

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
May 10, 2021

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

PRESENT:

Justin Woodring	John Burke
James McGowan	Scott Palinkas-via phone
Jeffrey Bracken	James Klass

ABSENT: Pam Taylor, Tony Verenna and Russell Lipari

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 April 26, 2021. Second by Mr. Bracken. Council unanimously approved.

GUEST:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Kurt Snyder of 2250 Ferry Street relayed his concerns about the condition of the Borough streets, the vacant Bank Building on Northampton Street, and the creation of a new Police station.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia advised Block Watch will be holding the community yard sale on August 21, 2021.

Mr. Klass asked if the Borough Offices, Community Center and Council Chambers will be opening. Ms. Garcia advised that is a decision that needs to be made by Council. A discussion ensued. Mr. Bracken suggested not opening the Borough Hall until at least the date the Governor's mandate is lifted, which is June 1, 2021. Mr. Burke suggested Council revisit this issue at the next council meeting and see if other Municipalities follow suit. Meetings will continue to be held at the Strausser Community Center for the foreseeable future.

A motion made by Mr. Klass to open the Community Center for use by residents as of June 1, 2020 as long as the Governor still allows 100% occupancy inside. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Klass, and Mr. Woodring. No votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Palinkas. Vote on the Motion was tied. Mayor Barrett voted yes, in favor of opening. Motion passes.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett announced Block Watch is selling "We Support Wilson Borough Police" signs.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised she is still waiting for responses from about other Municipalities on their Zoning and Planning fees.

Ms. Garcia advised the Resolution objecting to funding to the State Police for services is being drafted by Solicitor Margle.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan requested Council's permission to create a new Civil Service list as the previous one expired in January 2021. A motion made by Mr. Klass allowing Chief Meehan to establish a new list. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Chief Meehan advised Council he will need to order an additional Police vehicle. This has been budgeted.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Flowers requested Council's permission to hire summer help. A motion made by Mr. Bracken to hire. Second by Mr. Klass. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Flowers advised UGI will be completing multiple locations throughout the Borough and the Borough is responsible for a portion of the milling and paving. Mr. Flowers suggested sending UGI a letter informing them the Borough will not charge permit fees if they cover the full cost of paving the streets they are working on. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to have a letter drafted. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke made a motion to allow the Solicitor to prepare a Grease Trap Ordinance for Council to review. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Burke advised the Code Committee would like to add a definition of "Flipping Homes" to the Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Ordinance. A motion to allow the Solicitor to investigate the request. Second by Mr. Klass. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

2020 COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke advised the Committee is looking for Volunteers for the Celebration.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION

Mr. Bracken requested the Athletic Commission explain the process of requesting funds to the committees at the next Athletic Commission meeting.

CODE DEPARTMENT

Code Officer Machado and Mr. Bracken toured the Borough and discovered dumping at the vacant bank building. They also discovered the vacant gas station on Fairview Ave. looks as if the roof is falling. The Code Officer will be drafting a letter to the owners of both properties and asked the Solicitor's office to review them prior to being sent.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised the Wilson School District has not voted on the LERTA application.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Billboard and Scoreboard construction will begin May 24, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Garcia requested Council's permission to go out to bid for mill and overlay of Fairview Street from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to 24<sup>th</sup> Street. A motion made by Mr. Woodring to go out for bids. Second by Mr. Klass. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia requested Council's permission to go out to bid for mill and overlay of S. 20<sup>th</sup> Street from Butler Street to Freemansburg Avenue; Low Street from Freemansburg Avenue to the alley; Center Street from Freemansburg Avenue to the alley. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

ORDINANCES:

Motion by Mr. Palinkas to adopt Ordinance #800, allowing Residential Rental Licenses to be suspended for all overdue Real Estate Taxes, Business Privilege and Mercantile Taxes, Sewer and Garbage collection fees and all open Certificate of Occupancy violations. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

CAUCUS:

Council entered Caucus at 8:24 pm.  
Council exited Caucus at 8:47 pm.

Solicitor Margle advised the purpose of the Caucus was to discuss real estate and personnel issues.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$1,060,076.02,. A motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Bracken. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

---

STEPHANIE N. JONES  
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER