

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 14, 2022

The first meeting of February 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 (late)	Scott Palinkas	

ABSENT:

Russell Lipari

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 24, 2022. Second by Mr. Verenna. Roll call vote followed. Yes Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring cast votes. Motion passed with an 7-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia advised she received letters requesting permission to use the Community Center from Ms. Mary Pierce for the Saint Jane's Father Daughter Dance and from Mr. Shawn Dethlefsen for St Jane's CYO. A motion made by Mr. Snyder to approve both at the non-profit rate of \$25 and refundable cleaning deposit of \$100. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 7-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia requested Council's permission to send Council members to the PSAB conference in the spring. A motion to approve made by Mr. Palinkas. Second by Mr. Snyder. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 7-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan advised he is having difficulties obtaining interested applicants for Part-time Police Officers. Chief Meehan advised Palmer Township raised its part-time rate to \$32 p/hr. He would like to see Wilson raise its rate to \$28.63 for starting part-time. Solicitor Margle advised that Council should have more information presented to them before deciding. A motion to increase the part-time rate to \$28.63 after a part-time Officer works a total of 480 hours, made by Mr. Verenna. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire part-time Fire Fighter Logan Schwartz. A motion made by Mr. Verenna to approve. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire part-time Fire Fighter Mason Rampulla. A motion made by Ms. Gable to approve. Second by Mr. Verenna. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire part-time Fire Fighter Andrew Kloss. A motion made by Mr. Verenna to approve. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Chief Sipel advised the Fire Department's 25-year-old rescue truck requires a new engine. Ms. Garcia added that she is working with the engineers on a grant to replace the truck. This may take a year or two with grant application rules and supply delays.

Chief Sipel advised the new ladder truck may be completed by the end of March.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Flowers advised Public Works collected 389 Christmas trees this year.

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

The Celebration Committee will hold its next meeting February 24, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the Community Center.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

The Athletic Commission will hold its next meeting February 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm in the Community Center.

CODE DEPARTMENT:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised Ordinance #806 is ready for the final vote. A motion to approve Ordinance #806 made by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised there will be a meeting held at his office on February 17, 2022, to discuss a certain piece of Real Estate and the Solicitor will provide a brief report at the next Council meeting.

Solicitor Margle advised he will monitor the Borough cash flow and finances to delay any negative impact on the Borough.

Solicitor Margle suggested moving forward with a quicker find for a new Police Department due to the state of the current facilities and the negative impact it has on the Department.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion made by Mr. Verenna to authorize the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to contact the Borough Engineers and have them provide preliminary plans to renovate the Tomaino Building for the Police Department. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to authorize the Borough Manager and Borough Solicitor to examine feasibility and cost of demolition and renovations of the 2017 Hay Terrace building for Borough Administration. Second by Mr. Snyder. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

A motion made by Mr. Verenna that in conjunction with the property renovation of the Tomaino Building, the Borough Manager, Solicitor and Engineer coordinate efforts to determine feasibility and cost to move the Borough Administration staff to the Community Center temporarily. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Ms. Panama Crozier of 2042 Forest St. Rear suggested the Borough reach out to Borough businesses to help defray the costs of building a new pool or recreation area for the children in the Borough.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$187,269.46 Motion to approve the bills by Mr. Verenna. Second by Ms. Gable. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, 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 8:30 pm. Second by Mr. Woodring and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASURER