

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
August 26, 2024

The second 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:

Susan Allen	John Burke	Jeffrey Bracken	Michael Figueroa
Shaun Gable	Kimberlee Muzac	Charles Wacik	Russell Lipari (via phone 7:10)

ABSENT:

Scott Palinkas

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. Bracken to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2024, meeting. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Gable, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS:

Mayor Barrett swore in two new full time police officers: Officer Brandon Butler and Officer Nicholas Bramich. Council congratulated the new officers and welcomed them.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Motion by Ms. Gable to nominate Mr. Bracken for Council President Pro-Tem. Second by Mr. Wacik. With no other nominations being heard, motion by Mr. Wacik to close nominations. Second by Ms. Gable. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Gable, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Mr. Bracken abstained. Motion passed with a 6-0-1 vote.

Mr. Burke noted that the last concert for the Meuser Park Summer Concert Series was held over the past weekend. He requested that Council look into solving parking issues that frequently occur during the concerts. Barricades and direction signs were discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett thanked Chief Meehan for the added Police presence in Avona.

Mayor Barrett along with Chief Meehan handed out pencils and crayons to kids for the first day of school in Wilson Borough.

Mayor Barrett requested permission for a handicap sign to be placed at 2402 Victor Street. The application meets all requirements and will be the 2nd spot on this block. Motion to approve by Mr. Bracken. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY

POLICE:

Chief Meehan requested Council's permission to make a conditional offer of employment to Mr. Barry Rodenbough as a Crossing Guard. Motion by Ms. Gable. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote

Chief Meehan stated that one open spot for a Police Officer remains. The Civil Service list has been exhausted by the recent three new hires. He requested Council's permission to start the Civil Service Testing for Police Officers. Motion by Ms. Gable to approve. Second by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

FIRE:

Ms. Gable asked Chief Sipel how many applications were received for the open full-time Fire Fighter spot. Chief Sipel stated that he has received eight.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

Mr. Flowers reported on the progress of the Pickleball/Tennis Court project. The base has been put down. People have been driving on the new base. Public works will attempt to fence the area off in some manner.

CODE COMMITTEE:

The Committee is currently working with the Solicitor on language for an Appeal Board to cover code and traffic violation appeals.

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

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.

The Fall Fest will be held October 11 – 14, 2024 at Meuser Park.

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.

CODE DEPARTMENT/ZONING/LAND DEVELOPMENT:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle reported on the pending purchase of property at 350 Balata Street. He has been in communication with the owner's attorney to finalize outstanding issues. Closing is estimated for the end of September.

Mr. Margle advised that Wilson Borough and the Wilson Area School District have both approved the Dixie TIF. Northampton County IDA and GPA have been meeting and will continue to meet. Northampton County will also hold a hearing on the TIF. Construction is anticipated to be at the close of the construction loan; approximately February 2024. Motion by Mr. Wacik to have Solicitor Margle attend all Dixie related meetings with Northampton County. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle reported that Safavieh will be coming before Council and Zoning regarding the property at 1991 Northampton Street. They will be looking to redesign the current warehouse. It is anticipated Safavieh will request to have North 20th Street turned over to them along with an amendment to the Wilson Borough zoning map. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Wilson Borough Council, and Wilson Borough Zoning Hearing Board will be reviewing, along with others.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bracken asked Solicitor Margle if he has any updates on Mr. Palinkas' lack of attendance at Council Meetings, for the past few weeks. Solicitor Margle reported that he has spoken to Mr. Palinkas and advised him that he needs to make an effort to attend meetings. Mr. Margle will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$79,911.17 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, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac, and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Mark McCarty of 2339 2nd Street addressed Chief Meehan. He thanked the Chief for the added police presence in his neighborhood and apologized for his previous comments that the police were not doing anything to help with the current situation.

Mr. Lucas Wolfe of 2438 Hay Street stated he his having issues with his new neighbors. He reported noise violations and property maintenance issues. He requested that Council amend the rental ordinance to include family-owned homes in order to allow the disorderly conduct rules of the rental program to apply.

CAUCUS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wacik made a Motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Seconded by Ms. Allen and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
CLERK/TREASURER