

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
November 13, 2023

The first meeting of November 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:

Scott Palinkas	Tony Verenna	Charles Wacik
Justin Woodring	John Burke	
Shaun Gable	Jeffrey Bracken	

ABSENT:

Russell Lipari

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A motion by Mr. Wacik to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2023, meeting. Second by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

GUEST:

Land Development Application for 2205 Lehigh St. presented by Mr. Leon Nitka – Developer, Mr. John Lee – Architect, and Ms. Monica Wall – Borough Engineer. The applicant is proposing a 744 square foot addition to an existing building, a total of 7 parking spaces including 1 van accessible ADA space, a swale along the east side of the building and the removal of the existing shed.

The applicant is requesting a waiver to obtain approval for preliminary and final simultaneously. A motion to approve the waiver made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Palinkas. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

The applicant is requesting a waiver from providing the required radii at the driveway intersection with Linden Street. A motion to approve the waiver made by Mr. Verenna. Seconded by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion to approve the preliminary and final plan approval subject to compliance with the Engineer review letter date November 10, 2023 made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Woodring. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

There was no public comment on the motions.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Autoboos requested a directional sign be placed on the pole at Wood Ave. and Northampton St. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bracken. Seconded by Mr. Verenna. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Burke congratulated the newly elected Council members.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barret echoed the congratulations to the incoming Council members that appeared at the meeting and thanked them for running; he knows how hard it is to get residents to volunteer and there are people who are elected to a Council seat and haven't appeared at a Council meeting. The Mayor said it is disheartening that they do not participate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia requested a motion to approve the disability pension of Officer Migliore. A motion to approve made by Mr. Verenna. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised the EAJSA requested Council appoint a member to the EAJSA board. Mr. Bracken volunteered to take the position. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wacik. Seconded by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Mr. Bracken abstained. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia requested a motion to approve a COLA for the Police Pension recipients. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised the Fire Department agreed to a 1 year contract extension. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Verenna. Seconded by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Garcia advised the Public Works Department agreed to a 1 year contract extension. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wacik. Seconded by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion to advertise for adoption the proposed 2024 budget made by Mr. Verenna. Seconded by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion to advertise for adoption a 2 mil tax increase was made by Mr. Bracken. Seconded by Mr. Verenna. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. No vote cast by Mr. Palinkas. Motion passed with a 6-1 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

POLICE:

Chief Meehan advised the Borough received a Federal DOJ grant for \$113,000 to obtain accreditation for the Police Department.

FIRE:

NONE

PUBLIC WORKS

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

Ms. Jones updated Council on issues around the Borough.

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

NONE

CODE DEPARTMENT:

NONE

ATTORNEY:

NONE

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ORDINANCES:

A motion to advertise for adoption Ordinance # 813 made by Mr. Verenna. Seconded by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion by Mr. Verenna to send Ordinance # 814 to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Wilson Borough Planning Commission for review. Seconded by Mr. Woodring. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

A motion to advertise for adoption Ordinance #814 made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to approve Resolution #1282; Statewide LSA Grant Application, made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$361,901.82. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Verenna. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Palinkas, Mr. Verenna, Mr. Wacik, and Mr. Woodring. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

CAUCUS:

A motion to enter into Caucus made by Mr. Palinkas. Seconded by Ms. Gable. Council unanimously agreed.

Enter Caucus at 7:55 pm.

Exit Caucus at 8:27 pm.

The Caucus was held to discuss real estate.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wacik made a Motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm. Second by Ms. Gable and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
CLERK/TREASURER