

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 13, 2017

The First Meeting of February 2017 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:

Tony Verenna
Leonard Feinberg
Louis Starniri
James McGowan

Pamela Taylor
Scott Palinkas
David Jones
Russell Lipari

ABSENT:

Daniel Schaffer

Also present were: Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Police Chief Steven Parkansky, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Director of Public Works Gregory Drake, Public Works Foreman Eric Flowers, and Code Officer Paul Corriere.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the January 18 and 23, 2017 Council meetings. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Mr. Barry Willever of 932 S. 24th Street was present and spoke about placing POW MIA signs at 23rd and Forest and 24th and Forest. A Wilson Borough graduate USAF Captain Richard Lee Whitteker went missing in action on March 27, 1968 in Vietnam. Captain Whitteker resided on this block of Forest Street. Motion by Mr. Starniri to allow signs to be placed honoring Captain Whitteker. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council unanimously agreed. Mr. Drake will contact the Express Times to attend the ceremony.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Jennifer Dutko-Miller presented her request to Council to hold her second annual Spaghetti Dinner for Walk MS Team on Saturday April 8, 2017 in the Strausser Community Center. Ms. Miller requested fees be waived. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow use and waive fees. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council concurred.

Mr. Paul Corriere requested closure of Washington Boulevard between 22nd and 24th Streets on August 5, 2017 for the 4th Annual Car Show. The Lions have provided proof of event insurance to the Borough Office. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow road closure for the event. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Kate Hug of Dell's Kitchen at 1645 Washington Street requested permission to rent the pavilions and band shell at Meuser Park for Dell's Basketball Tournament & Wilson Family Fun Days to be held on June 10 and 11, 2017. Dell's plans on contributing five to ten thousand dollars to repair the basketball facilities through a donation to Meuser Library after the event. Ms. Hug asked for permission to have a bounce house and to place banners on park property to advertise. Details will be worked out between the Borough and Dell's. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow use of the Park conditioned upon Dell's securing event insurance naming Wilson Borough, its Council and Employees as other insureds. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council concurred.

Mr. Donald Barrett, Jr. of 725 S. 23rd Street requested closure of a portion of Washington Boulevard near the high school for Warrior Weekend to be held on May 27, 2017 with a rain date of May 28, 2017. The event planning is still in the initial stages but Mr. Barrett said he plans on having food trucks as well as fireworks. This event will be held to raise money for Borough sports groups. Motion by Ms. Taylor to allow closure of the street conditioned upon the event coordinators securing event insurance naming Wilson Borough, its Council and Employees as other insureds. Second by Mr. Palinkas and Council unanimously agreed.

Council President Verenna thanked Mr. Drake and his crew for an excellent job cleaning the streets after the most recent snow storm. He also thanked the Police for a good job handling the crowd at the recent basketball game.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso requested Council's approval for a Handicap parking space for Mr. William Pilz at 916 S. 24th Street. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to allow the Handicap spot. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously agreed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia informed Council that she had obtained rates for reinvestment of the CD which just matured. ESSA Bank offered the highest rate of 1.45% for two years. Motion by Mr. McGowan to reinvest with ESSA. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Waste Management requested approval for the new recycling routes in the Borough. Currently recycling pickup is every other week throughout the entire Borough. In the upcoming weeks the Borough will be split in half. Recycling will remain every other week, but will be opposite weeks in different sections. Waste Management will be notifying all homeowners affected by this change. Motion to approve the route changes by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council agreed.

Motion by Mr. Jones to approve attendance by interested Council Members and Staff at the 2017 PSAB Convention in Hershey PA on May 7 – 10, 2017. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Motion by Mr. Starniri to appoint Mr. McGowan to be the voting delegate at the PSAB Convention. Mayor Perruso will be the alternate. Second by Mr. Feinberg and council concurred.

Ms. Garcia noted that there are groups using Council Chambers who have not been placed on the office schedule and requested that the office be made aware of all meetings. People using the Community Center should do the same.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Upon a recommendation of Chief Parkansky, Motion by Mr. Starniri to make a conditional offer of employment to Ms. Nancy Butz for the position of crossing guard pending background checks. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council agreed.

Chief Parkansky said he received a request from the IRCO credit union to have a 30 minute parking sign placed on Ferry Street. Hours would be 9am to 6 pm. Mr. Drake suggested the Northampton Street side would be a better fit. The curb cut and also the ATM are located on that side. Motion by Mr. Starniri to allow the 30 minute parking sign on the Northampton Street side of the credit union. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Council unanimously agreed.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel reported the Borough Fire Department has been awarded an ASFC Grant of \$14,500. This will be used to purchase equipment for the new fire truck.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Jones commended Mr. Drake and his crew for an excellent plowing job.

Mr. Drake said his new Facebook page has been working well.

Ms. Corrie Burke asked for new brooms and cleaning supplies at the Community Center so the various associations can clean up after events.

Mr. Drake asked for Council's permission to eliminate angle parking on Spring Garden Street and the 1700 block of Washington Boulevard for a two week period to see how regular parking would work. It is becoming difficult to get plows through these areas with angle parking. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to allow the parking trial. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council concurred.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Lipari explained that there was a Park and Recreation Committee meeting held this evening. Some items discussed were pool rates, hours, maintenance, refreshment stand and the grant for the playground inside the pool area.

Mr. Lipari is also putting together some ideas for things to do with the park in the winter such as ice skating and a tree lighting ceremony.

Mr. Verenna asked Mr. Palinkas to see that the Recreation Board presents the Borough Manager with minutes and a treasurer's report each month. Ms. Garcia will then include these in Council Members packets.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle said he was contacted by an engineer wanting to consolidate lots of the old Merkin Subdivision. One portion was not transferred due to a deed description omission. The engineer would create a correction deed, eliminating two parcels. Mr. Margle felt this would result in no harm to Borough resources. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to have Solicitor Margle draft a letter to the buyer and the County which will say that Aflan will not have to redo the subdivision. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council agreed.

COG:

None

MECAB:

Mr. McGowan said MECAB will be meeting on February 22nd at 7:00 pm in Northampton. District Attorney John Morganelli will be presenting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Motion by Mr. Feinberg to approve Resolution #1227 – Disposition of Records. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously agreed.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$236,801.05 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Taylor. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 8:05 pm and exited at 8:43 pm. Personnel and potential litigation issues were discussed as permitted under the Sunshine law.

Motion by Mr. Feinberg to authorize hiring of outside Counsel to represent the Borough at an upcoming hearing. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 8:44 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER