

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
March 26, 2018

The Second 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
Scott Palinkas
Jeffrey Bracken
Pamela Taylor

Russell Lipari
John Burke
Justin Woodring

ABSENT:

David Jones, James McGowan, Pamela Taylor after 8:04 pm

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. Lipari to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2018 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved the minutes.

WARRIOR SPIRIT AWARD

Mayor Barrett congratulated and awarded certificates to the Wilson High School Cheerleaders for becoming District XI Champions for the second year in a row.

CAUCUS

Council entered a caucus at 7:08 pm and exited at 7:45 pm. Topics discussed were possible projected purchase of real estate as well as preparation of potential litigation. Also discussed was the walk through of the Dixie Building by the Code Officer, Borough Manager, Fire Chief and Council President. Results of the inspection are not yet public but there are a number of violations which may be subject to citations issued by the Code Officer and/or Fire Chief.

GUEST:

Mr. Joseph Reibman advised he had no presentation and was invited as a guest and would answer any questions that were presented to him. Mr. Reibman stated he will open the building for members of council to view it. Mr. Reibman advised of the status of the environmental report; Phase I and II of the environmental report has been completed and ACT II, the remediation plan to clean up the interior and exterior of the building will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Approximate cost for remediation is \$3 million which includes removal of lead based paint and asbestos. There are oil tanks underground that have been located that need to be removed as well. Mr. Reibman is waiting for formal proposals from potential investors.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett thanked Chief Meehan, the Wilson Police Department and Palmer Police Department on conducting Operation Warrior 2.0 and having a successful outcome.

Mayor Barrett thanked the Public Works department for a great job of keeping the streets cleared during the most recent snow storm.

Mayor Barrett received complaints about unsolicited papers thrown on residents properties and littering the streets. Mr. Corriere made contact with the paper company and advised he will start fining them. The papers must be delivered to the front porch.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna thanked Mr. Drake and the Public Works crew for a great job with plowing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised Council the Spring PSAB conference is being held June 10-13, 2018 in Hershey. A motion was made for council to attend the Spring PSAB conference by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Chief Meehan requested council to make a motion to make a conditional offer of employment to Ms. Gladys Rodenbaugh and Ms. Fiona Sampson as crossing guards pending background checks. Motion made by Mr. Lipari to make a conditional offer of employment. Second by Mr. Woodring. Council unanimously agreed.

Chief Meehan updated council on the new hire Shawn Leadbetter; he has withdrawn himself from the full-time application process. Chief Meehan will continue to go down the list.

Chief Meehan advised of the stats from Operation Warrior 2.0 between Wilson, Palmer and State Police; there were 45 Traffic citations, 1 non-traffic citation for disorderly conduct and 14 outstanding warrants were served.

FIRE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Drake advised there are some alleys that are congested with cars parking in front of garages. Mr. Drake spoke with Chief Meehan and there is an ordinance that can be enforced and Mr. Drake would like to hang no parking signs in some of these alleys. Public Works vehicles cannot get through especially during plowing.

Mr. Drake thanked Eric Flowers and the Public Works crew for doing a great job of keeping the streets clear in his absence during the last snow storm.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas advised he would like to accept the payment for the new basketball courts from Dells Kitchen and pay Pips Paving through the Recreation Board instead of coming through the Borough Office. Solicitor Margle agrees it is legal.

Mr. Lipari advised that the Pool Committee had met earlier in the evening to discuss 2018 rates and employees; those updates will be presented at the April 9, 2018 meeting. Mr. Lipari thanked Kate Hug and Dells Kitchen for continuing as concessions for the 2018 season. Opening weekend is Memorial Day weekend May 26-27, 2018 from 12p – 7p. Pool will open full time on June 9, 2018.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle invited Mr. Reibman to the April 23 Council Meeting to give Council an update on his prospective investors.

Solicitor Margle advised that the contract with an appraiser on caucus property needs to be signed.

Solicitor Margle advised the Ordinance for Handicap parking is being reviewed and should be ready for the next meeting. The Resolution for all committee meetings to be open to the public will also be ready for review next meeting.

COG:

None

MECAB

Next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2018, 7 pm at Northampton Borough.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Palinkas advised that there have been complaints about the Bnai Abraham Synagogue located at 1545 Bushkill Street about garbage being dumped on the property. Mr. Drake advised that the Synagogue is closed and there will be a larger camera installed in the area to see who is dumping.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance #787 amendment to Solid Waste Ordinance. A motion to approve Ordinance #787 was made by Mr. Woodring. Seconded by Mr. Braken. Council unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$78,053.87 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Palinkas. 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.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER