

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
April 26, 2021

The first meeting of April of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in person at the Strausser Community Center. 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	James Klass	

ABSENT: Pam 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 March 22, 2021. Second by Mr. Lipari. Council unanimously approved.

GUEST:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia advised Senior Bingo requested the use of the pavilions to hold bingo. A motion to approve 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. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised she received a request from Autobots of Easton to purchase a directional sign at their expense. A motion to approve made by Mr. Bracken. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

President Verenna announced the new billboard has the green light to advertise for RFP.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett announced the passing of Willie Keck and announced a tribute in honor of Willie will be made at the Centennial Celebration this fall.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised she needs a motion to request bids for the 16th Street mill and overlay. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to go out for bid. Second by Mr. Buke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised she has received requests to use the Avona Field House and would like Council's decision on whether it can be used. This matter has been tabled until the next meeting.

A motion made by Mr. Burke to have our Solicitor draft a use of facilities form. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised she received a Resolution to Oppose State Police funding from a neighboring municipality. A motion for the Borough Solicitor to draft a similar Resolution made by Mr. Palinkas. Second by Mr. Klass. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Verenna. No vote was cast by Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 7-1 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan presented 4 handicap parking applications:

1532 Lehigh St.
1820 Freemansburg Ave.
2445 Sycamore St.
2401 Hay St.

All applications meet the requirements.

A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to approve all 4 applications. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel advised the Fire Department was awarded a \$15,000 grant. He thanked Ms. Garcia for her assistance in obtaining the grant.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

Mr. Lipari asked if the summer concerts had been advertised. Ms. Jones advised the concerts are listed on the Borough web-site.

CODE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke advised the committee will resume meetings next month.

2020 COMMITTEE:

NONE

ATHLETIC COMMISSION

Mr. Verenna advised the by-laws are near completion and an email address has been established.

Mr. Verenna advised the Athletic Commission voted to give \$3,500 to the Cheerleader Association to purchase new uniforms. The check will be written directly to the uniform company once an invoice is received by the Borough Manager. Mr. Bracken strongly objected to the funds being used for new uniforms when the Cheerleaders purchased new uniforms two years ago while under the Recreation Board. Mr. Bracken advised there are other Associations in need of funds, and they do not receive those funds. Mr. Verenna advised that no one has asked for funds since the formation of the Athletic Commission and if there are Associations in need, all they need to do is submit the request in writing for the Athletic Commission to review, just as the Cheerleading Association did.

CODE DEPARTMENT

Solicitor Margle advised Attorney Nitchkey recommended raising the Zoning & Planning fees to be in line with other similar municipalities. Ms. Garcia advised she will take a survey of local municipalities and what they charge in time for the next Council meeting.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised he attended a hearing with Mr. Reibman regarding a street tree removed without a permit. Mr. Reibman is donating \$300 dollars to the Shade Tree Commission and will be replacing the tree.

Solicitor Margle advised the litigation with The Hillis Group is in its early stages.

Solicitor Margle advised the LERTA application is beneficial to the Borough and the School District.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

CAUCUS:

Council entered Caucus at 8:24 pm.

Council exited Caucus at 8:38 pm.

Solicitor Margle advised the purpose of the Caucus was to discuss a building site. A motion made by Mr. Verenna to allow Ms. Garcia to contact Monica Wall of T&M Associates to investigate if all local, state, and federal regulations are being followed at the building site. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$690,374.43. A motion to approve the bills 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. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 8:51 pm. Second by Mr. Woodring and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER