The first meeting of August 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
Pamela Taylor
John Burke

Justin Woodring
Scott Palinkas
Russ Lipari

ABSENT: Tony Verenna and David Jones

Also present were: Police Chief Christian Meehan, Solicitor Stanley Margle, Code Officer Paul Corriere, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Borough Manager Jill Garcia and Jeffrey Lewert – Public Works.

Motion by Ms. Taylor to appoint Detective Jason Hillis to Sergeant per the Borough’s Civil Service Rules. Second by Mr. Burke. Role call vote followed, seven to zero. Motion unanimously passed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SWEARING IN

Mayor Barrett performed the swearing in of Sergeant Jason Hillis and Detective Daniel Pacchioli.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Motion by Mr. Lipari to permit Wilson Borough Fire Fighters to participate in the annual MDA Boot Drive. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council concurred.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

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

GUEST:

Mr. Greg Rishel of T&M Associates (Borough Engineers) was present along with Mr. Randy Galiano and Mr. Jack Rogers of Alloy 5 and Mr. John Bray of Atlantic Aquatic to present the results of a second feasibility study which looked into using the existing pool footprint to create a new facility.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Fred Trach of 2300 Sycamore Street was present to request Council look at changing the Borough’s ordinances to allow residents to keep chickens.

Mr. Rodney Nace of 807 Balata Street asked if anything has been done about dogs barking and cats running around the Borough. He admitted the barking dog situation has gotten better.

Mr. Michael Shannon of 2230 Fox Run thanked the Fire and Police departments for their help with Football’s opening day events. He asked for an extra dumpster and to also have the speakers at Fisk Field repaired. Mr. Bracken added thanks to the Public Works department for their help and to Chief Sipel for filling the dunk tank.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to allow Mary Meuser Memorial Library to close N. 18th Street from Northampton to the alley on Saturday, September 7th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sunday, September 8th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for the annual Book Fair. Second by Mr. Bracken and Council unanimously agreed.

Motion by Mr. Bracken to permit St. Jane’s School to use the Filbert Street alley between 19th and 20th Streets for the annual One Mile Run. Dates are August 27th and 28th, September 3rd and 4th. Appropriate insurance has been received by Ms. Garcia. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

Ms. Garcia read an email from a concerned citizen requesting more street lighting on the 2200 block of Freemansburg Avenue. Public Works will investigate the block and make sure all lights are functioning, however more lighting would be an issue for Penn DOT.
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett thanked Mr. Corriere and the Lions club for another great Car Show.

The Mayor thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their hard work.

Mayor Barrett asked Mr. Corriere to investigate a landlord who is dumping trash daily at a property in the Borough, from another one of his rentals not in the Borough. Mr. Corriere is aware and is working to correct the issue.

Mayor Barret announced that Jr. Councilman Matthew Gearhart will be leaving for college and thanked him for being a part of Council. Council wished him good luck. Ms. Garcia will send a letter to the School informing students of the open seat and requesting applicants.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia spoke about the snack stand at Avona. The associations have been using home fryers and the electrical system in the building cannot handle this. There is also a concern because there is no suppression system. Ms. Garcia and staff will get estimates on updating this facility and will also contact Mr. Veresink to see if frying outdoors is acceptable.

Mr. Garcia presented a request for assistance from Waste Management. With cars parked so close to one another, the garbage men are having to carry cans from the middle of various blocks to the end to dump in truck and then take back. Council discussed no parking signs on garbage days and purchasing land to create parking lots, which would free up some spaces. Discussion tabled.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Motion to hire Fionna Sampson, Kathryn Timberman and Dorothy Nolasco as crossing guards, pending background investigations, by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

Chief Meehan requested permission to install no parking signs 30 feet from corner at S. 25th and Front Street, as state mandated. Busses and cars are having problems turning due to cars parking too close to 25th Street. Motion by Mr. Burke to grant permission. Second by Mr. Woodring and Council unanimously agreed.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Burke commented that the Football kick off celebration was a success and had a great turnout.

Mr. Burke advised that the vendor contracts for the 2020 Celebration have been finalized. A new website has been set up for all Community Events, celebratewilson.org. He thanked Mayor Barrett for building many carnival stands and rounding up volunteers.

Mayor Barrett added the stands will be available for use for a Winter Holiday Village. Ms. Garcia is also looking into an ice rink. The Wilson High School Band may also be available to participate.

Mr. Lipari added the Community yard sale, run by Block Watch will be held on August 17th at Meuser Park.
ATTORNEY:

Motion by Mr. Burke to advertise changes being made to the Borough’s parking ordinances. Second by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote followed. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Woodring to implement the Council Code of Conduct. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council concurred. Mr. Lipari and Solicitor Margle added a thank you to Ms. Taylor for her hard work in putting the Code of Conduct together.

Mr. Margle noted the Borough will be moving forward with an acquisition of property by September 9th at the latest.

Solicitor Margle stated that a Conditional Use Hearing will take place at the next Council meeting on August 26th. This will be regarding 1507 Northampton Street and a liquor license transfer. The Planning Commission was not able to make a recommendation due to lack of a quorum. He recommended advertising for the open spot on the Commission. Mr. Bracken offered to take the open seat. Mr. Margle stated Mr. Bracken must forward a letter to Ms. Garcia.

COG:
NONE

MECAB:
On vacation July and August.

OLD BUSINESS:
Solicitor Margle is handling the issue with the LAMAR Billboard denial by the Zoning Hearing Board. The Borough won the right to provide additional testimony and the case is moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS:
Mayor Barrett advised that Borough Officials have met with Easton Hospital Officials. The Hospital intends to remain open and is looking to partner with the Borough.

ORDINANCES:
Motion by Mr. Lipari to approve Ordinance #792 Dissolution of the Wilson Borough Recreation Board. Second by Ms. Taylor. A roll call vote followed. Motion unanimously passed by a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle suggested Council begin to plan for what changes will take place after the 90 days. Ms. Garcia and Mr. Burke will discuss.

RESOLUTIONS:
NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:
Bills were in the amount of $211,270.08. A motion by Mr. Burke to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Woodring. Council unanimously approved.

CAUCUS:
NONE

ADJOURNMENT:
Mr. Burke made a Motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Second by Ms. Taylor and Council concurred.

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JILL A. GARCIA
MANAGER/SECRETARY