

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 12, 2009

The First Meeting of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA. President Feinberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg	James Klass
Joan Lilly	James McGowan
Bob Reiss	David Schug
Louis Starniri	Tony Verenna
David Williams	

ABSENT:

None

Also present were: Mayor David S. Perruso, Solicitor Louis S Minotti, Jr., Chief Michael Collins, Chief Richard Nace, Assistant Superintendent Ron Behler and Code Enforcement Office Paul Corriere

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the December 8, 2008 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Verenna.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Judy Lerch inquired about the 72 hour snow removal limit. Ms. Lilly responded that the ordinance stated that snow and ice had to be removed from sidewalks within 15 hours of the end of the storm. Chief Nace responded that the Police Officers were out citing people today for not cleaning their sidewalks. Mr. Starniri stated that the residents could contact the Borough Office or Mr. McGowan stated that a call should be made to the Non-Emergency number to report violations. The Police do keep logs of who has been cited. Ms. Lilly suggested having the Borough clean the sidewalks or having an outside company clean the walks and the Borough bill them. Chief Nace added that some of the citations have been thrown out by Judge Koury. Proof of the violation must be given and someone must testify at the hearing before a fine is issued.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the total fines collected by Judge Koury in December 2008 was \$4,566.55.

2. Mayor Perruso has received two requests for Handicapped Parking. The application for 1540 Lehigh Street has been approved by Chief Nace. The application for 2344 Second Street has been denied as the property has off street parking. Motion to approve the Handicapped Parking at 1540 Lehigh Street by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Verenna.

3. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the Lion's Club would like to put an electronic sign at Pittinger Park. Mr. Starniri felt that the sign would be distracting. Mr. Feinberg suggested putting the sign in the park. Ms. Lilly questioned the room needed to put up the sign. Mr. McGowan wondered who was going to pay for the electric. Motion by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Schug. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Schug. Motion carried by a six to three vote.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman reported to Council that the staff from all the departments has signed off on the Computer Usage Policy. No one had their internet service terminated. Ms. Lilly questioned whether someone was going to check to see if the policy was being followed. Mr. Starniri responded that the Borough would need to purchase special software in order to check.

2. Ms. Lohrman has been in contact with our Workmen's Compensation carrier. The Borough has

not updated the Physician Panel in several years and some of the doctors are deceased or have retired. Ms. Lohrman has talked to several employees and the Safety Committee concerning physicians and facilities that could be used. Since no Council had any comments regarding the Panel, Ms. Lohrman will roll out the Panel shortly.

3. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the locations of where the five meters will be placed by the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority for the 2009 infiltration study. The contractor would like to get out in January to recheck locations and install the meters. Mr. McGowan added that some of the metering was being redone because of the lack of rain that was received during last year's metering study.

4. Ms. Lohrman has received the new Agreement for Polling Place for the Community Center. Ms. Lilly requested that something be put in the newsletter about the change in polling place for the 2nd Ward. Motion to authorize the execution of the Polling Place Agreement by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Reiss.

5. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the letter received from Bob Bryant, Engineer for the 24th Street Bridge project, requesting a letter be sent to Brandy Rotz changing the current agreement from a Design project to a Design/Build project. It also requests a commitment from the Borough that they would pay the difference for a bridge option over the cost of a box culvert option. Council has previously made that commitment. Motion by Mr. Klass to authorize Ms. Lohrman to write the letter as outlined. Second by Mr. Verenna.

6. Ms. Lohrman has received the 2009 agreement with The Center for Animal Health and Welfare. The cost for 2009 remains at \$50.00 per animal. Mr. McGowan did not like the provision that the Borough will be charged if a private person drops off an animal. The Center would not remove the provision in last year's contract. Chief Nace responded that the Borough would only be charged if the person dropping off the animal had an incident report for the Police Department. Some residents are being charged if they relinquish their animal. A question arose whether or not the Borough was also being charged. Ms. Lohrman will contact the Center and report back to Council at the next meeting.

7. Ms. Lohrman has received the registration forms for the PSAB Conference in Hershey from March 22, 2009 through March 25, 2009. Ms. Lohrman will register Mr. Reiss, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Starniri. If any other Council persons are interested in attending, Ms. Lohrman directed them to let her know by the end of the week.

8. Ms. Lohrman has met with two representatives from the DEP concerning the Borough not being compliant in recycling. The Borough must set up a yard waste collection program. The DEP made several suggestions that the Borough could do to become compliant. The Borough could set up an area where residents could take their yard waste. Ms. Lohrman's concern would be how to dispose of the items and how what was dumped off would be monitored. The yard waste could be collected by the Borough's garbage hauler. The Borough's contract with Waste Management does not end until the end of the year and has options. If the Borough was interested in the garbage hauler option, it could include provisions for it in the next bid. The final option would be to set up curb side collection. The easy way to accomplish this would be to set up a day once a month from April to October and have the Public Works employees pick up the waste. Residents could call the office and schedule a pick up for that month. The waste could be taken to the Allen 5 which is 20 to 30 minute drive one way or to American Soil & Mulch on Freemansburg Ave. outside Freemansburg. The cost would be \$8.00 per yard at American Soil. Mr. Behler felt that the Public Works Department could handle the once a month pick up. The yard waste pickup would be over before leaf pickup begins. Council had several concerns about scheduling pickups or having the Public Works Department drive around and pick up the yard waste, the cost if any charged to residents requesting pickup, and advertising. Ms. Lohrman was directed to come up with a plan and report back at the next meeting.

9. Ms. Lohrman was happy to report that the \$19,000.00 contract with Northampton County for Planning Services and the contract with Ernest Swiger Consulting have been favorably reviewed by Mr. Minotti. Both contracts were executed the end of December. Ms. Lohrman invited Council members to attend the kickoff meeting with Mr. Swiger on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

10. Ms. Lohrman requested a Caucus on a Personnel matter. Information concerning the topic were provided in Council packets.

11. Ms. Lohrman has received a request from Karen Verba to hire two new Crossing Guards. One Crossing Guard is no longer employed by the Borough and another has another job. Chief Nace has approved both applicants for hire. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to hire Rachel Lenner and Karen Tita as part-time Crossing Guards. Second by Mr. Schug.

12. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Amy Montgomery about the Fisk Field project. The application has been reviewed and several items were noted. There are items on the list that were discussed at the pre-application meeting and the DEP has changed their position. Some items on the letter were not on the plans. The DEP was also looking for deed restrictions for riparian rights. Ms. Montgomery would like to find other means of satisfying the DEP on that issue as it might affect what the Borough can do on the other side of the stream. Ms. Montgomery will be contacting the gentleman that she had had the pre-application meeting with and also having a meeting with the DEP prior to resubmitting the plans. Ms. Montgomery will provide Ms. Lohrman the date and time of the meeting.

13. At the request of John Earle, Ms. Lohrman contacted him last week about the bike path plans. Mr. Earle had said that he would review the plans and have an approval on them. However, Mr. Earle has not reviewed the plans as yet. Ms. Lohrman is to contact him again at the end of the month.

14. Mr. Klass had requested that Ms. Lohrman discuss the running of Borough vehicles with the Safety Committee. Mr. Klass would like the Department Heads to consider turning off the vehicles when no one is in it. Some exceptions were noted in the Safety Committee Minutes.

15. Ms. Lilly felt that the Safety Committee was overstepping their bounds by approving the change in wording on a “no parking” sign in front of the high school and installing an exhaust fan in the Men’s Room in the Police Department. These items should be approved by Council. Mr. McGowan also felt that the Safety Committee often overstepped their bounds. Ms. Lohrman responded that the Safety Committee did not approve that wording on the sign. It was discussed at the December meeting that Chief Nace had requested Mr. Drake to change the wording so no one could stand or park in front of the school. Chief Nace stated that people think that if they are in the car, they can park there. Chief Nace does not want any one parking there. Ms. Lohrman stated that she had asked Mr. Drake to get a price for the installation for the exhaust vent so she would know how much it would cost when she came to Council for approval. The work has not been done. Mr. Minotti stated that the committee was not binding and he did not have a problem with the committee. Chief Nace felt Council had better things to do than to discuss matter such as these.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins would like to hire Nicholas Patullo as a part-time fire fighter. Mr. Patullo would replace one of the fire fighters that has left the department. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Feinberg.

2. Mr. Minotti has received information on a recent Commonwealth Court decision concerning promotions for officers. The decision seems to indicate that the person with the highest point total must be promoted. Chief Collins responded that his department traditionally did. New hires could be one of the top three candidates.

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna informed Council that Mr. Drake has been working on the upstairs bathrooms. He will be meeting with someone next week about the partitions. They will be like the ones at the pool. New flooring will also be installed. The bathrooms will not be converted into one large unisex bathroom because of inherent plumbing issues. Both bathrooms will be handicapped accessible.

2. Mr. Verenna would like to purchase two sets of bocce balls. They cost between \$60 and \$100 per set. A discussion ensued about how was going to be in charge of the courts. Mr. Reiss suggested that the Lions Club take care of it. Mr. Feinberg suggested having the balls signed out from the office. A discussion occurred on if and what the fee would be for using the courts. Mr. Klass will set up a meeting with the Parks and Recreation committee to come up with a plan to present to Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass requested permission to advertise for an Assistant Manager at the pool. Motion by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Feinberg.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti has been working on the letters to the Accountant on pending Borough issues. He has also been discussing ordinance revisions with Ms. Lohrman.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan did not have any details on the January 2009 MECAB meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mayor Perruso and Mr. Feinberg have spoken to Larry Palmer about the City of Easton’s proposed

camera system. Easton has gotten a grant and is looking into installing a wireless camera system around the 13th Street area. The system will be monitored and in communication with the 911 center. If Wilson Borough is interested, it could hook into their system and they could monitor it. It would be an incremental cost for the Borough. Easton is talking to other interested parties such as the schools and Easton Hospital about joining in. The more cameras that are purchased, the better the price would be. Mr. Feinberg would like to consider using the future sewer payment from Forks Township for the purchase of the cameras. Locations of the cameras would be decided through conversations with the Police Department, Chief Nace and Block Watch. Mr. Starniri thought that it was a good idea to consider the project. The cameras would cost \$10,000 to \$12,000. The total cost would be \$20,000 each to start up. Additional cameras could be added in the future. The Borough could also apply for grants. Ms. Lilly would like a more realistic price. Mr. Feinberg responded that \$20,000 was on the high end. The final cost of the cameras would be based on the number of cameras bid out and the location. Motion by Mr. Klass to purchase cameras up to \$300,000 from the Forks Sewer Capacity money. Second by Mr. Williams. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Schug. Motion carried by a six to three vote.

2. Mr. Corriere questioned whether or not the Borough had a formal moratorium on single family dwelling conversions. Restrictions on conversions are limited by the Zoning Ordinance. Parking requirements are included in the ordinance. Mr. Starniri stated that Council had made the ordinance as tough as it could.

3. Ms. Lilly inquired about the status of the accreditation in the Police Department. Mr. Starniri responded that the Borough is at the policies and procedure adoption. They should be rolled out six to eight at a time. Ms. Lohrman will return the manual to Chief Nace. The only problem with the manual is that is general purpose drafts and not specific to Wilson Borough.

4. Mr. Starniri questioned a business sign on Freemansburg Avenue near Easton Hospital. The sign in front of the building states that it is parking for a specific business. Chief Nace will look into the matter.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$214,825.03 were paid on December 26, 2008 and bills of \$93,322.05 for January 12, 2009 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Second by Mr. McGowan and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY