

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
November 22, 2021

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

PRESENT:

Justin Woodring	Tony Verenna
Jeffrey Bracken	James Klass
Russell Lipari	

ABSENT: John Burke, Scott Palinkas, James McGowan and Pamela Taylor

Also present were Solicitor Tina Downs, Borough Manager Jill Garcia, Chief of Police Christian Meehan, Public Works Supervisor Eric Flowers, and Code Officer Emanuel Machado.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Woodring to approve the Budget Meeting minutes from November 8, 2021. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve the Council Meeting minutes from November 8, 2021. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

CAUCUS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett ask to have more congratulatory information placed on the website. Ms. Garcia advised that groups may send their information and pictures to the Borough Office, and it will be posted.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised the Borough has received a \$125,000 grant from the Greenways Rails and Trails to upgrade the tennis courts at Meuser Park.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

Ms. Garcia on behalf of Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire two part time fire fighters: John Ludi and Richard Hertzog. A motion to approve made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

Mr. Lipari would like to hold a winter village next year in Meuser Park.

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

2020 COMMITTEE:

NONE

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

Mr. Lipari made a motion to allow the Cheer Association to place a shed to store equipment in at Meuser Park. The Cheer Association will purchase and maintain the shed. Placement of shed will be approved by Council once purchased. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised she will need a bill of sale and a list of what is going to be store in the shed for insurance purposes.

CODE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Machado advised there will be a Zoning hearing November 23, 2021, at 7pm.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Downs advised there will be a Zoning hearing November 23, 2021, in reference to a commercial property at 319 S 16<sup>th</sup> St. The current owner would like to covert the lower portion of said property into a residential unit. Ms. Downs requested comments from Council concerning this application. Council agreed to no comments for the ZHB meeting.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion made by Mr. Klass to rescind a motion made by Mr. Klass at the November 8, 2021, meeting in reference to a salary increase. Second by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

A motion to increase the salary of the Public Works Supervisor by \$2000 per year prior to the 3% cost of living raise, made by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Lipari. A discussion ensued and Mr. Woodring wanted to know the reason for the salary increase. Mr. Verenna advised it was requested due to how close the Supervisor's salary is to the Foreman's salary and the potential for additional responsibilities with the Quality-of-Life Ordinance once it is passed. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Woodring. No votes were cast by Mr. Bracken and Mr. Verenna. Motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

Mayor Barrett questioned if the contract needs to be rewritten and Solicitor Downs advised yes, a new contract should be entered.

A motion to adopt the proposed advertised budget made by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Woodring. No votes were cast by Mr. Bracken and Mr. Verenna. Motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Garcia advised Mayor Barrett, Mr. Verenna, Solicitor Downs and she will be attending a conference call with Northampton County Council to help apply pressure to the Dixie property.

ORDINANCES:

A motion to approve Ordinance #805 made by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. A discussion ensued and Mr. Bracken made a statement that he does not understand how Council talks about being lean and not having any business in the Borough, but Council approves a raise for a Borough worker and he feels it is embarrassing when taxes are being raised. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Woodring. No votes were cast by Mr. Bracken and Mr. Verenna. Motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

Ms. Garcia informed Council that no one has come into the Borough Office to request a copy of the proposed budget.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to approve Resolution #1261 made by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Klass. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Woodring, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Bracken. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$130,750.15 A motion made by Mr. Verenna to approve. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 7:53pm. Second by Mr. Verenna and Council concurred.

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STEPHANIE N. JONES  
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER