WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 27, 2017

The Second 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	Daniel Schaffer
Leonard Feinberg	Scott Palinkas
Louis Starniri	David Jones
James McGowan	Russell Lipari

ABSENT:

Pamela Taylor

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2017 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Representatives of the Center for Animal Health and Welfare were present and asked for Council's permission to have a beer tent and allow sales of closed alcohol containers at their upcoming Paws for a Cause event in Meuser Park. Council advised that the Borough's liability carrier does not allow alcohol in the park.

Mr. Dan Redington, Director of the Mary Meuser Library presented the Library's annual report to the Council, noting that 56% of the Library's usage is Wilson Borough residents.
The Library is also doing a fund drive to replace old lighting with LED lighting. Mr. Starniri suggested that grants might be available and suggested Mr. Redington reach out to Representative Freeman and Senator Boscola.
Mr. Redington noted that all but one concert have been scheduled for the Summer Concert Series.
Mr. Feinberg asked Mr. Redington's opinion on a library tax. Mr. Redington said it has good and bad points but does result in equal funding by all communities. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to have Mr. Margle investigate the procedure for putting a Library Tax Referendum on the ballot. Second by Mr. Starniri. Council concurred.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Ms. Kristy Thatcher of 2444 Birch Street and Ms. Kristy Clements of 1610 Washington Street were present to represent the Wilson Borough Wrestling Association. They requested a public apology and disciplinary action for Ms. Garcia regarding her comments that the Wrestling Association was in Council chambers late at night and that they used a key to gain access. Solicitor Margle said their request would be considered in Caucus.

Ms. Mary Ann Sofronie of 2415 Sycamore alleged that the recent Park & Recreation Committee meetings were held in violation of the Sunshine law because they were not open to the public. Solicitor Margle explained that Committees are not permitted to take action and are not an agency of the Borough. There is no requirement that minutes be kept and no decisions are made at said meetings. As such, they are not bound by the Sunshine law and meetings can be closed.

Mr. Donald Barrett, Jr. of 725 S. 23rd Street asked when the RFP for the billboard/scoreboard will be complete. Mr. Margle said his office is working on it and should be ready within 30 days.
Mr. Barrett also voiced his concern with the closure of the Wilson Swim Team accounts. He said the account was to remain open for two years and should have had two signatures to close. Mr. Verenna explained that Mr. Marstellar signed off on the accounts and the money was handed over to the Recreation Board in the form of a cashier's check.
Mr. Barrett added that anyone who wants to see the sports association's financial records should come to a meeting and ask for them.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia read a letter from John Burke – President of the Wilson Borough Baseball Association. The Association requested use of Jeffrey and Fisk Fields for the upcoming baseball and softball seasons. They will start March 1st and end October 31st. Insurance documents were provided. Ms. Garcia gave permission for use as requested.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso commended Officer Daniel Pacchioli on his arrest of a homicide suspect.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia presented a suggestion from the office staff regarding moving permits. Currently, the Borough requires moving permits when a resident moves out of or within the Borough. It would help the office keep more accurate records to require a moving permit when moving into the Borough as well. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to amend the moving permit requirement to include a permit when moving into the Borough. Second by Mr. Schaffer. Council unanimously agreed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Mr. Starniri congratulated the Wilson Police Department on a job well done regarding the recent homicide suspect's arrest.

FIRE:

Mr. Sipel spoke about the information in Council packets pertaining to food trucks. Most municipalities have codes in place for food trucks to ensure the public safety. He requested Council and Mr. Margle review and see if the Borough should put something in place as well.

The new fire truck will be arriving on Friday March 3rd at 11:00 am.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Drake said Liberty Park is in the process of being renovated and additional parts have been ordered.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Lipari announced that the pool will be open on May 27th, 28th and 29th. It will open daily beginning June 3rd. Pool hours will be 12 pm to 7 pm daily and will not be closed unless there is inclement weather.

Motion by Mr. Feinberg to set 2017 pool rates as follows:

Residents			Non Residents	
Single	$ 90		Single	$150
Family	$120	(2 adults, 4 kids)	Family	$185
Senior	$ 45	(60 + years)	Senior	$ 75
Military	$ 45	(ID required)	Military	$ 75
Daily			Daily	
Adult	$ 7	18 years & up	Adult	$ 8
Child	$ 6	3 to 17 years	Child	$ 7
Senior	$ 4		Senior	$ 5

If a family has more than four children, there will be an additional charge of $20 per child. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council unanimously agreed.

There was much discussion over the sport associations' use of Council Chambers for meetings. Things are being left behind and it was said that some have read personal documents left at Council Members seats. Mr. Lipari asked why the associations can't hold their meetings at the Avona Field House. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to have associations meet at the Avona Field House. Second by Mr. Jones. Mr. Starniri expressed concern over the use of port a potties in the winter at the Field House. He added that the associations should speak to the LINCS center about a space for meetings. Yes votes cast by Mr. Feinberg and Mr. Schaffer. No votes cast by Mr. Verenna, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Palinkas. Motion failed by a vote of 6-2. It was decided to use the sliding wall to close off the dais area when Council is not in session. Mr. Verenna will also speak to the LINCS center.

ATTORNEY:

Mr. Margle discussed the issue of bounce houses in Meuser Park. The Borough's insurance carrier will allow them as long as the organizer has the required event insurance and has signed a hold harmless agreement. Mr. Margle has prepared such an agreement and once approved by the insurance company, office staff can begin allowing the use of bounce houses as long as the appropriate forms are submitted to the Borough.

COG:

None

MECAB:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of $284,484.34 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Schaffer. Second by Mr. Starniri. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 8:20 pm and exited at 8:47 pm. Personnel and potential litigation issues were discussed as permitted under the Sunshine law.

Mr. Margle addressed Ms. Thatcher and Ms. Clements regarding their allegations against Ms. Garcia. He thanked them for voicing their concerns. Council discussed the issue during Caucus and reached the conclusion that the events do not rise to the level of requiring an apology or disciplinary action. He said they may submit a letter to Council if they wish. They submitted the letter they read from earlier.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

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JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER