

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 26, 2018

The Second 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
Russell Lipari
John Burke
Justin Woodring

James McGowan
Scott Palinkas
Jeffrey Bracken

ABSENT:

David Jones, Pamela Taylor

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, Police Chief Christian Meehan, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Code Officer Paul Corriere, Director of Public Works Gregory Drake and Borough Manager Jill Garcia.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2018 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Christine Mildner of Barry Isett & Associates spoke in length about a grant opening in March 2018 through Northampton County to assess the structural integrity of the two (2) rail road trestles located in the Borough of Wilson and Borough of West Easton. A letter of commitment and a resolution must be submitted with grant application. Council needs to review resolution and funds available. Decision must be made at the March 12, 2018 council meeting.

David Weidman Candidate for Congress 7th district introduced himself and gave a brief personal history and reasons why he is running for Congress.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Shawn Sullivan of 1530 Spring Garden Street asked to have parking lines on his street between 15th and 16th Streets repainted due to fading and would also like more parking enforcement.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. Lipari made a motion to donate five (5) one day adult passes to the Meuser Pool as door prizes for the Designer Purse Bingo being held at Wilson High School. He would like the Borough Manager or Clerk to draft certificates for the winners. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett congratulated Chief Parkansky on his retirement and thanked him for all he has done since he became Police Chief.

Mayor Barrett asked Solicitor Margle for an update on Mr. Joseph Reibman coming before council to give an update on the Dixie Building. Solicitor Margle advised Mr. Reibman will be attending the March 12, 2018 meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna thanked Chief Parkansky for his years of service as Wilson Borough Chief of Police.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Chief Parkansky updated on the hiring process and advised the two (2) previous applicants for full time officers have withdrawn their applications. Chief Parkansky requested Council's permission to extend a conditional offer of employment pending background checks to Craig Barkett and Stephen Vas for full time. Motion made by Mr. Lipari to extend a conditional offer to Craig Barkett and Stephen Vas as full time Officers pending background investigations. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously approved.

Chief Parkansky would like to extend a conditional offer of employment pending background checks to Joel Mota as a part-time Officer. Motion made by Mr. Lipari to extend a conditional offer to Joel Mota as part-time Officer pending background investigation . Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Chief Parkansky was made aware of traffic issues at 18th Street between Washington Boulevard and Fairview Avenue and began issuing citations for traffic offenses. The Police will continue to watch the area and have a zero tolerance policy.

Chief Parkansky discussed the new police vehicle changing from the current black and white scheme to black out with ghost lettering. This new vehicle will cost approximately \$2500 less and will be less obvious and help with more enforcement. Motion made by Mr. Bracken to order the black out with ghost letter Police vehicle. Seconded by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Chief Parkansky updated council on the i-Pad project. Verizon advises it will take approximately six (6) months from start to finish. The process of desktop redirection has begun and once that is completed the racks to hold the i-Pad's will be ordered. Services have not been activated and no fees are being incurred at this time.

Chief Parkansky thanked Wilson Borough for welcoming him during his tenure in the Police Department and said it was an honor to be a part of the department.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire Ryan Losse as a part-time fire fighter. Motion made by Mr. Lipari to hire Ryan Losse as a part-time fire fighter. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas advised the Recreation Board has received their computer and will begin scanning and storing the background checks. Mr. Palinkas and The Celebration Committee would like to see where council stands on an alcohol permit for the 2020 celebration.

Mr. Lipari advised that Kate Hug of Dells Kitchen has offered to absorb the cost to resurface the basketball courts at Meuser Park. The bill will go directly to Kate Hug. The Borough will be responsible for putting the poles, backboards and rims back up once the restoration is finished. The projected time to begin resurfacing is the first week of April.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised of the status of the Dixie building and indication of land development in the area of the Dixie parking lot. Solicitor Margle wrote a letter to Mr. Reibman as requested by council and Mr. Reibman will be attending the March 12, 2018 council meeting to give an update on both issues.

Solicitor Margle updated council on the twenty-one (21) damaged utility poles located in the Borough and as of now nineteen (19) out of the twenty-one (21) have been repaired or replaced. A letter was written to First Energy's attorney in reference to the two remaining poles and a response was immediately received advising they require some additional logistics and Solicitor Margle will continue to keep council apprised.

Solicitor Margle revised Ordinance 787 “Borough of Wilson Municipal Waste Ordinance”. A motion to advertise was made by Mr. Lipari. Seconded by Mr. McGowan. Council unanimously approved.

Solicitor Margle reviewed Meuser Park grant dated December 1, 1945 from Mr. Meuser looking for grant restrictions. Only one restriction was stated in the grant and that is the park is to be used for public use only. This would allow developing a dog park.

COG:

None

MECAB:

None

CAUCUS:

Council entered into Caucus at 8:23 pm and exited at 9:08 pm. Topics discussed were terms and conditions of employment and potential disciplinary actions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Palinkas discussed obtaining a property within the Wilson Borough via imminent domain. An appraisal must be completed on the property, building and tear down of said building. Motion made by Mr. Palinkas to have appraisals completed capping cost at \$4000. Seconded by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Palinkas asked council if anyone would take issue with him reviewing Borough Ordinances and making suggestions on them. No motion is necessary for Mr. Palinkas to review Borough Ordinances per Solicitor Margle. Mr. Palinkas also recommend to all council members taking a zoning course that is offered to familiarize them with zoning laws. The cost is \$95.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$80,336.81 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Bracken. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 9:19 pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER