr. Bracken commented that a council person who was not in attendance for the interviews should not be voting. Solicitor Margle advised that not being present for the interviews does not mean a council person did not do their due diligence. The law does not preclude a motion or vote because the council person was not present. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. No vote cast by Mr. Burke. Mr. Bracken abstained. Motion passed with a 4-1-1 vote. Mr. Figueroa was sworn in and took his seat.

Council took a five-minute recess.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Bracken questioned if Council is able to make a resolution regarding attendance at meetings for Council Persons. Discussion ensued. Council will discuss at a later date.

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

Motion to approve Resolution #1292- Rescinding and Repealing LERTA by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Muzac. Mr. Bracken asked Skyline representatives if any work had been done at the site. Mr. Bartee advised lead-based paint and asbestos remediation has begun inside the facility. Mr. Amerian commented that construction is estimated to begin in the first quarter of 2025. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Motion to approve Resolution #1293-Agreement to Participate in a TIF District by Mr. Bracken. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote. Mr. Lipari thanked the developers for moving this project along.

Attorney Cox representing Skyline requested Council to appoint two members of Council to be liaisons with the Northampton County Industrial Development Authority for the Dixie project. Motion by Mr. Lipari to appoint Mr. Burke and Mr. Bracken. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$414,556.25 A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bracken. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Ms. Linda Hewitt of Second Street addressed Council regarding her concerns of drugs, crime and code violations in her neighborhood. She asked Council to place a camera in her neighborhood to help with this situation. Mayor Barrett advised the Borough Police and Code Office are working to resolve this situation. He also requested that residents report all incidents.

CAUCUS:

Council entered the Caucus at 7:55 pm. Exited at 8:05 pm.
Caucus was held to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wacik made a Motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Seconded by Ms. Muzac and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
CLERK/TREASURER