

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
December 13, 2021

The first meeting of December 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	Scott Palinkas
Jeffrey Bracken	James McGowan	
Russell Lipari	John Burke	

ABSENT: James Klass

Also present were Solicitor Stan Margle, 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 22, 2021. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

SWEARING IN:

Mayor Barrett swore in new full time Police Officer Jason Rosenberg. Council welcomed Officer Rosenberg and offered congratulations.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

CAUCUS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised the Police Department and Verizon employees delivered gifts to about sixty elementary school students.

Mayor Barrett advised the American Legion Post 611 will be offering free breakfast to all first responders on December 18, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised she received a revised Police MMO moving the contribution from \$77,000 for 2022 to \$107,000. Ms. Garcia reported that actuaries Foster and Foster state that State Aid will be enough to cover the cost. A motion to accept the revision made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised the Zoning Hearing Board would like to move Mr. Lutes from the alternate position to a permanent position on the Zoning Board. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan requested permission to hire Mr. Jonathan Garcia, pending physical, as a part-time Police Officer. A motion to approve made by Mr. Burke. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested to hire three part-time Fire Fighters: Mr. Ryan Garrity, Mr. Kevin Thomas, and Mr. Jason Hook.

A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve Mr. Ryan Garrity. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve Mr. Kevin Thomas. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion made by Mr. Lipari to approve Mr. Jason Hook. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

2020 COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke thanked the Lions Club, Block Watch, Police and Fire Departments for their help with the tree lighting.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

Mr. Lipari advised the next meeting will be held in Council Chambers on December 16, 2021, at 6pm.

CODE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Machado advised there will be a Zoning hearing December 28, 2021, at 7pm.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised a letter of Resignation from Ms. Pamela Taylor was received. A motion to accept the letter of resignation made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised there are thirty days to fill the seat with the following rules: Individual must live in the same ward as Ms. Taylor, must be a Borough resident for twelve months and does not have to be in the same political party as Ms. Taylor. Anyone interested must send in a letter of interest to the Borough Office. Solicitor Margle advised a vote for the replacement must be made by January 10, 2022.

Solicitor Margle advised an alternative to condemnation or eminent domain of the Dixie Building could be Conservatorship. A motion to invite Attorney Matthew Deschler to a Council meeting to discuss the process of Conservatorship made by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised he reviewed the Quality of Life Ordinance and feels it is too vague and unenforceable. Solicitor Margle suggested he will meet with Mr. Burke to fine tune the Ordinance.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Garcia advised she received notification of award regarding the RCAP (Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program) Grant. The Borough was awarded \$500,000 for renovation of the Wilson Borough Pool.

Ms. Garcia requested Council to address a letter from the Public Works Supervisor asking to rescind his \$2000 a year raise. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to rescind the \$2000 p/year raise voted and approved at the November 22, 2021, Council Meeting. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #1262 – 2022 Salary Resolution

Motion by Mr. Lipari to approve. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Resolution #1263 – Emergency Operations Plan

Motion to Approve by Mr. Burke. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Torri Zapata of 846 S 25th St. took issue with a proposal to turn a commercial property next to her home into two businesses. She advised there are parking issues now, without the additional business traffic. She would like to have permit parking reinstated. Chief Meehan will investigate permit parking being reinstated. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to have Solicitor Margle appear at the next Zoning meeting. Second by Mr. Buke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna. No votes were cast by Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 6-1 vote.

Brian Rader of 2215 Fairview Ave. had questions about the budget that was passed on November 22, 2021. Mr. Rader had concerns with the language used in the agenda for the November 22nd meeting. He feels it was not clear enough to know the budget was being voted on at that meeting. Mr. Verenna advised the public is always invited to the meetings. Solicitor Margle advised the only way the millage of a Municipality is amended is through a budget therefore any reasonable person would view millage on an agenda with having to do with budget amendment. The law does not require the public to know everything about the agenda, but requires it be sufficiently described. Solicitor Margle advised it's a difference of opinion.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$154,471.64 A motion made by Mr. Burke to approve. Second by Mr. McGowan. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:18pm. Second by Mr. Burke and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER