

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
March 8, 2021

The first meeting of March 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	Pamela Taylor
Tony Verenna	Jeffrey Bracken	James Klass

ABSENT: NONE

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 22, 2021. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

COUNCIL VACANCY

Solicitor Margle advised the resignation of Councilman David Jones was received on February 8, 2021 and because of the resignation the applicable law for the Boroughs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania applies. Council is to accept letters of interest from individuals. The requirements under the law are 1. Person filling the vacancy must live in the same ward as the resigned Councilman. 2. They must be a one-year resident of the ward. 3. They must be a registered voter in Northampton County. Solicitor Margle advised Council received three letters of interest from prospective appointees; Ms. Shaun Gable, Mr. James Klass and Mr. Mike Shannon, to fill the vacancy. The appointment is effective immediately and the appointed person will hold the seat until the General Election in November. All three prospective appointees made statements prior to a motion and voting.

A motion made by Mr. Burke to appoint Mr. Shaun Gable. Motion died for a lack of second.

A motion made by Mr. Woodring to appoint Ms. Shaun Gable. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Woodring. No Votes cast by Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Verenna. Solicitor Margle advised under normal circumstances a tie vote on agenda matters and normal business falls to the responsibility of the Mayor. In this situation however, Solicitor Margle advised that the Mayor's job in breaking a tie pertains to business and administrative duties rather than the filling of a vacancy. The motion did not pass for lack of majority.

A motion made by Mr. Verenna to appoint Mr. James Klass. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Woodring, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Palinkas. No votes cast by Mr. Burke. Motion passes with a 7-1 vote.

Mayor Barrett swore Mr. Klass in as member of Council.

GUEST:

Mr. Johnny Sweeny of Northpoint Development discussed a development project at 1525 Wood Avenue Easton, PA 18042. The project is anticipated to cost close to \$90,000,000 and create around 450 jobs. The building is projected to be approximately 806,000 square feet. Northpoint has submitted a Zoning application and a sketch plan.

Mr. McGowan asked if there is an occupant for the building. Mr. Sweeny advised the buildings are built on spec basis. Solicitor Margle advised Council they will know who the tenant is before the project gets off the ground. Mr. Klass asked about how the stream will be redirected, and will it have any impact on Fisk Field? Mr. David Salinas of Northpoint advised there will be no issue. Mr. Palinkas asked how far the warehouse will be from the residential district near Bushkill Drive? Mr. Salinas advised the distance is in excess of 750 feet and the lighting spillage is called dark night and it is directional. The lighting will not bleed out into the residential areas or any adjacent properties. Solicitor Margle also advised any lighting that goes off site will have to be properly buffered and controlled. President Verenna asked the representatives of Northpoint to come back to Council at a later date to speak again and provide more details.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mr. William Stasak of Wilson Youth Baseball & Softball requested permission for use of facilities for spring baseball and softball and advised Council the association follows the League rules pertaining to Covid-19. Ms. Garcia asked if they will be using the snack stand. Mr. Stasak advised they would like to use it as long as the League allows for them to provide food and drink to the fans. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to grant the use of facilities. Second by Mr. Burke. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. No votes cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passed with an 8-1 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised use of Meuser Park on June 5, 2021 was requested by the Allentown Corvette club for a second car show however, the next day, June 6, 2021 is the Antique car club. Ms. Garcia would like to know if Council is ok with two car shows back-to-back? Solicitor Margle advised Council may want to consider a formal policy for future issues. This item has been tabled.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

President Verenna advised the Borough has a signed agreement with Easton and Lamar.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor advised he would like to have the Easter Bunny driving around the Borough with a Police escort on March 27, 2021. No issues from Council.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan presented 2 handicap applications.

1. 2121 4th St – Applicant meets physical disability requirements and the block only has one handicap spot however, that block only handles about 9 cars and the applicant has a parking pad in the rear of the home. The resident's issue is the parking pad is 40 feet from the back door. Resident has a hard time traversing that distance without stopping and breathing.

A motion made by Mr. Buke. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Klass and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 9-0 vote.

2. 730 S 23rd St – Applicant meets physical disability requirements, no off-street parking and there is already a handicap spot in place, but the previous owner passed away. A motion made by Ms. Taylor. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Klass and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 9-0 vote.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

2020 COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke requested a motion to allow himself, Solicitor Margle, the Centennial Committee and Ms. Garcia to obtain applications and access to gain approval to serve alcoholic beverages at the 2020 Celebration. President Verenna recommended getting a games of chance license as well. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to approve. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Klass and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 9-0 vote.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION

Mr. Verenna advised the Commission is waiting on a Resolution for the Cheer Association. Solicitor Margle requested a meeting with the Athletic Commission to discuss issues.

CODE DEPARTMENT

NONE

ATTORNEY:

NONE

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

Ms. Garcia advised Resolution #1253 was created, appointing Jim Klass.

CAUCUS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$178,655.26. A motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Burke. Second by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 9-0 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