

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
January 24, 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
Kurt Snyder	Tony Verenna	James McGowan
Jeffrey Bracken	Russell Lipari	

ABSENT:

Scott Palinkas

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. McGowan to approve the Meeting minutes from January 10, 2022. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

GUEST:

Mr. Robert Koochagian and Ms. Monica Wall of T&M Associates (Borough Engineers) presented the updated plan for the pool and discussed financing options. Council tabled the decision to move forward or put the project on hold until the next Council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia advised she received a letter of interest from Ms. Angel Ackerman for an open seat on the May Meuser Library Board. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to appoint Ms. Ackerman to said open seat. Second by Mr. Bracken. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised residents he is in close contact with Borough department heads when a snow storm occurs and bases his decision to call a snow emergency with input from all.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

NONE

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

The Code Committee meet prior to the Council meeting and discussed the Quality of Life Ordinance. The committee made some adjustments which will be sent to the Solicitor for review.

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

The Celebration Committee will be holding its first public meeting at 6:30 pm on January 27, 2022. The Committee is still looking for volunteers.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

The Athletic Commission currently has two open "at large" seats.

A letter of interest was received from Mr. Michael Shannon. A motion made by Mr. Lipari to appoint Mr. Shannon to an open seat on the Commission. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

A letter of interest was received from Mr. Tristan Wickkiser. A motion made by Mr. Bracken to appoint Mr. Wickkiser to an open seat on the Commission. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

CODE DEPARTMENT:

Code Officer Machado advised Council there will be a zoom meeting with the Zoning Board on January 25, 2022, at 7:00 pm to discuss 2000 Northampton St. The applicant is proposing to add residential space on top of a commercial property. A motion to have the Solicitor attend the meeting made by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Verenna. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. No Vote cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passed with a 7-1 vote.

A motion to have Mr. Woodring and Mr. Burke attend the Zoning meeting as Councilmembers was made by Ms. Gable. Second by Mr. McGowan. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. No Vote cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passed with a 7-1 vote.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised there was a conference with prospective purchasers of a certain building in the Borough. The meeting went very well however, the Borough will still continue to pursue conservatorship.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Snyder suggested moving the public comment to the top of the agenda. Incumbent Council members advised it was moved to the bottom of the agenda so the residents can hear all the agenda items discussed and then residents may ask their questions or express their concerns.

Mr. Snyder suggested allowing residents to add their questions or concerns during the New Business part of the agenda. Solicitor Margle advised the public is generally not permitted to engage in discussions while the meeting is in order. Solicitor Margle advised the public should listen to the agenda items and when it comes to Public Comment, they may express their concerns. Solicitor Margle advised Mr. Snyder to review the Open Meetings Law.

Mr. Snyder questioned why there can't be more verbal votes rather than all roll call votes. Solicitor Margle advised Council can do that. Ms. Garcia added that roll call votes became necessary because in the past some members of Council would deny voting for certain items. A roll call vote puts Council's votes on the record.

ORDINANCES:

Motion to advertise Ordinance #806-Noise Ordinance Amendment by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to approve Resolution # 1264, PennDOT Traffic Signal Maintenance Signature Authority made by Mr. Snyder. Second made by Mr. Verenna. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Brian Rader of 2215 Fairview Ave. requested to move the public comment back the top of the agenda. Mr. Radar also asked why the Zoning meeting is on Zoom. Code Officer Machado advised some board members are away and can only attend via Zoom.

Mr. Michael Shannon of 2230 Fox Run advised the sidewalk on S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St in front of the toddler playground is crumbling. Mr. Flowers advised Public Works is aware of it and will be addressing it this year. Mr. Shannon advised there is a shopping cart stuck in the entrance of the same park. Mr. Flowers will take care of it. Mr. Shannon expressed concern that some property owners do not clean snow and ice off sidewalks in a timely manner. He advised his daughter slipped on ice that had not been removed in the proper amount of time.

Panama Crozier of 2042 Forest St. advised that the sidewalks and the roads have been bad. She walks her son to school in the morning and sometimes must walk in the street because sidewalks haven't been cleared. She was especially concerned regarding the intersection of Butler and S 21<sup>st</sup> Streets where the crossing guard stands. Code Officer Machado advised that it was addressed with the owner and the owner will be taking care of it.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$361,677.24 Motion to approve the bills by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

CAUCUS

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm. Second by Mr. Woodring and Council concurred.

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STEPHANIE N. JONES  
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER