

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
FEBRUARY 25, 2008

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, President	James Klass
Joan Lilly	James McGowan
Bob Reiss	David Schug
Louis Starniri	Tony Verenna
David Williams	

ABSENT:

None

Also present were: Attorney Louis S. Minotti, Mayor David S. Perruso, Code Enforcement Officer Paul R. Corriere, Chief Richard Nace, Superintendent Greg Drake

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 11, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Starniri.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Eissa Hassanein, owner of 2431-2435 Victor Street, appeared before Council to discuss the property he purchased in 2006. He was approved by the Zoning Board in 2007 to build a house on the yard next to the pre-existing house. The Borough has appealed the Zoning Board's discussion. Mr. Hassanein has received the permits to build a semi-attached house to the existing home which was permitted without any variances. Mr. Hassanein would like Council to drop the appeal and allow him to subdivide the lot and build a separate house on the second lot. The only option Mr. Hassanein has now is to rent out both houses. Mr. Minotti did not feel Council should act prior to the appeal being disposed of. Mr. Minotti will look into where the appeal currently is.

2. Jennifer Pospisil of 122 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street appeared before Council because she is in favor of a graffiti ordinance. Ms. Pospisil attended a Gang Forum in Easton. Graffiti means something such as gang or drug territory. There are at least 42 instances of graffiti in the Borough.

4. Ms. Pospisil has been keeping a tally of attempted abductions from Phillipsburg to Bethlehem. Ms. Pospisil asked how the crossing guards communicate with each other. Ms. Lohrman had contacted the Head Crossing Guard. She stated that all but two of the guards have cell phones and the two guards without phones are in close proximity to those guards who do. The guards can contact 911 directly or the Head Crossing Guard if there is a problem. Ms. Pospisil informed Council that the school district only notifies parents if an abduction incident occurs within the school district. Home schooled children have recently been added to the list.

5. Mr. Odessya of 1531 Washington Street appeared before Council. He is a member of BlockWatch and was familiar with the recent shooting at 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Odessya stated that there are drugs sold between the 1500 and 1700 blocks of Washington Street. He felt the Drug Enforcement Agency should be involved in ridding the area of drugs. Mayor Perruso responded that the Police are aware that things are going on in the area and are working with the County Drug Task force on the issue. Mr. Odessya also stated that money is being laundered into local businesses. He did not feel the Borough was doing enough. Mr. Minotti suggested that Mr. Odessya give information to Chief Nace or Northampton County.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received a request from PFM Advisors to hold a Police Pension Board Meeting by conference call on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. Ms. Lohrman will provide the board members with the dial in number for the call and the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter reports.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso hopes Council will do something about the graffiti problem.

## COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman presented the revised layout for Fisk Field as designed by Ms. Amy Montgomery. She was able to move the big field slightly and rearrange the retaining walls to stay out of the floodplain. The plan will be sent to the DEP to confirm that no Chapter 105 permits are needed. The NPDES will still be required. Motion to approve the revised plan by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Verenna.

2. Ms. Lohrman reported that Ms. Montgomery had to separate the concession and restroom buildings to get them to fit into the revised design plan. Borough Council did not have a problem with the separation.

Ms. Montgomery questioned if the Borough wanted to do lighting on the site. If lighting would be part of the contract, a soil engineer should do some borings and soil testing to give the Borough information for foundation types and bearing pressures needed for the lights. The proposal for the soil engineer would run between \$6,500 and \$7,000. Mr. Klass felt that the price was rather expensive. He thought the Borough should rough in the lighting and install the lights in the future. Mr. Feinberg suggested bidding out the lighting and see how much it costs. Mr. Reiss felt the Borough should put the lights in now as the money is available. Mr. McGowan was against putting the lighting in as it is not needed and the kids should not be out that late. Mr. Starniri felt that the lights would give us more use of the field. Motion by Mr. Starniri to pursue the soil study and run the conduit in the field. Second by Mr. Reiss. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug and Mr. Williams. Motion carried by a six to three vote.

3. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Jose from LANTA regarding the elimination of the LaBella's Pizza bus stop. Jose will suggest to his supervisor that the stop be moved to Ridge and Freemansburg Avenue. The work order has been issued to the sign to be put up and Ridge Street. The LaBella's stop will be posted that it will be terminated and drivers will begin to let the riders know the stop will be moved one block west. The final determination for the stop to be moved will be made by Jose's boss when he returns from vacation.

4. Ms. Lohrman has been informed by Bob Bryant that he has received the TS&L Review Letter from PennDot. It is noted that the engineer should proceed with the most cost effective structure alternate. Mr. Bryant will review the District's comments and revise the cost of the box culvert options and the bridge options. If the Borough prefers a structure type which is more expensive than the most cost effective structure alternate, the Borough will have to pay the additional cost. Mr. Feinberg responded that the Borough is not against spending the extra money for the bridge option. Ms. Lohrman will forward Mr. Bryant Mr. Behler's phone number for any questions dealing with the sewer line which runs under the bridge. The Borough does not have any costs associated with surveillance and policing for the Box Culvert option versus a bridge option which would be more open to view.

5. Mr. Feinberg reviewed his proposed graffiti plan including the release from the City of Easton. Mr. Feinberg does not feel that the Borough should penalize people for having someone put graffiti on their property. He felt the property owner should have the option of removing the graffiti themselves or having the Borough remove it for them. Mr. Minotti responded that Easton is struggling with the same problem that the Borough is having. Mr. Starniri agreed with the plan along with an agreement for liability. Mr. Minotti felt the Borough should see where the City is going first. Mr. Klass felt the Borough needs to have an ordinance with meat in it. Mr. Drake does have two small pressure washers at the garage. Mr. Corriere stated that the Borough may be creating a lead paint problem by pressure washing any structures. Mr. Feinberg suggested taking funds from the EMST to pay for any overtime costs incurred in having the Public Works department remove the graffiti. Mr. Minotti will continue to work on the ordinance along with the City of Easton. Chief Nace has applied for grant funding for graffiti removal.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

### FIRE:

None

### POLICE:

1. The Borough has received a copy of the proposed General Orders from Mr. Rowden and Mr. Dorney. Mayor Perruso, Mr. Reiss and Mr. Starniri have reviewed the procedures. The Orders are very good, but they need to be modified for a Borough. Chief Nace was requested to review the Orders and see how he can implement them into the department. Chief Nace has prepared the items requested by the Accreditation Managers except for the entry item. Chief Nace is awaiting for more entry cards. After they are received, the department can proceed with the accreditation process.

2. Mr. Starniri informed Council that the Police Committee has met and discussed the fine schedule for tickets. One of the issues that has plagued the Borough is the outdated ordinance regarding the weight and size of the vehicles. Mr. Starniri presented Council with a draft ordinance similar to the one

Parkeburg has that uses the state's definition of vehicles. It also allows the Mayor or Police Department to make exceptions to the ordinance. Mayor Perruso and Chief Nace both believe problems will still exist on Edelman Street. Other types of vehicles could be added or removed as the Borough deems necessary. Council requested Mr. Minotti to review the information.

3. Mr. Starniri reviewed the current pricing structure for the Borough's tickets. Mr. Starniri thanked Chief Nace and Ms. Karp for their assistance. Mr. Starniri presented pricing structures for the surrounding communities. The Police Committee recommends that the Borough eliminate the three rate tiers for tickets and do what is done in Moore Township. If the ticket is not paid within 10 days, the fine doubles. All the ordinances pertaining to tickets will have to be amended. It is felt that raising several of the fines could help fight blight. Mr. Starniri made a Motion to have Ms. Karp and Ms. Lohrman assist Mr. Minotti in changing all the ordinances. Second by Mr. Verenna. Mr. McGowan stated that he would never vote to raise parking meter fines. Mr. Starniri responded that the Police department forgives tickets in emergency situations. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug and Mr. Williams. Motion carried by a six to three vote.

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Drake has been working on developing a new street sign that follows PennDot's street signage guidelines. Mr. Drake shared with Council a prototype sign. The street name has white lettering on a blue background. The left portion of the sign has a gold warrior on it in black ink. Borough Council liked the sign. Mr. Drake will take the sign to PennDot for their approval.

2. Mr. Drake has visited the Hillside Avenue area where Council has received parking and visibility complaints. Mr. Drake can make a stone parking lot on Borough property for five or six vehicles. Mr. Drake suggested putting up signs for permit parking only. It will be the vehicle owners responsibility to remove their vehicles in case of bad weather. The Borough will not plow the lot. Mr. Minotti will have to revise the Borough ordinance pertaining to parking on Hillside Avenue. Mr. Drake will supply Mr. Minotti with the dimensions of the no parking area. Mr. Schug suggested making the street wider. Motion by Mr. Verenna to prepare the parking area for permit parking only and revise the appropriate Hillside Avenue ordinance. Second by Mr. Starniri.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Drake and Mr. Verenna had met at Meuser Park to prepare the park for the upcoming season. The asphalt at the old pavilion has heaved up and needs to be replaced. The fence behind the pavilion is knocked over and should be replaced with a chain link fence. The serving shelf at the refreshment stand has flaked off. Mr. Drake would like to replace it with ceramic tile. The inside of the old pavilion should also be repainted. Motion to proceed with the repairs by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Verenna.

#### SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. Minotti requested a Caucus on two personnel matters.

#### MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting will be Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Grist Mill in Hellertown. The topic will be "We cannot do it alone – Public/Private Partnerships". Ed Troxell from PSAB will be in attendance.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None

#### DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

None

#### ORDINANCES:

None

#### RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$106,202.48 were paid on a Motion by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Verenna.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

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KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY