

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
September 12, 2022

The first meeting of September of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. Council President John Burke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

John Burke	Shaun Gable (via phone)	Scott Palinkas
Justin Woodring	Kurt Snyder	Russell Lipari
James McGowan	Tony Verenna	

ABSENT:

Jeffrey Bracken

Also present were Solicitor Stanley Margle, Borough Manager Jill Garcia, Chief of Police Christian Meehan, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, and Code Officer Emanuel Machado.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the Meeting minutes from August 22, 2022. Second by Mr. Snyder. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

SWEARING IN:

Mayor Barrett performed the swearing in of new full time Police Officer Frank Kirschner. Council extended congratulations to Officer Kirschner.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia presented a request from Palmer Volunteer Fire Company #2 located at 1710 Washington Blvd. The club requested to close Filbert Street alley between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets for their annual Member Appreciation Day event, which will take place on October 9, 2022. Proper insurance certificate has been received. Motion to allow the event/street closure made by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Lipari. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, 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 the Celebration Committee would like to purchase a pre-lit 14 ft Christmas Tree for the Meuser Park Tree lighting ceremony. The tree will have a 3 ft star and has the option of having more height added in subsequent years. Motion to allow by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Gable. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Mr. Burke added that the Committee is requesting a contribution of \$2,600 from the Borough to add lights to 6 trees in the park. This will allow the park to be lit up for future events such as the Boro Fall Fest and the Winter Fest. Public Works and Rileighs will work together to place the lights. Motion to purchase the lights by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Woodring. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Mayor Barrett advised the Hometown Hero Banner project is underway. The Banners will be placed on the light poles on Washington Blvd. Sponsors for the flag brackets are being sought. Public Works will place the banners on Memorial Day, and they will be removed after Veterans' Day.

Mayor Barrett reported he attended the ribbon cutting for Recovery Cove located at 2005 Fairview Ave.

Mayor Barrett responded to questions regarding the \$100,000 pool grant announced by Representative Freeman's office. He has received questions regarding when construction will begin. He explained that the Borough is thankful for the grant but will still need to find another five to six million dollars to begin/complete the project.

Mayor Barrett requested Council's approval for a handicap parking spot at 2015 Ferry St. The applicant meets all requirements. Motion by Mr. Lipari to allow. Second by Mr. Woodring. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia presented a request from West Easton Borough Manager Joan Heebner. West Easton is seeking additional grant funds for the removal of two dilapidated trestles at Spring and Iron Streets. Wilson had issued a letter of support in September 2021 and West Easton is requesting an updated support letter. Motion to have Ms. Garcia send an updated letter by Mr. Woodring. Second by Mr. Snyder. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

##### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

##### POLICE:

Chief Meehan advised Council that the Police Department's Civil Service list has been exhausted. He requested permission to hold a Civil Service Exam to put a new list in place. Motion by Mr. Snyder to allow. Second by Mr. Lipari. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Mr. Snyder asked Chief Meehan how many traffic stops were done by the Department during the Month of August. Chief Meehan will have the information at the next meeting.

Mr. Lipari recommended the Department issue tickets to anyone riding bikes the wrong way on one-way streets and those who do not obey traffic signs.

##### FIRE:

NONE

##### PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

##### PARKS:

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers.

##### CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

##### CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke advised that the Fall Fest will be held at Meuser Park on October 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Winter Fest later in the year. He requested that anyone who is interested in helping, please sign the volunteer list at [celebratewilson.org](http://celebratewilson.org).

##### ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

Next meeting will be on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Community Center.

##### CODE DEPARTMENT:

Code Officer Machado advised the next Zoning Hearing is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. Applicants are Glendora Crudup - 1601 Lehigh Street and Sheikh M. Ahmed - 1639 Butler Street.

Mr. Verenna asked Mr. Machado to have residents remove TVs which are sitting on the curbs. Waste Management will not take TVs as trash. There is a separate service provided to residents through Waste Management called At Your Door. Residents can have items such as TVs and household hazardous waste retrieved for no fee.

ATTORNEY:

A lengthy discussion ensued over the upcoming Zoning Hearing Board matter regarding 1639 Butler Street. Solicitor Margle asked Council to decide if they would like to send him to the hearing to represent the Borough's position on the requested variances. Some Council spoke against the project as it will not meet parking requirements and existing ordinance must be enforced or changed. Others spoke in favor as new development can bring positive changes where sorely needed.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to send Solicitor Margle to the hearing on September 27<sup>th</sup> to support the project but oppose the parking variance. Second by Mr. Snyder. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, and Mr. Woodring. No votes cast by Mr. McGowan and Mr. Verenna. Motion passed with a 6-2 vote.

Solicitor Margle also advised that it would be good for one or two Council Members to attend the Zoning Hearing Board proceedings.

Solicitor Margle reported that he received no response from his email to Ms. Tina Smith of Northampton County in which he asked her why County would anticipate the Borough repealing its LERTA for the Dixie property and what assistance the County is willing to provide. The Borough and WASD School Board are in agreement not to repeal.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Lipari read a letter from a resident who would like Spanky's building nominated as an historical site. Solicitor Margle added that this would not impact the use of the building but would restrict the physical modifications that can be done. Topic was tabled until Council has a chance to review.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Mr. Charles Wacik of 1532 Washington Street commented that there are businesses renting space in the Dixie Building, and the building should be kept in good repair by Mr. Reibman.

Mr. Charles Bedard of 1919 Ferry Street requested Council's help in resolving a rodent issue in his home. He is of the opinion that the attached neighbor's home is causing the problems. He has been working with code and Mr. Machado has issued citations, but is unable to assist with conditions inside the home. Mr. Bedard has also reached out to Judge Yetter and has received no response. Solicitor Margle advised Mr. Bedard contact Northampton County's vermin program.

Ms. Cheryl Conradi of 2122 Spring Garden Street requested the Borough provide an agreement again this year to protect her property during the Fall Fest fireworks. She also asked what the Borough's intentions are for the pool area. Council advised until there are funds to rebuild the pool, it will remain a grassy area.

Mr. Kevin Kennedy of 30 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street asked what can be done about the continual wash out of Liberty and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets every time there is a storm. Ms. Garcia will speak with Mr. Flowers.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$327,494.03 A motion to approve the bills made Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Lipari. Roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

CAUCUS:

Motion by Mr. Lipari to enter into Caucus. Second by Mr. Snyder. Council concurred

Council entered Caucus at 8:25 pm.

Council Meeting resumed at 8:49 pm.

Caucus was to discuss personnel issues as permitted by the open meetings law.

Motion by Mr. Lipari to authorize Chief Meehan to undertake any and all steps to offer, as a benefit of part time employment certain benefits otherwise available to only full-time employment and to offer this same, pursuant to written direction and parameters as drafted by Solicitor Margle. Second by Mr. Snyder. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:52 pm. Second by Mr. Lipari and Council concurred.

---

JILL A. GARCIA  
MANAGER/SECRETARY