

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
January 10, 2022

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

PRESENT:

John Burke	Justin Woodring	Shaun Gable
Scott Palinkas	Kurt Snyder	Tony Verenna
Jeffrey Bracken (after appointment)		

ABSENT:

Russell Lipari	James McGowan
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Also present were Solicitor Stanley Margle, Borough Manager Jill Garcia, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, Chief of Police Christian Meehan, Public Works Supervisor Eric Flowers and Code Officer Emanuel Machado.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Verenna to approve the Meeting minutes from December 13, 2021 and January 3, 2022. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Verenna. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

CANINE OFFICER INTRODUCTION:

Chief Meehan introduced Wilson's newest K9: Dotan. He is handled by Officer Daniel Pacchioli. Dotan is a three-and-a-half-year-old Belgian Malinois from Holland. He is currently training to detect narcotics/drugs. Most K9s serve approximately ten years. Dotan's cost was paid for 100% by grants and donations. Wilson's canine Rex (handled by Officer Migliore) is now fully retired.

VACANCY:

Solicitor Margle addressed the vacancy on Council and the requirements for filling the vacancy. One letter of interest was received from previous Council Member Jeffrey Bracken. Mr. Bracken made a brief statement expressing his interest in continuing to serve on Borough Council and the reasons for his interest. No questions were asked of Mr. Bracken. Motion by Mr. Verenna to appoint Mr. Bracken to the open Ward 2 Council seat. Second by Mr. Snyder. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Verenna. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Mr. Bracken was sworn in by Mayor Barrett and Mr. Bracken took his Council seat.

GUEST:

Attorney Matthew Deschler, assistant Solicitor for the City of Bethlehem was present and gave a brief presentation on Conservatorship. The City of Bethlehem has experience with Conservatorship. This process was used to enable the City to rehab a blighted building with fewer costs to the City.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Council President Burke announced Committees of Council for 2022 moving forward.

<u>General Government</u>	<u>Parks</u>	<u>Protection to Persons & Property</u>
Mr. Woodring (chair)	Mr. Burke (chair)	Mr. Lipari (chair)
Mr. McGowan	Mr. Woodring	Mr. Bracken
Mr. Snyder	Ms. Gable	Ms. Gable
<u>Public Works</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Police Pension</u>
Mr. Bracken (chair)	Mr. Burke (chair)	Mr. McGowan
Mr. McGowan	Mr. Woodring	Mr. Verenna
Mr. Lipari		Mr. Palinkas
<u>McCab</u>	<u>Celebration</u>	<u>Athletic Commission</u>
Mr. McGowan	Mr. Burke (chair)	Mr. Lipari (chair)
Mr. Snyder	Mayor Barrett	Mr. Burke

Shade Tree
To Be Determined

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised he had attended the most recent Lions Club meeting. The Lions Club would like to add Little Library Boxes next to the existing Blessing Boxes in the Borough. Motion by Mr. Woodring to permit the Little Libraries. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Bracken. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia requested a motion from Council to accept the low bidder's bid for the Wilson Borough Sanitary Manhole Rehabilitation Project, on a recommendation of T&M Associates, the Borough Engineers. Total project cost is \$63,000 with a grant paying for \$53,550. Motion by Mr. Snyder to accept bid of SWERP Inc. Second by Mr. Verenna. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Bracken. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia requested Council's permission to send Mr. Snyder and Ms. Gable to a New Council Boot Camp sponsored by PSAB. Funds are budgeted for this training. Motion by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Bracken. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised new Council Members must take NIMS training, specifically NIMS 100 and 700. Certificates must be printed after the training and turned into the Borough Manager.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

Chief Sipel advised Captain Barry Rogers has just been certified as Wilson Borough's first Nationally Certified Fire Investigator.

Chief Sipel advised West Easton Fire Company provided mutual aid to Wilson Borough during December by covering the Borough's station for five hours.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Flowers commented the Public Works Department has been busy collecting Christmas Trees. So far, 250 have been picked up.

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

The Code Committee will be meeting with Solicitor Margle before the next Council Meeting to discuss the Quality-of-Life Ordinance. The next Code Committee meeting will be at 6 pm on January 24th, prior to the 7 pm Council Meeting.

Mr. Bracken would like to see the Borough find a way to force telecom companies to clean up downed wires in the Borough. It may be possible to make this a requirement of the franchise agreements.

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

The Celebration Committee will be holding a workshop on January 13th at 6:30 pm to begin discussions for the next Celebration to be held October 13th, 14th and 15th.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

Mr. Verenna advised the 2022 graduation class of Wilson Borough would like to have a car parade to celebrate graduation. They will meet in Williams Township and end in the Borough. State Police, Palmer Police, Wilson Borough Police and Fire will all assist. There will be refreshments at the end and the Wilson Band will be participating. Details will be forthcoming.

CODE DEPARTMENT:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised Council will receive a copy of a Noise Ordinance Amendment in their next packet. Council should be prepared to authorize this Ordinance for advertising.

Solicitor Margle stated that a meeting will be held in his office tomorrow with Borough Staff, no more than four Council members, the Mayor and a local business owner. Mr. Bracken asked Mr. Margle to send a follow up email to all of Council.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

Motion to approve Ordinance #804 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment by Mr. Woodring. Ordinance has been duly advertised. Second by Mr. Verenna. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Bracken. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$486,413.94 A motion made by Mr. Verenna to approve. Second by Mr. Snyder. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodring, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Bracken. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

CAUCUS

Council entered into a Caucus at 7:55 pm on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Ms. Gable. Council excided Caucus at 8:05 pm. Purpose of the Caucus was to discuss matters outside the sunshine act, personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Second by Mr. Woodring and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER