

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 23, 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 Klass
Joan Lilly	James McGowan
Bob Reiss	David Schug
Louis Starniri	Tony Verenna
David Williams	

ABSENT:

None

Also present were: Chief Richard Nace, Assistant Superintendent Ron Behler and Code Enforcement Office Paul Corriere

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 9, 2009 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Williams.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Lisa Guth from the Wilson Civic Association presented Home Depot gift cards to the following winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest:

Best Twins – 1945 & 1947 Fairview Avenue – Robert Messer

Best Nativity – 1942 Lehigh Street – Scott Bowman

Best Business – 1642 Washington Street – Robert Scheirer

Best Single – 45 N. 18th Street – Barbara Storm

Best All Around – 1726 Lehigh Street – Clinton Newton

Best Half Double – 20 Wright Street – William and Candace Keck

2. Terry DeGroot, Terraform Engineering, LLC, and representatives from Wilson Area School District appeared before Council to discuss the addition at the Wilson Area Intermediate School. The central building will be demolished. The gym and cafeteria will be staying. The driveways will be reconstructed. The Borough Engineer has reviewed the project. The school district is requesting three waivers from comments made by the Borough Engineer involving SALDO. The first involves the possible widening of Firmstone Street. A local street is required to have a pavement width of 34 feet. Firmstone Street has an existing width of +/-30 feet. The second comment involves driveways not being greater than 30 feet in width. The School District is requesting a waiver to permit a 40 foot width at the center driveway and 32 feet at the western or parent's driveway. The third comment involves having a radii at the eastern driveway are less than 10 feet. The minimum turning radii shall be more than 30 feet when serving a non-residential development. The traffic pattern will be changed to one-way with a single driveway. Mr. Reiss was concerned about the increase in traffic with the increase in the number of students. Mr. Reiss was felt that the parking on the street would be used just as much or more for sporting events even if the School District increased the lot parking. Mr. Klass felt that bus traffic should loop around the school and go out on Balata Street. Mr. McGowan felt that the bus traffic going in and out at Stewart Street would be a problem. Joseph Lambert added that during certain times of the day, traffic was a real problem in the area. A short discussion was held about making traffic one-way on Firmstone Street. Mr. DeGroot responded that the school district was attempting to keep the bus traffic separate from the parent's pickup traffic. Mr. Reiss wondered why the classrooms in the basement weren't being completed and used. Mr. DeGroot stated that the classrooms had been built for an open concept and with the code changes for renovations there was not a big difference in the overall cost of the project. The largest increase in students is coming from Wilson and West Easton. Ms. Lilly questioned the widening of Firmstone Street. Ms. Montgomery, Borough Engineer, felt that the residents would have a better feel of what would work on Firmstone Street. Mr. Reiss questioned why there were two different sidewalk widths. The decision about the sidewalk width was made by Mr. Corriere. Council was willing to allow all the sidewalks to be 5 feet in width. A question arose about the handicapped ramps. PennDot no longer permits them to be placed at the center of the radial curve and must be placed along the tangent instead. The School District did not wish to comply because of possible obstructions in the driver's line of sight and the location of inlets. Since the Borough uses Liquid Fuel monies to maintain their streets, any improvements are required to comply with PennDot standards. Mr. Reiss is concerned about the

Liquid Fuel money. Ms. Montgomery will discuss the matter with the School District. Exemptions can be granted under certain conditions by PennDot.

Motion to deny the waiver request by the Wilson Area School District for an exemption to the street width by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Reiss. Motion to approve the waiver request to permit a 40 foot width at the center driveway and 32 feet at the western driveway by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Verenna. Motion to approve the waiver request to permit a radii at the eastern driveway of less than 10 feet. Second by Mr. Verenna.

The ordinance requires a photo of 500 feet surrounding the project. Mr. DeGroof did not believe it had to be part of the request. Ms. Montgomery responded that it needed to be part of the plan set. Mr. Reiss added that the Borough had not given anyone else a waiver on the requirement. Request was denied.

Mr. Verenna felt that the Borough should consider no parking on Balata Street. It is difficult to have two way traffic on the street when school leaves out. Mr. Reiss questioned the fence and retaining wall near the transformer. Additional green space has been added for practice fields.

All other issues discussed in the review letter should be addressed with Borough Engineer Amy Riddle Montgomery.

3. Charles Wacik inquired if it was possible to put a mailbox at the Police Station for tickets. On weekends, people are trying to pay tickets at the Fire Department and they are not equipped to handle money and tickets. The box could be placed in the vestibule of the department. Council agreed with the request.

4. Mr. Feinberg discussed the recent newspaper article about the Ashley Development plans for the Dixie building. The proposed plan calls for 302 high end apartments that were to have been condos. The project still has an historic designation and Mr. Pector has to retain ownership for a certain time period. The project will cost \$110 million dollars. Mr. Feinberg felt the project was the same project as before. Mr. Minotti will have to see if there is a problem going from apartments to condos. There has been an on-going concern about the number of children who may be moving into the facility. The project could start as soon as this spring. Mr. Feinberg added that the article in the newspaper was rather premature. There are numerous issues that have to be addressed before construction will begin.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Three bids were received for the 1991 Chevrolet Impala that was previously used by the Police and Code Departments. The bids were as follows:

1. Scott Franz \$260.00
2. Ed Segreaves \$601.99
3. Ted Covington Sales \$661.00

Motion by Ms. Lilly to sell to car to the highest bidder. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Five bids were received for Housing Rehab project HRH06-17. The bids were as follows:

1. S. J. Sawyer & Co. \$15,999.00
2. Lifetime Services, LLC \$18,023.00
3. Williamson Home Improvements \$20,110.00
4. Dutt Construction \$16,800.00
5. J.C. Construction \$18,325.00

Bids will be given to Mr. Corriere for the Housing Rehab Committee to review.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mr. Feinberg has received a request for Handicapped Parking. Chief Nace has investigated the request and found that the automobile was not registered to the applicants address. Request denied.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman had presented a draft resolution from North Wales Borough creating an Open Records Policy. The matter was deferred until Mr. Minotti was present. Since the last meeting, Mr. McGowan has provided Ms. Lohrman will additional information that Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority is using for Open Records. Mr. Minotti may wish to turn the information into an ordinance rather than a resolution. Matter was table until Mr. Minotti and Ms. Lohrman can review the additional information.

2. Ms. Lohrman has received information from the Meyner Center at Lafayette College about the new law that mandates the restructuring of the current earned income tax collection process. Act 32 reduces the number of local EIT collectors in PA from 560 to 69 and provides for one EIT tax collector for each county. Ms. Lohrman will be attending a free seminar on the topic on March 18, 2009. She will provide Council with additional information after the seminar.

3. Ms. Lohrman has received information that Mr. McGowan's five year term at Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority has expired. Motion to appoint Mr. McGowan to another term at the sewer authority by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Schug.

4. Mr. Drake has received an estimate to have the traffic signals converted to LED. The total for the six traffic signals is \$16,308.00. The estimate is not under state contract. Ms. Lohrman will provide Mr. Drake with a contact at the Department of General Services to get a state contract price from them. Mr. Reiss has already spoken to General Services about the LED lights.

5. Mr. Drake has gotten an estimate of approximately \$1000.00 to put an exhaust fan in the men's

room in the Police Department. The building is concrete and a hole has to go in the concrete to put in the fan. The lack of fan had been mentioned in an inspection by the insurance company as it is a code violation and a health hazard. Motion to have the exhaust fan installed by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Feinberg.

6. Mr. Drake has gotten an estimate to complete the installation of new parking meters. The total price is \$12,436.00. Ms. Lohrman will review the estimate with Mr. Drake and bring it back to Council

7. One of our Crossing Guards is leaving to become a school bus driver. Ms. Verba would like to hire Nancy Lee Ranella of S. 18th Street as a replacement. Chief Nace has favorably completed a background check. Motion by Mr. Reiss to hire Ms. Ranella as a Crossing Guard. Second by Mr. Verenna.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri called a short, informational Caucus on a personnel issue.

2. Chief Nace inquired about what was happening with the Ford Expedition. Mr. Minotti responded that the car has been at Brown-Daub for five months. The total repair bill is \$4,480.01. Ford is willing to put in \$1,700.00 and Brown Daub another \$500.00. This leaves the Borough with a \$3,188.70 bill. Mr. Minotti stated that they have not moved much. The warranty has expired. Mr. Minotti would like to wait until the next meeting so he can get a final figure before the car gets fixed.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Behler informed Council that the bathrooms in the Municipal Building will be finished in another two days.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Williams informed Council that the Pool Committee would be having interviews with five applicants for the Assistant Manager position on Saturday morning.

2. Ms. Lilly would like the Public Works Department look into putting some kind of protection to prevent children from falling off the dugouts. Mr. Behler responded that there was a railing behind the dugout, but he would take a look at it.

3. Ms. Lilly would like to see if additional electrical service could be added to the Avona and Jeffrey field refreshment stands. Everything shorts out when they are cooking in the refreshment stands. Mr. Behler will get a price for the upgrades.

4. Mr. Williams informed Council that the bocce court matter needs further discussion. The stands have been placed on grass. It will be difficult to cut the grass in the area under the stands. Mr. Drake is considering digging up the grass under the stands and putting in crushed stone. The Parks and Recreation Committee has met and has not come to a consensus as far as if the courts will be locked, who will keep the key or open the courts, if balls will be purchased, if there will be a charge to use the courts or if the use of the courts will be scheduled in the office.

5. Ms. Lilly mentioned to Council that there is an open seat on the Recreation Board. The person currently holding the seat has missed a majority of the meetings. An ad will be placed in the upcoming newsletter in lieu of running an ad in the newspaper.

6. Ms. Lilly would like the flagpole at Jeffery Field addressed by April 18, 2009.

ATTORNEY:

None

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting would be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in North Catasauqua.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance No. 746 – Amending Residential Housing Licensing Ordinance. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Ordinance 746 was enacted by a nine to zero vote.

2. Ordinance No. 747 – Amending the Sewerage Rate. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Ordinance 747 was enacted by a nine to zero vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$121,347.20 for were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Schug.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Second by Ms. Lilly and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY