

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
June 14, 2021

The first meeting of June of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in person at the Strausser Community Center. Council President Verenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Justin Woodring	John Burke
Scott Palinkas	Tony Verenna
Jeffrey Bracken	James Klass
Russell Lipari	

ABSENT: Pam Taylor, James McGowan

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Burke to approve Council Meeting minutes from May 24, 2021. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

GUEST:

Ms. Hope Hurd of the 1800 Block of Fairview Ave. requested permission to hold the annual block party on July 4, 2021, closing the block from 7am to 8pm. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Verenna advised Billboard Construction at Fisk Field is moving forward.

Mr. Verenna advised an employee is requesting a \$2 p/hr. salary increase. Solicitor Margle advised personnel issues may be discussed in public or in Caucus. It is at the discretion of Council. Mr. Bracken requested a Caucus.

CAUCUS:

A motion made by Mr. Lipari to enter a caucus at 7:05 pm. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion to return from caucus at 7:16 pm made by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised caucus was to discuss an employee issue and no vote was taken. Solicitor Margle recommended a motion by Borough Council.

A motion to table the issue until the next meeting made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised that some residents were concerned about the use of the Borough's resources during Easton High School graduation parade. These expenses were reimbursed by the Easton Area School District.

Mayor Barrett advised the Code Committee is working on some solutions for the parking issues within the Borough.

Mayor Barrett advised residents are responsible for cutting weeds/grass between the curb and the street.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised she received bids for the 16th Street Mill and Overlay and lowest bidder is Bracalente coming in at \$48,955.00. A motion to approve the bid made by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised she received bids for the 20th Street Mill and Overlay and the lowest bidder is Bracalente coming in at \$73,264. A motion to approve the bid made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr, Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

2020 COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke advised an in-person meeting will be held on June 16, 2021, at the large pavilion and will also be streamed.

Mr. Burke advised Mr. Dave Sipel is looking at holding an arts festival at Meuser Park the weekend prior to the 2020 Celebration and will be making the request at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Burke advised he is nearly finished with the PALCB application to serve beer only at the 2020 Celebration. A motion by Mr. Burke to allow the 2020 Committee to complete the PALCB application and research insurance covering event with the alcohol service. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Burke requested Council's permission to place a 4 ft by 8 ft banner in Meuser Park advertising the 2020 Celebration dates. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve. Second by Mr. Klass. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

Mr. Lipari advised the next meeting will be held June 17, 2021.

CODE DEPARTMENT:

Code Officer, Mr. Machado advised he, the Fire Chief and Health Inspector completed an inspection at Spanky's East. He has a list of violations that will be reviewed with the Zoning Solicitor. Chief Sipel advised fire escape and illegal splicing of wires are included in violations, just to name a few. Mr. Machado advised the owner is having issues with LCB compliance as well.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised the Ordinance for Grease/Fats/ Oils is ready to be advertised. A motion to table until next Council meeting made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised he is not comfortable with the proposed Ordinance to tax flipping of property due to the generally recognized legal principle of the constitutional right of an individual or business to use his/her property in a manner consistent with the law and in the manner that he/she believes to be appropriate. Any governmental restriction on the use, resale or other ownership interest of property is scrutinized very carefully so as to not unreasonably interfere with the right to use the property. Solicitor Margle is still researching.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Barrett would like to find a new home for the Police Department due to the current size being too restrictive.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

A motion to approve Ordinance #801 – PMRS Firefighter Pension made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion to approve Ordinance #802 – PMRS Non-Uniform Pension made by Mr. Burke. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to approve Resolution # 1257 MTF Grant Agreement made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Kurt Snyder of 2250 Ferry St. commented on the purchase/construction of a new Police Station and the liability of alcohol being served at the 2020 Celebration. Mr. Snyder asked why the entire budget is not listed on the website. Ms. Garcia advised Mr. Snyder that the portion of the budget on the website is the portion comprised of direct resident taxes. There are separate budgets for the Enterprise Funds and Liquid Fuel Funds. Mr. Snyder or anyone may request a copy of the entire budget, via Right to Know Request at any time.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$224,002.44. A motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Burke. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 8:24 pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER