

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 12, 2018

The First Meeting of February 2018 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	James McGowan
David Jones	Scott Palinkas
John Burke	Pamela Taylor
Jeffrey Bracken	Justin Woodring
Russell Lipari (via phone)	

ABSENT:

None

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

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

Mayor Barrett performed the swearing in of Full Time Probationary Fire Fighter Mr. Justin Purdy. Council congratulated Fire Fighter Purdy and wished him well.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2018 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Woodring. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2018 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Woodring. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Biagio Parascandolo of 721 S 23rd Street asked Solicitor Margle to update the residents on the issue of broken utility poles in the Borough. Mr. Margle said that the majority of poles have been identified and removed. Mr. Drake added that there are only two poles remaining to be removed. Those poles have wires attached that are somewhat of a problem to remove. They are being worked on.

Mr. Parascandolo asked if the Borough could do street sweeping more often, possibly three times per year. Mr. Drake explained that there was no money left in the budget last year to do the streets again as the fees for the required dumping are quite high. The budget has been increased for 2018 to allow for two full Borough wide sweeping events as well as sporadic sweeping. The committee will meet to discuss more frequent sweeping.

Mr. Parascandolo wished Chief Parkansky a happy retirement and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Jim Smith and Mr. Don Meadows were present to request use of Meuser Park, fees waived for the annual vacation bible school to be held the week of June 25th. Motion by Mr. Burke to allow use with fees waived. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council concurred.

Mr. Charles Wacik of 1532 Washington Street asked Council to do something about the car dealer at 16th and Washington Streets. Mr. Wacik said Majestic Auto parks cars on the sidewalks and works on cars in the street. He said the number of cars on a lot should be limited.

Mr. Wacik also said that he had heard the new Council Members want a volunteer fire department. Mr. Wacik recently lost his home to a fire and told Council that without a paid department a lot more homes would have been lost.

Mr. Greg Smolen of 413 Fox Circle was present to inquire how residents can go about getting a dog park in the Borough. Mr. Verenna said this topic had been discussed before. The Borough does not want Public Works to have to clean up after the dogs. Mr. Palinkas said he believes there are deed restrictions for Meuser Park. Mr. Verenna said the Parks and Recreation committees will look into it and Mr. Margle will look at the deed.

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 7:20 pm and exited at 8:20 pm. Topics discussed were terms and conditions of employment and potential disciplinary actions.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia presented a request from the Lions Club to hold their 5th annual Shine and Show Car Expo on Saturday August 5th, 2018 (Rain date, Sunday August 6th). This request includes the closure of Washington Boulevard from 22nd Street to 24th Street and South on 24th Street to the entrance of the Dixie Office parking lot. Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the Car Show. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia read a request from Ms. Kate Hug of Dell's Kitchen to have blue directional signs placed within the Borough for Dell's Kitchen. Ms. Garcia explained that Dell's would be responsible for the price of the signs, if approved. Motion by Mr. Jones to approve the directional signs. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council concurred. Mr. Drake will get in touch with Ms. Hug to coordinate and order the signs.

Ms. Garcia read a request from Ms. Kristy Clements, Treasurer of the Wilson Youth Wrestling Association. The WYWA requested use of the Community Center, fees waived for two end of season banquets. Days and times are March 7th, 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm and March 14th, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Motion by Mr. Palinkas to approve the use, fees waived. Second by Mr. Jones. Council concurred.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Ms. Donna Yetter of 2404 Butler Street. Ms. Yetter is part of the Warrior Weekend Committee and stated that the Committee will be asking businesses such as Dubs on 5th, Weyerbacher and Pints and Pies to sponsor entertainment for the event. Ms. Yetter asked Council to consider lifting any and all ordinances that would ban alcohol consumption where warrior weekend festivities will be occurring. Mr. Verenna said alcohol has been eliminated from the Community Center for a few years with positive results. There may also be possible deed restrictions on Meuser Park and the consumption of alcohol. Solicitor Margle will look into this. Mr. Jones added that Warrior Weekend was set up to support kids and sports and alcohol does not need to be part of such an event. Request was tabled.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett asked if the Dixie Warehouse can be fined or sited for code violations. Mr. Jones suggested Mr. Margle invite Mr. Reibman to a Council meeting again, to explain to Council what progress he has made. Mr. Lipari asked if Mr. Reibman has plans in the works for a building on his property parking lot. Mr. Corriere acknowledged he does. Mr. Lipari questioned how Mr. Reibman can construct another building with the Dixie in the shape it is currently in.

Mayor Barrett requested permission to place four handicap parking signs: Ms. Susan Manieri – 2001 Ealer Avenue, 2nd Floor, Mr. Salvatore Cappadona – 2247 Fairview Avenue, Mr. John Coyne – 1504 Spring Garden Street, Mr. Judith Laughlin – 209 S. 17th Street, 2nd Floor. Motion by Mr. Burke to approve the four spaces. Second by Mr. Jones. Council unanimously agreed.

Mayor Barrett said he has received complaints regarding traffic and speeding in the Borough. Chief Parkansky will be working to target these issues.

Sergeant Meehan told Council the Police Department has an immediate vacancy for a full time officer and a second one coming soon. The Civil Service testing is complete and Sergeant Meehan requested permission from Council to make conditional offers of employment to two candidates. The offers are pending successful completion of background and other testing. Motion by Mr. Jones to make a conditional offer of employment to Mr. Marco Fernandez. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred. Motion by Mr. Jones to make a conditional offer of employment to Mr. George Horn. Second by Ms. Taylor and council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Verenna congratulated the Police Department on crime being down in the Borough.

Mayor Barrett said he had been contacted about permanent garbage cans being placed on some corners in the Borough. Council agreed this would be a good idea. The Mayor will work with Mr. Drake on placement.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna reminded new Council Members to take the NIMS testing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised Council that if they had any interest in applying for the RACP grant to extend the existing Police Department they would need to act now. The application fee is \$500 and must be complete by February 28th. Council declined the application.

Ms. Garcia told Council that a representative of Colonial Life will be attending the next meeting to talk about a benefits package being offered to Borough employees. This will involve payroll deductions and therefore approval from Council. This offer is aimed specifically for fire fighters, but can be open to all employees.

Ms. Garcia asked Council to be present on February 26th at 6:30. The Borough Engineer, Ms. Monica Wall will be present to do some MS4 education with the Council.

Ms. Garcia addressed Council regarding the current and past years' audits. Mr. Verenna, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Garcia met with the Borough's auditors from the Kunsman Corp. They explained a few concerns and make some suggestions for the future. In regards to the deficiency letter that has been issued the past three years, this is a new accounting standards requirement. The deficiencies have existed for many years but they have only been recently required to be put in writing. The auditors made three suggestions which will eliminate the deficiencies. 1.) Two live signatures on each check. 2.) Have Ms. Jones, the Borough Clerk take minutes. 3.) Have Ms. Jones do the treasurer's report. Ms. Taylor noted that this particular deficiency will come up in any audit of a small office because duties are not easily segregated with a limited staff. Mr. Verenna added the auditors noted that Ms. Garcia is doing a great job.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

FIRE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas said there will be a meeting in West Easton on the 22nd of February for anyone to attend. The meeting is concerning finishing up the rails to trails path over the trestles. West Easton's Engineer Barry Isett and Associates is trying to obtain grant money from Northampton County and the State to pay for the study. Mr. Jones added that this had been looked into a few years ago and the cost for insurance coverage was astronomical.

The Recreation Board purchased a new computer and scanner. All Background checks will be kept on the computer and in the safe.

Mr. Palinkas said before any upgrades can be made to the Meuser Pool a viability study needs to be completed. He asked Ms. Garcia to check with T&M to see what the cost for this study will be.

PARKS:

Mr. Lipari asked Mr. Margle to research the restrictions that may be on the Meuser Park Deeds. Mr. Lipari added that as long as he is on Council he will do what he can to keep the pool operational. Mr. Jones added that Mr. Palinkas is looking at a viability study to obtain grants.

ATTORNEY:

None

COG:

None

MECAB:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

The following changes to line items with in the Police Department were discussed:

01-410-001 Chief's Salary	from \$ 98,550.81	to \$ 91,424.00
01-410-002 Sergeants	from \$239,127.42	to \$208,771.14
01-410-003 Patrolmen	from \$494,002.14	to \$500,687.15
01-410-018 Computer	from \$ 16,380.00	to \$ 26,380.00
01-410-007 Over Time	from \$ 75,000.00	to \$ 95,798.08

Motion by Mr. Palinkas to approve line item changes. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously agreed.

Motion by Ms. Taylor to add that there are no other amendments or modifications and the budget has been finalized and closed. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council concurred.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Motion by Mr. Woodring to approve Resolution #1236 – Reappointment of CodeMaster as the Borough's Third Party Inspector. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council concurred.

Motion by Mr. Jones to approve Resolution #1235 – Employing Sergeant Meehan as Chief of Police effective March 1, 2018. Second by Mr. Bracken and Council unanimously agreed.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$398,376.77 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Burke. Second by Ms. Taylor. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Burke made a Motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER