

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
July 23, 2018

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. President Verenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Scott Palinkas
James McGowan
Jeffrey Bracken via phone
Tony Verenna

John Burke
Justin Woodring
David Jones

ABSENT: Russ Lipari and Pamela Taylor

Mayor Barrett advised all in attendance that they are being recorded with both video and audio.

Also present were: Police Chief Christian Meehan, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Code Officer Paul Corriere, Director of Public Works Gregory Drake and Borough Manager Jill Garcia.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2018 meeting. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

GUEST:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Pastor Larry Vandevere offered services to control the feral cat population in the Borough using TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release).

Mike Shannon of 2230 Fox Run advised his neighbor's tree is over grown and its branches are hanging near his roof. Mr. Corriere advised he has the right to cut and remove any part of the branches that are hanging over his property line.

Mr. Shannon also expressed interest in joining the pool committee. Ms. Garcia advised she received his letter of intent.

Mr. Shannon was also very concerned about some foul language he heard on the recording of the July 9, 2018 meeting and wanted to express his disappointment.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna advised he would like all Council members to begin reviewing the five year plan and the current budget so Council can begin discussions

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised he received requests to have someone look at the high weeds at the Armory in Avona. Mr. Corriere advised he has been in contact with the Armory and some work has been completed.

Mayor Barrett advised he received requests to have potholes fixed in an alley behind Fairview Ave. Mr. Drake advised the holes have already been taken care of.

Mayor Barrett advised the Wilson Borough Block Watch is handling the Ring security initiative by handing out flyers at Block Watch meetings, offering the \$25 discount to Borough residents.

Mayor Barrett set the bike give away for July 28, 2018 from 12pm to 2pm. It will be held at the Borough garage. An adult must accompany the child and sign a waiver. The child must be a Wilson Borough resident.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised the fall PSAB conference is going to be held October 12-14, 2018 at Seven Springs. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to allow Council to attend. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Ms. Garcia advised the newsletter is in the works and the office would like articles from Council and Department heads no later than the second week in August.

Ms. Garcia advised the Department heads, Ms. Jones and herself have met with Big Pixel Studios. The process of designing a new website is underway and there should be a model to view and test in a few weeks.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan requested a motion to make a conditional offer of employment to Robert Mahady as a part-time Officer. A motion made by Mr. Jones to approve the conditional offer of employment. Second by Mr. Wooding. Council unanimously agreed.

Chief Meehan advised the Lions Club generously donated a tow behind trailer to the Police Department which will be used for things such as DUI check points and the range.

Chief Meehan advised the Civil Service list is completed and requested to make conditional offers of employment for full time Officers to Nickolas Ross and Tyler Smith. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to make the conditional offers. Second by Mr. Jones. Council unanimously approved.

Chief Meehan completed a parking fines comparison against other local municipalities. He advised he will have to order new tickets in the next two months and if Council wants to change the fine structure he will need to know before the tickets are ordered. Mr. Verenna tabled the discussion to the next meeting so that Council members have time to review the data.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Corriere to speak to Lidl about the high grass growing near the fence at Freemansburg Ave. Mr. Corriere advised he will speak to them.

Mr. Drake advised that all of the trees at the billboard location have been cut down.

Mr. Drake requested approval to purchase a John Deere utility tractor costing \$109,619.24. Council tabled the discussion till the next Council meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas advised that all Recreation Board bills are now paid yearly.

Mr. Palinkas requested the use of the Strausser Community Center once a month to hold meetings for the 2020 committee. Ms. Garcia advised to check with office prior to use to make sure it is not already reserved.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised he has not received a response to a letter he had written to Mr. Joseph Reibman in reference to an update on the progress of the Dixie Building.

Solicitor Margle advised he drafted a release for the bike give away and has been approved by Ms. Garcia to use.

Solicitor Margle advised he received and reviewed the lease agreement between the Wilson School District, Wilson Borough and property owner Dave Mowen. Mr. Margle advised everything is in order he would like to see the contract renewed with signatures and a date.

Solicitor Margle advised he will be drafting a letter to The Center for Animal Health and Welfare to clarify the approval of use they received at the last council meeting. Solicitor Margle would like The Center for Animal Health and Welfare to understand they have been approved for use of the park and pavilions free of charge and no permission has been given to serve alcohol at the Paws for a Cause event. The Center for Animal Health and Welfare must send a letter requesting permission for alcohol sales and consumption and must be presented before Council for approval.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

Off for the summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Barrett extended his condolences to Wilson's former Mayor, Ken Dunn's family.

ORDINANCES:

Solicitor Margle advised Ordinance #789 has been reviewed and advertised. A motion to adopt Ordinance #789 - Unsolicited Written Material made by Mr. Palinkas. Second by Mr. McGowan. Council unanimously agreed.

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

CAUCUS:

Council entered Caucus at 8:15 pm and exited at 8:23 pm. The purpose of this Caucus was to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Verenna made a motion for a School Resource Officer for the 2018-2019 school year. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Mr. McGowan made a motion to allow Chief Meehan to sign the School Resource Officer contract. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills in the amount of \$90,845.57 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Burke. Second by Mr. McGowan. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. McGowan made a Motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER