

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 26, 2009

The Second 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 McGowan
David Schug
Tony Verenna

Joan Lilly
Bob Reiss
Louis Starniri
David Williams

ABSENT:

James Klass

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the January 12, 2009 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. McGowan with one correction. Mr. Starniri voted in opposition to the electronic sign, not Mr. Schug. Second by Mr. Verenna.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Mr. Feinberg requested permission to allow the Easton Area Corvette Club to hold their Vettes for Pets on August 9, 2009 at Meuser Park to benefit the Center for Animal Welfare. Motion to approve request by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

2. A letter from Dorothy Klass, Tax Collector, was received. Ms. Klass requested a \$1,000.00 salary increase for the next four year term for the position of Tax Collector. Ms. Klass presented salary information for other Tax Collector in the area and the number of bills they are responsible for. Mr. Reiss responded that Ms. Klass has shortened her hours so that she is not open in the afternoons or evenings and she often leaves early. Mr. McGowan added that the Tax Office is normally only open six hours a week until the taxes are due. Several people have received complaints from people coming in to pay their taxes when Ms. Klass is not available. Motion by Ms. Lilly to deny request. Second by Mr. McGowan. Affirmative votes to deny request were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. Verenna. Motion carried by a seven to one vote.

3. Ms. Lohrman received a call from Bill Csaszar, Wilson Area School District. Mr. Csaszar stated that that Borough had a verbal agreement with them to salt their parking lots and driveways when requested. Mr. Drake had discontinued the practice several weeks ago when the Borough was almost out of salt. Mr. Csaszar offered to reimburse the Borough for the labor and the salt which was not previously being done. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that there are two issues with the request. One is that the Borough is paying for salt out of Liquid Fuel funds. Using the salt for property not owned by the Borough could be a problem if it was discovered by the Auditors. Secondly, Mr. Minotti had liability issues with the practice. Mr. Verenna responded that the school district property was used by Rec Board athletic teams and felt that the Borough should salt for the school district. Mr. McGowan stated that municipalities can only use the Liquid Fuel money for certain things and this was not one of them. Ms. Lilly does not want to jeopardize the Borough's Liquid Fuel money. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to discontinue the practice of salting school district property. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by Mr. Reiss and Mr. Verenna. Motion carried by a six to two vote.

A question was raised by Council on whether or not the Borough had a formal agreement with the school district for Police services for football games. Ms. Lohrman responded that she was not aware of any formal agreement.

4. Ms. Lohrman informed the members of the Police Pension Board that there was going to be a teleconference call on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. The toll-free number and access code would be in their next Council packets.

5. Ms. Lohrman has been notified by Amy Riddle Montgomery, Borough Engineer, that the DEP would be meeting with the Borough on Friday, January 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Office to discuss the permit for Fisk Field.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that Ms. Lohrman would be reviewing information on a copier upgrade for the Police Department.
2. Mayor Perruso reminded Council that a snow was coming our way tomorrow.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Several meetings ago, Council agreed to change the sewerage rate from block billing of usage to per unit usage. Ms. Lohrman has received the 4th quarter water usage and tabulated the year end expenses. Ms. Lohrman suggested making the per unit of sewerage rate \$3.73. Motion to approve the change in sewer usage for billing purposes to \$3.73 by Mr. Verenna. Second by Ms. Lilly. Ms. Lohrman will forward the appropriate information to Mr. Minotti so the sewer pricing ordinance can be amended.
2. Ms. Lohrman has registered Council members for the PSAB Annual conference. Borough Council must choose who the Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate are for the conference. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to appoint Mr. Starniri as the Voting Delegate and Mr. McGowan as the Alternate Delegate. Second by Ms. Lilly.
3. Mayor Perruso and Ms. Lohrman met with our sales representative from Edwards Business Machines to discuss an upgrade on the Police copier. Chief Nace would like to upgrade the machine to the one like the office has, but the newer model. The copier would not only make copies, but could do color scans and serve as a fax machine. The monthly payment would be \$256.00. The payment would be approximately \$20.00 more a month, but the overage cost is much lower and it would almost offset the monthly increase. The copier would be under a COSTARS agreement. Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to authorize the new copier, but requests Ms. Lohrman to see if it would be less expensive to increase the monthly usage in lieu of using the lower overage charge. Second by Mr. Starniri.
4. Ms. Lohrman explained to Council the recommendation that she and Mr. Ron Behler had agreed upon to present to Council for the yard waste recycling program. Collection will run from April through October on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Pick-ups will be scheduled by calling the Borough Office. Public Works will pickup the list the day before pickup is scheduled. Items collected will be tree branches, garden waste and shrubbery. Larger items will be placed in 3 foot bundles. The Public Works Department will pickup the yard waste on collection day. Yard waste will be taken to American Soil & Mulch. Ms. Lohrman will set up an account with them. The charge will be \$8.00 a cubic yard. The program will be explained in the March 2009 newsletter. Motion by Mr. Starniri to approve the program procedures as discussed. Second by Mr. McGowan.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mr. McGowan attended the last COG meeting. Officers were elected. Mr. McGowan is the Vice-President of the COG. An electronic recycling event will be held on May 9, 2009. Tom Dittmar is coordinating the event. There is some discussion about having a paper shredder also at the recycling event. Arrangements are in discussion about having outdated pharmaceuticals collected. Mr. McGowan will supply the office with information for the newsletter.
2. Mr. McGowan also informed Council that the PACOG conference will be held in Hanover Township in the fall. If anyone has any ideas for the event, please let Mr. McGowan know.

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

1. Chief Nace has checked into the sign on Freemansburg Avenue in front of the hair dresser. The business has a new owner and they did not know anything about the sign. Chief Nace has had the sign removed.
2. Chief Nace informed Council that 87 snow violations were issued.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Drake informed Council that the Public Works Department has started the bathrooms.
2. Mr. Drake has made repairs to the weather system. The system is back on-line.
3. Mr. Drake informed Council that the gas pumps are fixed. Suburban EMS has been getting their gasoline and diesel from Palmer Township since the Borough's gas pumps went down.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Ms. Lilly presented the following rates from the Parks and Recreation Committee for the 2009 pool season:

- Resident Single \$90
- Resident Family \$125
- Non-Resident Single \$125
- Non-Resident Family \$155
- Resident Senior Citizen \$40
- Non-Resident Senior Citizen \$65

After Memorial Day, the rates will increase \$5.00.

Daily Admission rates will remain the same:

- Adult \$6.50
- Child \$5.50
- Senior Citizen \$4.50

A family is defined as two adults and 3 children. Any additional children over 2 years of age for families with 4 or more children will be charged and additional \$20.00. The rates are now comparable to the other pools. Motion to approve the next pool rates was made by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Schug. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Reiss and Mr. Schug. Motion carried by a six to two vote.

2. Ms. Lilly made a Motion to hire Marlowe Wacik as the Pool Manager. Second by Mr. Schug. Mr. Verenna questioned whether or not an advertisement was run for Pool Manager. Ms. Lohrman responded that she was authorized at the last meeting to advertise for the Assistant Pool Manager position. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Motion carried by a five to three vote.

3. Ms. Lilly has deferred the bocce court matter to the next Council meeting.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti reviewed the traffic loop information for Alexandria Manor. Joseph Negroa has proposed an easement that is required to be provided to the Borough for the maintenance of the detection loop. Amy Montgomery has reviewed the description and it accurately describes the proposed easement. Mr. Minotti felt that everything was in order. Motion to approve the easement by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Mr. Minotti met with Mr. Corriere and Chief Nace on a summary offense. The hearing will be on February 2, 2009. Ms. Lohrman may have to attend for the purposes of certifying the ordinance.

3. Mr. Minotti discussed the Open Records Act. He is not sure whether emails are subject to the act. Numerous questions exist. The Borough needs to create a policy.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the MECAB meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in Stroudsburg. They were unable to get into the casino.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Reiss questioned what the status of changing the traffic signals to LED. The change over should be cost effective. Mr. Greg will get another price on changing the signals over.

2. Ms. Lohrman checked with The Center for Animal Health & Welfare and the Borough is only charged for strays. The staff does question the person bringing the animal in about ownership prior to accepting the animal. Motion to execute the agreement with The Center for Animal Health & Welfare by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Reiss.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg requested authorization to change page 9 of the Rental License Ordinance to move the date from June 30th to April 1st. The date never was changed from the draft. Motion to authorize Mr. Minotti to amend the ordinance by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Mr. Feinberg inquired how Council felt if a Housing Rehab applicant was delinquent on taxes or a garbage and sewer bill if they should be allowed to participate in the program. Motion by Mr. Starniri to add the delinquency clause to the guidelines. Second by Mr. Williams.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$322,503.39 for January 26, 2009 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Williams.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Second by Mr. Williams and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY