

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
MARCH 9, 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	Louis Starniri
Tony Verenna	David Williams

ABSENT:

David Schug

Also present were: Chief Richard Nace, Chief Michael Collins and Public Works Employee Eric Flowers

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 23, 2009 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Verenna.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Rose Wolfe, another parent and three youths appeared before Council to discuss the skate boarding issue. Two of the children have been fined for skate boarding in the Borough. Ms. Wolfe complained about the arresting officer's behavior and the language the officer used towards her child. The ordinance the Borough is using to arrest the children is outdated and does not directly mention skate boarding. The children have been arrested for disorderly conduct. Ms. Wolfe requested an area for the kids to skate board. She also requested a bike park. Mr. Starniri responded that the Borough had checked into building a skate park several years ago and there is a liability issue if someone would get hurt. Mr. Reiss stated that his great grandson had been arrested for skate boarding. The Police are not picking on certain kids. Chief Nace stated that the kids that are skate boarding do not wear protective clothing nor do they follow traffic regulations. They go the wrong way on one-way streets and do not stop at stop signs. Chief Nace has over 30 letters from the school district regarding skate boarders. They are doing property damage to private property and the property owners have been complaining. Ms. Lilly stated that it is an unfortunate situation, but the Borough does not have the funds nor the space to build a skate board park.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from St. Jane Frances de Chantal School requesting permission to use the alleyway between 19th and 20th Streets behind the school for a school marathon. The alley would be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on April 22, 2009. Motion by Mr. Klass to approve the closure of the alley way for the marathon. Second by Ms. Lilly. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg and Mr. Starniri. Motion carried by a six to two vote.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

None

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the 2008 Audit and Financial Statements were included in the Council packets. The Audit had no findings. The annual reports have also been completed and the ad concerning the ending 2008 Balance Sheet has been advertised in the Express-Times. Motion by Mr. McGowan to accept the Audit and Financial Statements as presented. Second by Mr. Williams.

2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the revised Fisk Field plans were submitted to the DEP on February 24, 2009. The DEP has 30 days from the date of receipt to review the plans. Mr. Klass added that one of the items that had been changed was the collection basin that water was draining into.

3. Ms. Lohrman has been in contact with the DCNR concerning the approval for the bike path. The gentleman that had been working on the revised plan is out on sick leave again. His coworker is now working on the project and is unable to find the plans that had been sent to Harrisburg. Ms. Lohrman has contacted Ms. Montgomery and she will be sending a new set of plans to the DCNR.

Mr. Klass inquired whether or not the skateboarders could use the bike path. Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Lilly responded that the skateboarders normally would not use a bike path. They prefer not to use flat surfaces and often set up or use things to jump on or over.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

1. Mr. Feinberg has received a letter from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency stating that the Borough has been approved for a DARE Grant in the amount of \$1,805.00 from September 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Ms. Lohrman will provide the information to Officer Miller.

2. Mr. Verenna asked Chief Nace if he had a problem with people driving through the shopping center on Butler Street to avoid the traffic backup at 25th and Butler Streets. Mr. Verenna had seen a small school bus cut through the lot today. Mr. McGowan responded that Palmer Township controls the signals. Chief Nace replied that Palmer owns the signals, but PennDot controls the timing of the lights. Chief Nace has not received any other complaints.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna thanked the Public Works Department for the nice job they had done on the roads during the recent snowstorm.

2. A question arose on the status of the LED lights. Ms. Lohrman responded that Mr. Drake has contacted General Services, but has not received a call back. Several members of Council will be attending the PSAB conference and will talk to someone from General Services there.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Williams informed Council that the committee had interviewed several applicants for the Assistant Manager's position at the swimming pool. The committee has recommended the hiring of Charles Marsteller to fill the position. Motion to approve the recommendation by Mr. Williams. Second by Ms. Lilly. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by Mr. Reiss and Mr. Verenna. Motion carried by a six to two vote. Mr. Williams will notify the applicants of Council's decision.

2. Ms. Lilly requested the ladder truck be present for Opening Day for baseball on April 11, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Public Works was requested to take horses down the day before so it can be blocked off for the ladder truck. Chief Nace will check to see if Officer Potope can have a canine demonstration for Opening Day.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that the 2005 Expedition was still at Brown-Daub in need of a new engine. Mr. Minotti has contacted Ford Motor Company and Brown-Daub about the cost of replacing the engine. With financial contributions from both, the Borough would still have to pay \$2,909.00. Mr. Minotti has been researching the Lemon Law. The vehicle had been in the garage prior to the first 12,000 miles. Mr. Minotti recommended getting the car fixed while he continues his continues to work on researching the Lemon Law. Motion by Mr. Verenna to authorize up to \$3,000.00 to replace the engine in the Expedition. Second by Mr. Feinberg. The Better Business Bureau handles Lemon Law cases.

2. Chief Collins has been in contact with Mr. Minotti concerning the Right to Appeal on a violation of a portion of the Rental Licensing Program. Since October, 2008, a tenant has called the Police 20 times for various problems. Ten of the calls were for disturbances. Chief Collins has sent the owner a letter informing him that he must evict his tenant. The property owner called Chief Collins and requested that his tenant be given a second change. The Borough cannot do that. The tenant has contacted Legal Aid. Chief Collins has spoken to the tenant's attorney and explained the to her the ordinance and the number of times the Police have been to the property. Chief Collins does not know what action the property owner or tenant will take. The Board of Appeals will meet on Thursday, March 12, 2009 to review the ordinance. The property owner will be cited if the tenant is not evicted within 15 days. The tenant can then make an appeal. The appeal could go as far as the Commonwealth Court.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting would be the last Wednesday in March. He has not received any details concerning the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman has reviewed the North Wales Borough resolution on Open Records. She felt that the resolution would fit the needs of Wilson Borough. The additional information Mr. McGowan provided her from Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority was too detailed for an ordinance or resolution, but would be good input for policies and procedures. Mr. Minotti agreed and will use the parameters from North Wales to prepare something for Wilson Borough.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lilly thanked Lisa Guth for advertising the open Recreation Board seat in the Express-Times in the section of the paper that would not charge a fee. Ms. Lohrman and Mr. Starniri have prepared something for the newsletter about the open seat. One letter of interest has been received.

2. Ms. Lilly inquired about the yard waste program. Pickup will begin on April 22, 2009 and end in October. The information will also be put in the newsletter.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$92,539.28 for were paid on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY