

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 22, 2021

The second meeting of February of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held virtually via Zoom. President Verenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Pamela Taylor

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. McGowan to approve Council Meeting minutes from February 8, 2021 with an amendment under Communications and Petitions relating to the filling of the vacancy due to David Jones's resignation. Solicitor Margle suggested that the voting for the vacancy with the interested parties be made alphabetically however there are other ways, alphabetical was a suggestion. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

CONDITIONAL USE HEARING

Conditional Use Application of SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless seeking approval to install small cell nodes/communication facilities on eighteen (18) utility poles located in the Borough.

A motion to approve the Conditional Use Application with the following conditions made by Mr. Palinkas:

1. Proof of confirmation of all approvals from the Wilson Borough School District.
2. Applicant shall apply for and receive all permits necessary.
3. Certificate of Insurance will be provided.
4. In the event that any maintenance or easement agreements are required for contiguous landowners or the Borough, they will be applied for and received.

Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Ms. Sakinah Finney of 1951 Fairview Avenue advised she received a denial of her handicap parking permit application. She asked Council to please reconsider her application. Chief Meehan advised she meets the physical requirements, but her street already has 2 handicap spots assigned to that street. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to provide Ms. Finney an opportunity, at a public meeting, to present her formal request for reconsideration. Chief Meehan reviewed her application and forwarded to Council. It was acted upon adversely by Council. Chief Meehan will schedule a date to present the formal request and appropriate notice will be given to neighbors within a one block radius East and West. Seconded by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Mr. McGowan abstained. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia advised she received a letter from the Baseball Association requesting the use of facilities including the fields, refreshment stands, restrooms and equipment beginning March 1, 2021. President Verenna stated the Borough has not allowed anyone to use facilities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Palinkas concurred with Council President and stated that it should be tabled. President Verenna advised the Baseball Association to be present at the next meeting on March 8, 2021 and present their Covid-19 plan.

Ms. Garcia advised she received a letter of interest from Ms. Nalyn Russo Marcus, D. C. asking to be appointed to the open seat on the Mary Meuser Library Board of Trustees. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to appoint. Second made by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised the Allentown Corvette Club would like to hold its summer show at Meuser Park on September 11, 2021 and requested Council's permission. Ms. Garcia was concerned about the damage to the park since this will be the third car show scheduled this year in the park. She noted she has received complaints in previous years regarding parking of cars on the park grounds. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to allow the car show, pending COVID restrictions. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. No votes cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passed with a 6-1 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

President Verenna discussed the issues with garbage and recycle pick up. President Verenna advised Council that the current contract with Waste Management is in place until December 2021. Now is the time to think about putting out an RFP to solicit bids if Council is interested in looking at other haulers.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan presented two handicap parking applications:

102 S 16th St. The applicant meets all the physical requirements, no off-street parking, and no other handicap spots on the block. A motion made by Mr. Burke to approve. Second by Mr. Lipari. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

2445 Sycamore St. The applicant meets the physical requirements. There is only parking on one side of the street. There are two existing handicap spots and homeowner has a garage in the rear of the home. A motion to deny made by Mr. Palinkas. Motion died due to a lack of a second.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel thanked Ms. Garcia and Council for getting the new pickup truck for the Fire Department. During the recent storms, the truck has been put to good use.

Chief Sipel asked for an update on the financing for the new fire truck. Solicitor Margle advised he is waiting on a response regarding financing. President Verenna recommended using a Borough CD to pay for the fire truck instead of paying interest for financing. Ms. Garcia recommended leaving \$100,000 in the budget every year and putting it aside for future asset purchases. Mr. Lipari made a motion to allow Ms. Garcia to cash in the CD for \$1,000,000 coming due on February 24, 2021 to pay for the new Fire Truck. Second by Mr. Burke. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

2020 COMMITTEE:

NONE

ATHLETIC COMMISSION

NONE

CODE DEPARTMENT

NONE

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised he sent a letter to all Council members regarding the Council vacancy. The letter reviews the laws relative to how a vacancy is filled and what the standards are. The vacancy must be filled at the March 8, 2021 meeting.

Solicitor Margle advised there will be a brief presentation from NorthPoint (Pfizer land) about the sketch plan that was received and to discuss LERTA (Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance).

Solicitor Margle advised that the meeting with Dixie plant owner was postponed due to snow.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

CAUCUS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$65,874.60. A motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Burke. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:49 pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER