

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
May 13, 2019

The first meeting of May 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 Verenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

James McGowan  
Jeffrey Bracken  
John Burke  
Scott Palinkas  
Pamela Taylor

Justin Woodring  
Russ Lipari  
Tony Verenna

ABSENT: David Jones

NONE

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

SWEARING IN OF CAPTIAN BARRY ROGERS

Firefighter Barry Rogers was sworn in by Mayor Barrett as Captain.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2019 meeting. Second by Mr. Woodring. Council unanimously approved.

GUEST:

Joseph Reibman of 2957 Fairfield Drive Allentown, PA was present on behalf of Wilson Park LTD, owner of the Dixie building. Mr. Reibman advised he has completed a substantial investigation of the property and has sent a Notice of Intent to Remediate to the DEP. There is a thirty-day public comment period from the date the notice was sent. The DEP has thirty to sixty days to accept the remediation plan.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised a blessing box has been placed near the Fire Department and he would like to have another blessing box placed at the Meuser Library.

Mayor Barrett thanked the Fire, Police and Public Works departments for participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual softball game.

Mayor Barrett congratulated Junior Councilman Matthew Gerheart on being accepted to West Chester University and thanked Matthew for his dedication as Junior Councilman.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Ms. Taylor advised Council the committee is looking into having the building at 1700 Butler Street designated as a historical landmark.

POLICE:

Chief Meehan asked Council to review the Vehicle and Traffic Ordinances he has rewritten.

Chief Meehan requested Council's permission to add additional part-time school resource officers. Wilson Borough School District will pay for salary, training and administrative costs. A motion made by Ms. Taylor to approve the additional school resource officers. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Palinkas advised the Recreation Board is gathering documentation for the audit and should be completed and voted on by the end of the week.

Mr. Palinkas questioned if the Recreation Board must use Kunsman as their auditor? Solicitor Margle advised only Borough Council has the authority to hire professionals however Mr. Palinkas has the right to recommend someone.

Mr. Palinkas advised there are no guidelines when turning over the Recreation Board bank statements. There is nothing stated in Title 8 or Borough Code. Solicitor Margle advised the guidelines are in the By-Laws as well as the Establishing Ordinance stating, "All records of the Recreation Board, financial and otherwise must be kept in the Borough building". Mr. Palinkas is concerned about the financial information on the documents getting out to the public. He would like the numbers redacted. Mr. Palinkas advised a treasurer report is done when a transaction is completed and that is typically only done in July. Solicitor Margle suggested a Treasurer report simply say, "no transactions to report". Solicitor Margle advised the bank statements are required and no redaction is necessary.

Mr. Burke advised the 2020 Committee has a basket bingo set for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Community Center.

Mr. Burke advised at the last 2020 Committee meeting it was decided to have a 3-day celebration.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle referenced a letter he composed on April 30, 2019 regarding a 2020 Committee meeting that was held on April 29, 2019. Solicitor Margle was contacted via cellphone and was advised that there was some discussion at the 2020 meeting that the Solicitor was "dragging his feet and holding things up that were necessary for the for the 2020 Committee". Solicitor Margle was not aware of any issues that required his attention. Solicitor Margle investigated the matter the next day, April 30, 2019. Solicitor Margle received two email requests regarding the 2020 Celebration; one was on November 28, 2018 about Vendors' Agreements and Insurance and Solicitor Margle responded to that on December 4, 2018. The second email was received on March 4, 2019 from Ms. Garcia, asking approximately the same question and Solicitor Margle responded the same day, approximately six hours after receiving the email.

Mr. Burke stated on behalf of the 2020 Committee that the Committee was not blaming Solicitor Margle per se, the Committee was upset because the Committee was trying to move the process along and felt they were not receiving an answer.

Solicitor Margle advised the vendor contracts and insurance questions were identified in the two emails Solicitor Margle sent out.

Mr. Palinkas advised in Solicitor Margle's emails it said that every vendor needs event insurance. Mr. Palinkas' concern is the cost of the event insurance and permitting for the vendors.

Solicitor Margle reported that there was a meeting on April 17, 2019 at his office with Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Robert Moran and Solicitor Margle. Mr. Moran advised event insurance could cost as low as \$30.

Solicitor Margle advised he had not been asked to do anything other than what was requested in the emails dated November 28, 2018 and March 4, 2019 and at a last-minute meeting Solicitor Margle held which Mr. Palinkas requested to have, in Solicitor Margle's office, on April 17, 2019 with Mr. Palinkas, Mrs. Palinkas, Mr. Moran and himself.

Solicitor Margle requested a public retraction for statements made by Mr. Palinkas on April 29, 2019. Mr. Palinkas advised Solicitor Margle he did nothing wrong.

Mr. Burke added that the 2020 Committee had an issue with Councilman Bracken and a problem he created on social media. Mr. Bracken advised when he attended the 2020 Committee meeting on April 29, 2019, Mr. Burke and Mrs. Burke, Mr. Palinkas and Mrs. Palinkas began yelling at Mr. Bracken. Mr. Bracken then asked Mr. Burke to speak outside.

Solicitor Margle advised there are two Conditional Use hearings coming up on May 28, 2019 for Global Healthcare and New Cingular Wireless. Solicitor Margle received sixty-day waivers for both hearings and needed a motion to approve. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

Solicitor Margle advised that Council may take action on any code or security issues at the Dixie building, even with the DEP inspection taking place.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

Next meeting will be held in Bath, PA in June.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Taylor advised the Shade Tree Commission will be working with the art students at Wilson High School on painting the 8 park benches on the bike path. The Eagle Scout grant will cover this project as well.

Mayor Barrett advised T&M, the Borough Engineers need to conduct an additional study of the pool to rehab the existing pool area and structures. This has been tabled to the next meeting.

Mayor Barrett advised the Town Hall meeting was successful and a lot of the issues coming up had to do with Code. Mayor Barrett suggested getting Mr. Corriere some additional help. Ms. Garcia suggested to have General Government take into this.

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$567,712.38. A motion by Mr. Burke to approve the bills. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

CAUCUS:

Council entered a caucus at 8:38pm and ended at 8:43pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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STEPHANIE N. JONES  
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER