

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
January 22, 2018

The Second Meeting of January 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

ABSENT:

Russell Lipari

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.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

None

GUEST:

None

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett announced the resignation of Officer Calvin R. Siegfried as of December 31, 2017. Officer Siegfried worked for the Borough for 38 years. Motion by Ms. Taylor to accept Officer Siegfried's resignation with great regret. Second by Mr. Burke. Council concurred.

The Mayor introduced new part time Officer Scott Casterline. Officer Casterline is retired from the Easton PD and said he is pleased to be working in the Borough.

Mayor Barrett confirmed that Warrior Weekend will be held at Meuser Park on June 15th and 16th. He will be meeting with committees and public works to organize the event.

The Mayor asked what Council's intentions are with the Dixie building and asked that Council become more aggressive with plans to have Mr. Reibman move forward with property renovations.

Mayor Barrett requested Ms. Garcia update the Borough website to show current Council members.

The Mayor addressed the RACP grant that is coming up for application. Ms. Garcia explained that the grant can be applied for this spring, but it will need to be for the plans that were previously drawn up and approved to extend the current police station. The money cannot be applied to a different plan for the police station.

Mayor Barrett said he will be working with Solicitor Margle and Chief Parkansky to register and give bikes that have been found in the Borough, to other Borough children who are in need. Mr. Drake suggested having a local bike shop take a look at the bikes to be sure they are in good shape. Chief Parkansky added that all found bikes are run through the system to see if they have been reported stolen.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna advised all new Council Members they will need to take the NIMS (National Incident Management System) test in order for the Borough to receive federal funding.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

Sergeant Meehan presented statistics for 2017 regarding crime and calls to police in the Borough. Violent crimes were down 18%, rape down 85% and burglaries down 40%. Mayor Barrett asked Sergeant Meehan to present the statistics monthly moving forward so the public can have accurate information.

FIRE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle presented an agreement for Sergeant Christian Meehan to become Chief of Police. Motion by Mr. Palinkas to accept the agreement as written. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Margle addressed the issue of Wilson Borough's Code stipulating that the vote for Council President and Vice President be by secret ballot. The State Code is silent on the issue. The PA State Constitution, Article VII Section X says that all elections of officers must be by voice vote. The PA State Constitution supersedes the Wilson Borough Code. Mr. Margle recommended that Section 13-9 of the Wilson Borough Code should be amended to comply with the PA State Constitution. Motion by Mr. Burke to have Mr. Margle's office proceed with the amendment. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council concurred.

Mr. Margle informed Council on the procedure for eminent domain. In order for a government entity to take private property for government use there are two main requirements. 1.) The property must be for government use. 2.) The property owner must be paid fair compensation. There will need to be appraisals and the landowner has the right to object. This can result in costly litigation. Council must give this a lot of thought and have a plan.

COG:

None

MECAB:

None

CAUCUS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Palinkas requested a memo be put together in opposition of SB 653. SB 653 is attempting to move collections of taxes such as BPT out of the municipalities' hands and into a private collector's hands. Since in house collectors do a better job collecting delinquencies than outsourced collectors, this amendment will reduce the Borough's BPT income. Ms. Garcia will get together with Mr. Margle to draft a memo in opposition.

Motion by Mr. Verenna to have Council Representatives who are interested attend the Parks and Recreation Conference at Kalahari (March 27 – 30). Those who attend will drive to the conference daily. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Council unanimously agreed. Mr. Palinkas will provide Ms. Garcia with a list of attendees.

Council discussed changes to the 2018 Budget. Mr. Verenna asked if the changes would impact the real estate tax millage. Mr. Palinkas said the changes involve money moving between line items and not a millage increase. Council will review the line items at the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Woodring to have Solicitor Margle do a preliminary analysis of costs and time frame to take the building at 2201 Northampton Street by eminent domain. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously agreed.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Motion by Mr. Burke to approve Resolution #1243 – Disposition of Police Documents. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$177,267.92 were paid on a Motion by Ms. Taylor. Second by Mr. Bracken. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Burke made a Motion to adjourn at 7:34 pm. Second by Mr. Bracken and Council concurred.

JILL A. GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER