

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
December 23, 2019

The first meeting of January 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  
David Jones  
Tony Verenna  
Russell Lipari

Justin Woodring  
Scott Palinkas  
John Burke  
Jeffrey Bracken via phone

ABSENT: Pam Taylor

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve Council meeting minutes from the December 23, 2019 meeting. Second by Mr. Jones and Council unanimously agreed.

GUEST:

NONE

CAUCUS:

Council entered a caucus at 7:36 pm and returned at 8:05 pm. Councilman Scott Palinkas asked to be excused from the Caucus. The purpose of this Caucus was to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna advised he was made aware of posts on social media condemning Borough employees for receiving a raise after Council approved the budget and the salary resolution. Mr. Verenna went on to say, "The Borough employees did a hell of a job this year, Police Force, Fire Company, Highway, Ms. Garcia's crew." Mr. Verenna was appalled that Borough employees were condemned on social media. He added that any Council Members with issues with the Budget and Salary Resolution should have addressed them at the Budget meetings.

Mr. Verenna requested a motion to reform and reorganize the disbanded Recreation Board to the Athletic Commission. A motion made by Mr. Jones to approve the reform and reorganization from Recreation Board to Athletic Commission. Second by Mr. Lipari. A discussion ensued requesting detail on what the Commission will include. Mr. Verenna advised it will be a three-member Commission; two Council members and one at large member from the Wilson Area School District. Mr. Verenna will appoint the members and term limit is two years. Mr. Verenna advised the Borough will accept letters of interest to fill the seats on the Athletic Commission. The seats will be appointed at the Re-Organization meeting on January 6, 2020. Council unanimously approved.

Mr. Verenna advised Relay for Life is waiting for a decision on whether they can use the Community Center in addition to the use of Meuser Park. A motion made by Ms. Taylor to allow the use of the Community Center, waiving all fees, with stipulations to be written by Solicitor Margle. This use of facilities by a Non-Wilson Borough School District entity will not set a precedent for future use by Non-Wilson Borough School District Residents. Second by Mr. Burke. Council unanimously approved.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett thanked everyone that participated in Santa Delivers.

Mayor Barrett advised he is working on the Budget breakdown and it will be given to the office to publish on the Borough website as soon as it is completed.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

##### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Ms. Taylor added to Mr. Verena's comments regarding the social media posts. Ms. Taylor stated not only was there no comment during budget meetings but also when the budget and resolutions were voted on at the last meeting there was no discussion. Ms. Taylor finds the comments highly inappropriate and believes they were made from the shade of social media. Mr. Palinkas advised he wasn't hiding on social media and openly admitted he posted it and he did not make a statement, but he will be, in the future, making a statement. Mr. Palinkas stated he does not like the budget and hasn't voted for a budget in four years. Ms. Taylor stated Mr. Palinkas chose to use social media instead of expressing his concerns at budget meetings where a discussion can be held. Mr. Palinkas asked if Council wanted to have a discussion about parity? Mr. Palinkas advised he didn't hide behind his comments, he made a statement. Ms. Taylor asked why he didn't bring it up in proper procedure when Council had the specific opportunity to have discussion? Mr. Jones agreed that Mr. Palinkas had the entire budget process to disagree. Solicitor Margle asked Mr. Palinkas what his comment about parity meant. Mr. Palinkas stated there are lots of things he doesn't like on the budget just like Mr. McGowan, but Mr. McGowan has been here many years and it still goes through, 3% raises, arguing for parity with different departments. Mr. Verenna stated Council held four budget meetings and a final budget meeting which gave Mr. Palinkas five opportunities to ask any questions or talk about anything he wanted. Mr. Palinkas asked if Council wanted him to talk about over inflated contracts across the board in front of everybody? Mr. Verenna stated it is part of Council. Mr. Verenna stated Mr. Palinkas condemned the Police and Fire. Mr. Palinkas stated he didn't condemn anybody. Ms. Garcia pointed out to Mr. Palinkas that he has been against her since the day he started on Council. Mr. Palinkas said yes, Ms. Garcia makes too much money.

##### POLICE:

Chief Meehan requested permission to hire Jessica Rodriguez to maintain the kennels and care for the dogs. A motion by Mr. Lipari to approve. Second by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously approved.

##### FIRE:

Chief Sipel would like to take serious look at parking in the Borough. The Fire Department had a call a few weeks ago and could not get up the street due to illegal parked cars. Mr. Jones also suggested that homes place addresses on the alley side of properties.

##### PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Flowers advised the old leaf loader was sold for \$6800.

##### PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mr. Burke advised anyone interested in being a vendor for the 2020 Celebration to please turn in their contracts.

Solicitor Margle asked Mr. Burke if the committee has received any contracts, Mr. Burke advised the Mayor has received some.

##### CODE:

Mr. Corriere advised the Code Committee is currently working on curb and sidewalk Ordinances.

##### ATTORNEY:

NONE

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$140,207.98. A motion by Mr. Burke to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

---

STEPHANIE N. JONES  
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER