

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 24, 2025

The Second meeting of February 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	Russell Lipari	Shaun Gable
Michael Figueroa	Kimberly Muzac	Charles Wacik	Jeffrey Bracken

ABSENT:

Scott Palinkas

Also present were Solicitor Stanley Margle, Borough Manager Jill Garcia, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, and Police Chief Christian Meehan.

Solicitor Margle addressed Council, Residents and Taxpayers present about the incident in the press that involved a briefcase being left at the juvenile center courtroom and subsequently determined to allegedly have narcotics in it. Solicitor Margle stated he is constrained by law and ethics to comment substantively on what happened. Solicitor Margle said, "I am embarrassed to have good clients, private and public alike having been named in the press and implicated by association with an unsavory allegation."

Mr. Bracken stated he appreciated the number of residents that appeared and members of the media. Council has the removal of a Councilperson on the agenda and over the last four to five months Council has been trying to get the attention of the local news outlets to pick up the story of this absentee Councilperson, to no avail. He requested that the media stay for the hearing of Councilperson Palinkas.

Mayor Barrett stated that based on the circumstances, Solicitor Margle was not charged with anything and he will have his day in court. Under the guise of Law, he is innocent until proven guilty. Based on the situation Mayor Barrett is going to wait and see how everything plays out before he makes comments or judgement as, it is not for him to judge. It is a Council decision on how things will be managed.

A motion to go into caucus made by Ms. Gable. Second by Ms. Allen. Council unanimously approved.

HEARING FOR COUNCIL VACANCY

A hearing was held before Council and the Public to declare Mr. Palinkas' seat vacant. Mr. Palinkas was served within the appropriate time but failed to appear for the hearing. Evidence was presented by Solicitor Margle.

A motion by Mr. Lipari to declare Mr. Palinkas' seat vacant. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

A motion to advertise the Council Vacancy made by Ms. Gable. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A motion to approve meeting minutes from January 27 and February 10, 2025, made by Mr. Figueroa. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garica requested a motion for approval of a three-year contract for the full-time Fire Department employees. A motion made by Ms. Allen. Second by Ms. Muzac. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY

Ms. Gable stated she would like to meet with the seller of the Brown Daub Butler Street property and also get the cost of redoing the current police station.

POLICE:

Chief Meehan advised he would like to apply for a \$5,000 equipment grant for a digital crime scene camera. He stated there will be no cost to the Borough. Motion to approve by Ms. Gable. Second by Mr. Wacik. A motion made by Ms. Allen. Second by Ms. Muzac. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke advised the Flavor Jam Food Truck Festival will be held at Meuser Park on May 3, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Ms. Garcia requested Council's permission to authorize Resolution #1300, an application to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance grant program for the Borough's comprehensive plan. A motion to approve made by Mr. Bracken. Second by Mr. Figueroa. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

CODE DEPARTMENT/ZONING/LAND DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. Garcia advised she received a letter of interest for the Zoning Hearing Board alternate position from Ms. Lynn Nunamaker. Council requested Ms. Nunamaker appear at the next Council meeting for an interview on March 10, 2025.

Two Zoning Hearings will be held on February 25, 2025; 2421 Forest St. and 1609 Spruce St. A motion to send the Solicitor on behalf of Council made by Ms. Allen. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A motion made by Ms. Allen. Second by Ms. Muzac. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

ATTORNEY:

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Garcia advised Council to let her know as soon as possible if anyone would like to attend the Spring PSAB Conference being held June 1 – 6, 2025. Ms. Gable advised she would like to attend.

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$186,271.71 A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Bracken. Second by Ms. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Bracken made a Motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm Second by Mr. Wacik and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
CLERK/TREASURER