

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
November 8, 2021

The first meeting of November of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in person at the Strausser Community Center. Council President Pro Tem Russell Lipari called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

John Burke	Justin Woodring	Scott Palinkas
James McGowan	James Klass	Jeffrey Bracken
Russell Lipari		

ABSENT: Tony Verenna and Pam Taylor

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 Council Meeting minutes from October 25, 2021. Second by Mr. Woodring. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

CAUCUS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett congratulated all Wilson Sports groups on a great season.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised she received a letter from Foster & Foster advising the COLA (cost of living adjustment) for Police retirees may be increased by 5.9% (same as social security increase) without negatively impacting the fund. A motion to approve made by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Palinkas. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to allow part-time applicants to live within a 15 mile radius instead of the current 5 miles, with the hope of obtaining more applicants. 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. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to begin the testing process for the open Lieutenant position. A motion to approve made by Mr. Palinkas. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Chief Sipel addressed a rumor about Fire Fighters earning over time while at the bonfire and the celebration. Chief Sipel advised any fire fighter attending the events were working their regular shift or were there on their own time.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

2020 COMMITTEE:

Mr., Burke advised the tree lighting will be on November 26 from 6 pm to 8 pm in Meuser Park. Santa Delivers will be on December 18th from 10 am to 5 pm. Presents can be dropped off at the Fire Station until December 17, 2021.

Mr. Buke advised the 2022 Celebration dates are October 13-15, 2022.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

NONE

CODE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Machado advised there will be 3 Zoning hearings held November 23, 2021

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised Ordinance # 804 – Zoning Ordinance amendment is ready for advertisement. A motion to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance # 804 upon receipt of favorable comments from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission was made by Mr. Palinkas. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised Resolution # 1261 – Taxpayer Bill of Rights is reading for adoption. A motion made by Mr. Palinkas to adopt pending Council's review. Second by Mr. Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised there is a potential vacancy of a Council seat. He will keep Council apprised.

Solicitor Margle advised there is a shortage of Commission members on the Planning Commission and two alternate seats on the Zoning Board. A motion to authorize Borough staff to advertise to fill vacant planning seats and 2 alternate Zoning Board seats made by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr, Burke. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle advised he will circulate the Quality of Life Ordinance for Council to review and discuss at the next Council meeting.

COG:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion by Mr. Klass to “increase Mr. Flowers’ salary by two dollars, two thousand dollars a year, which averages out to about \$38 a week.....prior to his 3% raise.” Second by Mr. Lipari. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Woodring, Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Lipari and Mr. Palinkas. No votes cast by Mr. Burke and Mr. Bracken. Motion passed with a 5-2 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of 204,521.43. A motion made by Mr. Burke to approve. Second by Mr. Klass. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes were cast by Mr. Burke, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Klass, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Burke made a Motion to adjourn at 7:40pm. Second by Mr. McGowan and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
BOROUGH CLERK/TREASUER