

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
July 8, 2019

The first meeting of July 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:

James McGowan  
Jeffrey Bracken  
Pamela Taylor  
John Burke

Justin Woodring  
Tony Verenna  
David Jones via phone

ABSENT: Scott Palinkas, Russ Lipari

NONE

Also present were: Police Chief Christian Meehan, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Code Officer Paul Corriere and Acting Superintendent of Public Works Eric Flower.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. McGowan to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2019 meeting. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

GUEST:

Katy Tronel of Lidl, 3500 S Clark St. Arlington, VA 22202 asked Council's permission to host a movie night in the Lidl parking lot. Solicitor Margle asked the request to be placed in writing and be reviewed by the Code Officer Paul Corriere, Police Chief, Chris Meehan and Fire Chief, Joe Sipel. Lidl must also provide proof of insurance. A motion for Conditional approval by Ms. Taylor; request in writing with proposed hours, security and proof of insurance that this is a covered event. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Council President Tony Verenna read a letter from New Eastwood Healthcare requesting permission to host a Food Truck Festival on September 20, 2019. The food trucks will be parked on Fairview Avenue directly outside of New Eastwood's building. This event will be open to the Community. This has been tabled pending additional information.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Council President Tony Verenna advised there will be a three-minute limit to presentation of matters. This limit can be relaxed at the discretion of Council President.

Mike Shannon of 2230 Fox Run is concerned about his wife's clearances (for the Basketball Association) which were handed in on July 26, 2018 at a Recreation Board Meeting. It came to Mrs. Shannon's attention on July 2, 2019 that the Secretary of the Recreation Board, Mrs. Allyson Palinkas and Secretary of the Football Association, Ms. Melissa Rosati went through the clearances and could not find Mrs. Shannon's clearances. Ms. Rosati asked Mrs. Shannon to please text or email her clearances. Mr. Shannon has concerns due to the sensitive information on the forms. Mr. Shannon was advised to have a copy of her clearances put in an envelope and bring it to the Borough Office. Mr. Shannon was also concerned about Ms. Rosati being involved with organizing the clearances. It was discussed by Council that neither Mrs. Palinkas nor Ms. Rosati should have reviewed the clearances.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Jones read a letter from Avona Volunteer Fire Company requesting permission to block Balata Street from the intersection of Front and Balata Streets back to the alley for their annual picnic on September 14, 2019. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Burke. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Council President made the following statement:

Over the last several months, Borough Council has been made aware of numerous disturbing issues involving actions on the part of an Elected Official – Councilman Scott Palinkas.

Over the same timeframe, residents, who we were all elected to Protect and Serve, have approached me and other Councilpersons. Our staff and Mayor who preform their duties diligently and who make our jobs as Councilmembers much less stressful, have also raised concerns.

Despite that, Councilman Palinkas, according to a great deal of information we all have received, is consistently, working in a direction which impedes Wilson Borough's progress, causes unnecessary stress for Employees and has, without just cause whatsoever, made countless, unfounded allegations against those who have been elected and appointed to advance the best interests of our Citizens.

By way of example, and this is by no means a complete list of concerns that have been brought to our attention: I note the following:

1. Scott's failure to follow By-Laws, Borough Code, State Law and other Procedures as Chairman of the Recreation Board. Many of these concerns were outlined by our Solicitor at a prior meeting;
2. No minutes, bank statements, Annual Audits, and Voting outside of Public Meetings;
3. Reprimands, Discipline and intimidates employees and staff to the point that job performance is affected.
4. Continued failure to maintain confidentiality as to discussions in caucus; and
5. Scott said the Recreation Board received monies (\$60K) from a lawsuit that the Recreation Board filed years ago.

Therefore, in order to begin taking the steps necessary to end these ongoing problems, I am asking for a member of Borough Council to make a Motion for a Public Vote of "No Confidence" as to Councilman Scott Palinkas.

A Vote of No Confidence was made by Mr. Bracken. Second by Mr. Woodring. A discussion ensued; Mr. Woodring advised these issues have been going on for a long time and he believes this is due and needs to be made public. Mr. Burke agreed with Mr. Woodring. Mr. Burke advised over the last few months it has been difficult to be in the same room and work with Mr. Palinkas as he is constantly arguing. Ms. Taylor agreed. Mr. Bracken agreed. Mr. McGowan had no comment. Mayor Barrett agreed with everything thing that was said. A lot of this has been brought to the Mayor's attention as well. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Jones Mr. McGowan, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Woodring and Mr. Verenna. Yes votes 7. No votes 0. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Margle advised at this point there is no other action necessary regarding this issue.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett thanked the Police Department for the work completed on the recent homicide and the arrest of the person who robbed Burger King.

Mayor Barrett asked if there is a way of contacting PennDOT to slow the hand/man signs at 25<sup>th</sup> St and Freemansburg Ave. Eric Flowers advised the light is owned by Palmer Township. Mr. Flowers advised he contacted Scott Kissler, Palmer Township Maintenance Supervisor and is waiting for a return call from the Palmer Township Manager.

Mayor Barrett advised the last blessing box has been installed at Meuser Park by Public Works.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Ms. Taylor would like a motion to advertise for the Code position. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to advertise for an additional Code position. Second by Mr. Burke. Mr. Burke asked if the position would be full-time or part-time. Ms. Taylor replied full-time. Council unanimously approved.

Ms. Taylor asked if anyone has any additional questions or comments on the Code of Conduct. Ms. Taylor would like a motion to advertise the Code of Conduct. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to advertise. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

### POLICE:

Chief Meehan thanked the Officers and Fire Department who were working the night of the Homicide for assisting.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire Robert Lewullis as a full-time Fire Fighter. He was # 1 on the Civil Service list. A motion made by Ms. Taylor to hire. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously approved.

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire Jeffrey Fassel as a part-time call Fire Fighter. A motion made by Mr. Burke to hire. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS AND RECREATION:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised the draft Ordinance dissolving the Recreation Board is complete and needs to be advertised. A motion to authorize Solicitor Margle's Office in conjunction with the Borough Manager to advertise the Ordinance as required by law and to accept Solicitor Margle's suggestion to placing a ninety-day effective date after the Ordinance adoption was made by Mr. Woodring. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

Solicitor Margle advised there has been some talk about the approximate \$60k in the Recreation Board's account at BB&T having been obtained as a result of a lawsuit. Solicitor Margle is looking into the accuracy of that statement. Solicitor Margle strongly suggests Borough Council consider the adoption of a Resolution immediately to freeze the Recreation Board account. There are to be no expenditures from that account unless specifically authorized by Borough Council. Mr. Margle suggested the requirement of two signatures on any checks. Mr. Bracken advised insurance will be coming due at the end of July. Solicitor Margle advised the Borough must pay the insurance and, to the extent that there has been action taken to authorize the expenditure of any monies from the account, Council cannot reverse. Solicitor Margle advised the minutes from Recreation Board from May 16, 2019 state the \$60k was from a lawsuit and Borough Council should review the minutes. Mayor Barrett and Solicitor Margle asked Recreation Board member, Cindy Rosenkranz who attended the Council meeting, if the minutes from the May 16, 2019 meeting were approved at the June 20, 2019 meeting. Ms. Rosenkranz said yes. Solicitor Margle asked if Mr. Palinkas was at that meeting. Ms. Rosenkranz said yes. A motion made by Ms. Taylor to freeze the funds of the Recreation Board at BB&T bank. Council will continue to pay bills that have already been approved by Recreation Board and bills that need to be paid in the ordinary course of Recreation Board business. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously approved.

Solicitor Margle advised he was handed a letter prior to the Council meeting. The letter was unsigned and dated July 8, 2019 and stated, "I would like to express my interest in stepping down from the Recreation Board and the 2020 Committee. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve on both of these boards. Thank you, Scott Palinkas." Solicitor Margle took issue with having no verification that the letter was from Mr. Palinkas and as the letter states, "express interest in stepping down", it not a resignation. Solicitor Margle recommended not accepting it due to no verification this was written by Mr. Palinkas. Council will not take any action on this letter.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

On vacation July and August.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Shade Tree Commission will be holding an informational session on how to build a pollinator garden on August 10, 2019. Ms. Taylor would like to take anyone who attends the session to help build a pollinator garden on the bike path. A motion made by Mr. Bracken to approve. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

Council President Tony Verenna read a letter from Meals on Wheels requesting a donation from the Borough because they serve 18 residents in the Borough and the meals' subsidized cost is \$23,774. This has been tabled until the next meeting.

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$33,832.39. A motion by Mr. Bracken to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

CAUCUS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Burke made a Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

---

STEPHANIE N. JONES  
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER