

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
March 12, 2018

The First Meeting of March 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  
David Jones

James McGowan  
Scott Palinkas  
Jeffrey Bracken  
Pamela Taylor

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 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 26, 2018 Council meeting.  
Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

GUEST:

Michael Patrick of Colonial Life Insurance presented Council with the PA EMS and Fireman's Protection Plan covering critical illness, accident, a college tuition program and a discount Rx (prescription) program to the Fire Department. Mr. Patrick advised there are six (6) Firefighters enrolled in the program. He also advised these policies can be offered to all other Borough departments; Police Department, and Highway. Mr. Patrick requested Council's approval for payroll deduction.

A discussion ensued among council members and was decided since this is not an employee benefit and voluntary enrollment, it would be up to each individual employee to set up their own method of payment instead of payroll deduction.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Jessica Unger of 709 S 23rd St asked that the handicapped parking spot policies be reviewed. Ms. Unger is requested to have all handicap parking spots assigned to be plate or placard specific and this will eliminate unauthorized vehicles using the spot and they can be ticketed and or towed. A motion was made by Mr. Lipari to have the solicitor revise the handicap ordinance and have a draft ready for the next Council meeting. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

St Jane's school requested permission to use the alley way between 19th and 20th Streets for their marathon being held on April 20, 2018 from 8 am to 12 pm. A motion was made by Mr. Lipari to allow St. Jane's school to close the alley way on the date and times listed above. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett thanked Chief Meehan, Greg Drake and Jill Garica for helping during the latest snow storm and snow emergency while the Mayor was out of town. Mayor also asked that council staff come up with a plan and map to show the snow emergency routes and where residents can park place it on our website so residents are aware. Ms. Jones informed Mayor Barrett this information is currently listed on the website.

Mayor Barrett would like Council and Solicitor Margle to review a blighted building ordinance that has been adopted by another local municipality. Once he receives a copy he will distribute.

Mayor Barrett was questioned about Liberty Park and if Public Works can remove the gate or fence at the park so that it can be used all year round. Mr. Drake is concerned if he takes the fence down, since it is a high traffic area, that a child is at risk of getting hit without fencing and the area is not very well lit.

Mayor Barrett questioned Ms. Taylor about letters that residents received from the Shade Tree Committee. Ms. Taylor advised the letters were sent to incorrect addresses and the Commission is rectifying the situation. The correct residents will be getting the correct notices.

Mayor Barrett received an application for a handicap spot at 803 S. 23rd Street. Chief Meehan checked the location and there are no other handicap spots on that block. A motion was made by Mr. Lipari to approve the handicap spot. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna thanked the Mayor for his quick response to calling a snow emergency for the last storm and thanked Mr. Drake for a great job with plowing.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia passed out the new contact list and asked council to please review it and to contact her if there are any corrections or changes that need to be made.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

##### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

##### POLICE:

Chief Meehan advised of the call stats for January and February 2018; there were 895 total calls resulting in 22 adult arrests 8 of which were DUI's; 4 juvenile arrests and officers issued 97 parking tickets, 70 traffic citations and 13 non-traffic citations, 2 armed robberies, 12 assaults and 29 thefts.

Chief Meehan updated council on the i-Pad project. Vehicle mounts were delivered March 12, 2018 and he will have the mounts installed in the cars within the next two weeks. Police IT company is switching email companies so it is compatible and more secure with the i-Pad's.

Chief Meehan advised the new vehicle has been ordered and will be going to LMS Designs for striping and from there will be sent to DC Lighting to have all the lights installed.

Chief Meehan updated council on the new hires Stephen Vas and Craig Barket. They have withdrawn themselves from the full-time application process and Joel Motta has withdrawn from the part-time application process.

Chief Meehan requested council to make a motion to make a conditional offer to Jeffery Buckley and Shawn Leadbetter for full-time officer pending background investigations and drug screen. A motion was made by Mr. Lipari to make the conditional offer. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously agreed.

##### FIRE:

None

##### PUBLIC WORKS:

None

##### PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas requested council make a decision on Resolution 1237 Trestle and Trail Grant and if the Borough will pay the \$6125 towards the trestle study. A motion was made by Mr. Lipari to approve Resolution 1237 the expenditure of funds for the study would be expressly conditioned upon similar action being taken by West Easton. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously approved.

Mr. Lipari advised there is a Parks Committee meeting scheduled for March 26, 2018 at 6:15 pm and will begin the committee summer pool discussions, hiring assistant manager, life guards and staff.

##### ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised that Mr. Reibman of the Dixie Building is scheduled to appear at the next council meeting March 26, 2018 to make a report on the Dixie Building.

Solicitor Margle advised he still needs the exact addresses for the two remaining damaged poles. A letter has been sent to the attorney from Met-Ed and there has not been a response. Solicitor Margle requested Mr. Drake to get the correct addresses for these poles.

Solicitor Margle advised the Amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance has been advertised and will be ready for adoption at the March 26, 2018 meeting.

Solicitor Margle researched the deed restriction for Meuser Park and found the only restriction was it has to be used for public use and there are no covenants.

Solicitor Margle reported and appraisal has been ordered for an unnamed property within the Borough.

COG:

None

MECAB

Next meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2018

CAUCUS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Burke asked to have all committee meetings open to the public. Solicitor Margle advised PSAB states it is up to each individual Borough. Motion made by Mr. Burke to open all committee meetings to the public. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously approved.

A formal resolution must be created to have committee meetings open to the public. A motion by Ms. Taylor to create Resolution # 1238 to make committee meetings public. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$202,836.41 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Taylor. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Second by Mr. Lipari and Council concurred.

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STEPHANIE N. JONES  
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER