The first meeting of April of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. Councilman Lipari called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

James McGowan
Jeffrey Bracken via phone
John Burke
Scott Palinkas
Pamela Taylor

Justin Woodring
Russ Lipari

ABSENT:

David Jones and Tony Verenna

Also present were: Police Chief Christian Meehan, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Code Officer Paul Corriere, Foreman of Public Works Eric Flowers and Borough Manager Jill Garcia.

WARRIOR SPIRIT AWARD:

NONE

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2018 meeting. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 meeting. Second by Mr. Burke Council unanimously approved.

GUEST:

Jim Smith of 2246 Ferry Street and Don Meadows of Calvary Baptist Church at 5300 Greenpond Road Bethlehem, PA requested the fees be waived for the use of the Meuser Park Pavilions for Vacation Bible School starting June 24, 2019 through June 28, 2019 during the hours of 9 am to 12 pm. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to waive the fees. Second by Ms. Taylor. Certificate of Liability insurance will be provided. Council unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Stan Rugis of 1540 Northampton Street thanked the Police Department, Fire Chief Joe Sipel, Rich Wamsley, Paul Corriere and Steph Jones for their professionalism and help during the sale of his mother’s home.

Shawn Sullivan of 1530 Spring Garden St. thanked the Highway Department for their quick response to his request to have lines painted on his block.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia received a letter from Denise Bergstresser requesting the use of Meuser Park for cheerleading practice beginning July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019, Monday through Friday only. A motion made by Mr. Burke to allow the use of Meuser Park. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised Borough Council will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at April 25, 2019 at the Strausser Community at 6:30pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan advised the St. Luke’s VIA marathon will be September 8, 2019 and they are requesting permission to use a small section of the Lehigh Drive as part of the marathon. A motion to approve the use made by Ms. Taylor. Second by Mr. Woodring. Council unanimously approved.

Chief Meehan advised he did not receive a grant for body worn cameras however he is looking into a grant for in car cameras.

Chief Meehan advised that the departments records management system has been bought out by another company and it is not compatible with the Northampton County Dispatch center. Chief Meehan will have more information to present to Council at the next meeting.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Flowers advised that the water is turned on at all the parks and all playgrounds are open.

Mr. Flowers requested Councils approval for a sign stating Use of Facility by Permission Only, to be placed at Fisk Field to prevent people from using the field due to the condition of the field. A motion was made by Ms. Taylor to restrict parking at Fisk Field to residents only by issuing stickers to Borough Residents at no cost. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas advised the Recreation Board applied for a 501C3.

Mr. Palinkas advised the 20/20 Committee will be hosting a designer purse bingo at the Strausser Center on June 22, 2019 at Noon.

Mr. Lipari discussed the pool feasibility study proposal using the current pool shell. The cost for the study new is $15,600. This item has been tabled until the next Council meeting.

ATTORNEY:

Mr. Margle followed up on a discussion from the last Council meeting regarding the Wilson Area School District. Mr. Margle spoke to Attorney Spry and Council should expect something in writing with in two weeks.

Mr. Margle advised the Borough does not have an option of simply discussing the Comprehensive Plan. The Borough is bound by the Municipalities Planning Code Section 301 Article 3, which requires Municipalities to update, modify or draft a new Comprehensive plan. Mr. Margle suggests moving forward with updates or modification. When the Comprehensive Plan has been updated and in draft form the Borough is required to send it to contiguous municipalities; City of Easton, Borough of West Easton, Palmer and Forks Townships as well as Wilson Area School District asking for comment. A draft of the plan must be provided to the Northampton County Planning Commission. Mr. Margle suggests, in order to keep in compliance with the law, that Council establish a Committee of not only Council or Zoning members but residents as well, to make recommendations to the Borough Planning Commission and Borough Council. Mr. Margle suggests the Borough contact Russ Benner of T&M Associates for guidance. Mr. Lipari suggests adding this to the agenda to the Town Hall Meeting on April 25, 2019 to get residents interested.

Mr. Margle advised the Town Hall Meeting scheduled for April 25, 2019 needs be advertised due to all Council Members being present.

Mr. Margle suggested Council start thinking about the upcoming liquor license transfer to the new owner Rekha Tolani LLC of 1507 Northampton St. Mr. Margle advised Council he has conducted back ground and public searches and has no red flags. Mr. Margle will be sending out the packet from Rekha Tolani LLC to all Council members.
OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Palinkas advised that the Lamar Billboard and Scoreboard were turned down by the Zoning Board. The applicant, Lamar, was looking for five zoning variances and of the five, two variances were turned down: size of the billboard and distance from and existing billboard. Mr. Margle advised Zoning is required to issue a written decision within forty-five days of the close of testimony. The Zoning Board voted verbally on each variance. If the Zoning Board does not issue a written decision in forty-five days, it is called a Deemed Approval and the applicant will receive approval of all five variances. Mr. Margle suggests when the written decision is submitted that it is reviewed carefully by Borough Council and discussed in caucus at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Barrett advised that Ms. Garcia, Chief Meehan and he toured the Borough water building at 2019 Hay Terrace. Mr. Barrett would like to have the building renovated for Police Department use. Ms. Garcia advised the Borough Engineer; T&M would have to be involved and Council needs to discuss where funding will be coming from if the intention is to begin the project this year. This has been tabled to next meeting.

ORDINANCES:
NONE

RESOLUTIONS:
NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of $59,407.17. A motion by Mr. Burke to approve the bills. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

CAUCUS:

Council entered a caucus at 8:15 pm and returned at 8:44 pm.

Solicitor Margle

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Taylor made a Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

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  STEPHANIE N. JONES            BOROUGH CLERK/ TREASURER