

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
January 27, 2025

The Second meeting of January 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:

Susan Allen	John Burke	Jeffrey Bracken	Russel Lipari (7:40pm)
Shaun Gable	Michael Figueroa	Kimberly Muzac	Charles Wacik

ABSENT:

Scott Palinkas

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A motion by Mr. Wacik to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2025, meeting. Second by Mr. Figueroa. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

GUEST:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Burke had an update from Northampton County regarding the IDA and the Dixie project. There was some miscommunication on what was needed by the IDA. Mr. Burke was not sure who will get back to the Borough, or if the Borough is supposed to get back to the County. Mr. Burke is hopeful in the next couple of weeks that things will get ironed out because County did cancel another meeting, which means the IDA did not meet for three months.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett thanked Mr. Burke for taking time contacting the County. Mayor Barrett expressed dissatisfaction with the County for holding up the Dixie project.

Mayor Barrett advised he has been receiving complaints about our Code Department. Mayor Barrett advised the Code Department is following the letter of the law. There are no more handshake deals. The Borough requires applications, and proper plans presented.

Mayor Barrett requested a motion for a handicap parking spot at 1822 Hay Terrace. The applicant meets all requirements. A motion to approve made by Mr. Wacik. Seconded by Ms. Muzac. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mayor Barrett requested a motion to for a handicap parking spot at 1947 Ferry Street. The applicant meets all requirements. A motion to approve made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mayor Barrett requested a motion to for a handicap parking spot at 1527 Liberty Street, Apt A. The applicant meets all requirements. A motion to approve made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Ms. Muzac. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mayor Barrett requested a motion to for a handicap parking spot at 2307 Forest Street. The applicant has off street parking that they rent to others, resulting in no place for the applicant to park. A motion to deny was made by Mr. Figueroa. Seconded by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia advised Council the Borough received seventeen bids for Phase 2 of the Pickleball/Tennis Court Project - Parking Lot Improvements. The highest bid was \$275,000 and the lowest bid was from Barker & Barker for \$175,392.75. Barker & Barker was vetted by our Borough Engineer. A motion to accept the bid from Barker & Barker was made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

NONE

PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY

NONE

POLICE:

NONE

FIRE:

Chief Sipel requested Council's permission to hire part time call fire fighter Mr. Asher Locascio. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Gable. Seconded by Mr. Wacik. . A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NONE

PARKS:

NONE

CODE COMMITTEE:

NONE

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Burke requested Council's permission to use Meuser Park and the Community Center on the following dates: April 19, 2025; May 3, 2025, rain date May 4, 2025, and November 28, 2025. A motion to approve made by Mr. Wacik. Seconded by Ms. Gable. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

NONE

CODE DEPARTMENT/ZONING/LAND DEVELOPMENT:

NONE.

ATTORNEY:

Solicitor Margle advised January 28, 2025, the Zoning Hearing Board will be hearing two applications: 132 S. 17th Street and 2217-19 Forest Street. Solicitor Margle will appear on behalf of Council and encouraged Council members to attend the hearing as well.

Solicitor Margle followed up on Mr. Burke's comment in reference to the IDA moving forward. Solicitor Margle and Mr. Burke have determined that it does not appear the IDA is involved in any delay tactics. It appears to be a result of some actions by the County Council. For whatever reason The County does not want to bring the issues of the IDA and the issues with the Dixie project to a head. Mr. Burke has reached out to Ms. Tina Smith. Solicitor Margle has reached out to two members of County Council.

Ms. Garcia advised she received an email from Attorney Jonathan Cox who stated the IDA is looking for the Borough Planning Commission to pass a Resolution saying the Dixie is blighted. Ms. Garcia asked if the Wilson Borough Planning Commission should act on this or if it is inaccurate. Solicitor Margle stated that it is not accurate.

Solicitor Margel stated that the term blighted carries a specific characteristic and definition under the law. The Dixie building might have been determined to be blighted a few years ago, but now it is improving. The property is owned by a developer who is active in improving the building. Ms. Garcia advised the email reads as if the IDA cannot move forward if the building is not designated as blighted by the Planning Commission by Resolution. The Borough's planning Commission to her knowledge has never passed any Resolutions. Solicitor Margle advised the Planning Commission cannot pass a Resolution; it would have to come from Borough Council.

Solicitor Margle advised Council of a section in the Borough code that reads as follows: In the event that Borough Council determines that the lack of attendance of any Council member is creating an issue with the Administration of Justice and the Administration of the Borough, Borough Council may move to determine as a result of the failure to attend regularly scheduled Council meetings that the position is effectively vacant. A motion was made by Ms. Gable to allow the Solicitor have a ten-day notice served to Mr. Palinkas, giving him the opportunity to attend a scheduled hearing before Borough Council. Seconded by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

A motion to schedule the Hearing on February 27, 2025, made by Mr. Bracken. Seconded by Mr. Lipari. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

MECAB:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Garcia advised Council the Express Times is no longer printing legal ads.

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills were in the amount of \$219,125.54. A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Wacik. Second by Mr. Bracken. A roll call vote followed. Yes votes cast by Ms. Allen, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Burke, Ms. Gable, Mr. Figueroa, Mr. Lipari, Ms. Muzac and Mr. Wacik. Motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

NONE

CAUCUS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lipari made a Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm Seconded by Mr. Wacik and Council concurred.

STEPHANIE N. JONES
CLERK/TREASURER