

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
March 27, 2023

The second meeting of March 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:

Russell Lipari	Jeffrey Bracken	Scott Palinkas
Justin Woodring	Shaun Gable	Jim McGowan
John Burke	Tony Verenna	

ABSENT:

Kurt Snyder

Also present were Solicitor Stanley Margle, Borough Manager Jill Garcia, Chief of Police Christian Meehan, Fire Chief Joseph Sipel, and Supervisor of Public Works Eric Flowers.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A motion by Mr. Lipari to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2023, meeting. Second by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett advised residents have reached out to him regarding street trees and sidewalks and questioned who is responsible for them. Ms. Garcia and Ms. Jones advised to have these residents call the Borough Office. Shade Tree rules are also on our Borough Website.

Mayor Barrett advised he received an email about speeding between 25th and 24th Streets on Freemansburg Ave. Chief Meehan advised he will put the speed sign out to help deter speeding.

Mayor Barrett advised a resident with cancer living on the 2100 block of Hay Street would like a handicap parking place however, there are already three on the block. He asked if she should apply for a permit? Chief Meehan advised the Borough ordinance states a maximum of three spaces on any block.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised the Borough received a \$76,000 grant in addition to \$14,300 grant already received to purchase new fire rescue truck.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Mr. Lipari expressed his concern for children unsafely riding bikes in the Borough. Chief Meehan advised the Bike Coalition has reached out the Police Department to conduct a bike safety course.

Chief Meehan requested Council's permission to apply for a Department of Justice grant for accreditation in the amount of \$50,000. A motion to approve made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Gable. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Chief Meehan advised he will be visiting the Lackawanna Police Academy for recruitment purposes.

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire Mr. Kyle McKenna as a part time Fire Fighter/driver. A motion to approve by Mr. Lipari. Second by Ms. Gable. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Chief Sipel advised Council he witnessed what looked to be a gasoline tanker parked at the Kmart parking lot. Ms. Jones advised she will contact the Code Officer about the situation.

PUBLIC WORKS

NONE

PARKS:

Mr. Burke advised the committee is working on opening sprinklers this summer.

CODE COMMITTEE:

Next meeting will be held on April 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm in Council chambers.

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke advised the Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 8, 2023, Movies in the Park on May 12, 2023, and the Community Yard Sale will be held on May 20, 2022, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION:

Mayor Barrett asked if the associations are handing in their monthly financial statements. Mr. Burke stated they are turning them into the Athletic Commission.

Mr. Verenna asked Mr. Burke why the Athletic Commission is not advising Council when an association is requesting funds for purchases? Mr. Burke was not aware Council should be informed. Ms. Garcia advised the Athletic Commission is a committee of Council and have no by-laws yet, any funds used should be reported to Council. Mr. Bracken suggested any association asking for funds should try to return those funds to the Commission so other associations will have the same benefit and the money given should be on a need basis not a want basis.

CODE DEPARTMENT:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

A motion made by Mr. Verenna to appoint Barry Isett & Associates as Borough Code Enforcement. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

A motion made by Mr. Verenna to appoint T&M Engineering as Borough Zoning Officer. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle has not received a decision from the court on the argument relative to the Butler Street property.

Solicitor Margle advised there is a Zoning Hearing March 28, 2023, and recommended that he appear on behalf of Borough Council. A motion to approve made by Ms. Gable. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

Solicitor Margle suggested creating a Bargaining committee encompassing Police, Fire and Public Works contracts. Solicitor Margle recommended Mr. Burke, Mr. Lipari, and Mr. Verenna. A motion to approve made by Mr. Lipari. Second by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Woodring. No vote cast by Mr. Palinkas. Motion passed with a 7-1 vote.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Verenna asked Ms. Jones where the Borough stands with sewer/garbage collections. Ms. Jones advised since changing the wording on all past due bills there has been an increase in receiving past due payments.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$38,155.24. A motion made by Mr. Verenna to approve the bills. Second by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Lipari, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Palinkas and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

Ms. Panama Crozier of 2042 Forest St. Rear expressed concerns with how handicap parking spots are chosen.

CAUCUS:

Entered Caucus at 8:20 pm.

Exited Caucus at 8:42 pm.

Caucus was to discuss personnel issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:49 pm. Second by Mr. Lipari and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
CLERK/TREASURER