

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
MARCH 10, 2008

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

ABSENT:

Bob Reiss

Also present were: Attorney Louis S. Minotti, Mayor David S. Perruso, Code Enforcement Officer Paul R. Corriere, Chief Richard Nace, Assistant Superintendent Ron Behler, Chief Michael Collins

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 25, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Williams.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Eissa Hassanein appeared before Council asking if a decision has been made regarding the Borough's appeal of the Wilson Zoning Board's approval of a variance given on Mr. Hassanein's property on Victor Street. Mr. Minotti responded that Council took the appeal and at this point in time the appeal still stands. Mr. Hassanein has been granted permits for a second alternative for the house that does not require any variances. Mr. Hassanein requested the Borough withdraw the appeal as he could only rent the second house if the variance was not granted. Mr. Minotti deferred the matter to a Caucus.

2. Matt Cascioli of 19<sup>th</sup> and Ferry Streets appeared before Council to discuss Wilson Borough Ordinance 68. Mr. Cascioli's son has been issued a ticket under the ordinance, item #3, coasting on sidewalks and streets which denies the coasting with a sled or other contrivance on any sidewalk or street. Mr. Starniri explained that a contrivance is a method of travel. Mr. Cascioli's son was skateboarding into the street. Mr. Cascioli's son rides a skateboard around the Borough in order to get around. The child was taken to the police station in a police car along with another child. Mr. Cascioli stated that the kids had no place to skateboard. They are unable to use the park because of the damage done to the facilities. Chief Nace responded that the child has been warned before and continues to ride the skateboard in the street. Council has not seriously considered building a skatepark because of insurance issues. Officer Voorhees, the officer who issued the citation, appeared at the meeting. Mr. Minotti ended the discussion as a Borough Council meeting was not the proper forum to discuss the citation. The matter should be brought up at a hearing before Judge Koury.

3. Terry Briggs and Paul Reiser appeared before Council to present an update on their project on Wood Avenue. The liquor license from the former Driftwood will be transferred to 665 Northampton Street. The gentlemen have met with James Potter from PennDot. Mr. Potter does not have any problems with putting the entrance and exit on N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Potter has also provided direction on how to make a PennDot approved parking area on the Wood Avenue side of the building. PennDot would approve the suggestions made if an HOP was submitted. The bike path right-of-way has not been surveyed. Mr. Minotti stated that the right-of-way would have to be surveyed prior to the Borough approving any type of leasing agreement. Mr. McGowan reminded Council that Mr. Schomp has been asking for the property for some time. Mr. Feinberg requested that Mr. Briggs and Mr. Reiser get something in writing from PennDot that they do not have a problem with the proposed entrance and exit on N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street and also have the right-of-way surveyed. Borough Council will not make any commitment as to the approval of the project until the two items have been presented to Council.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter has been received from the Palmer Volunteer Fire Co. #2 requesting permission to rent a pavilion at Meuser Park on August 16, 2008 for a pig roast.
2. A letter has been received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, has granted a Real Property Tax Exemption to Lawrence E. Crozier of 2149 Hay Street.
3. Three bids were received for Housing Rehab project, HR06-8. They are as follows:

Bianco's Contracting	\$18,906.00
Dutt Construction	\$18,190.00
S.J. Sawyer & Co.	\$18,550.00

Mr. Feinberg requested the bids be forwarded to the Housing Rehab committee for review.

**COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:**

1. Mayor Perruso reminded everyone that BlockWatch will be holding a seminar on gangs tomorrow evening, March 11, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.
2. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the Borough has received numerous calls about the camera article that was in the newspaper. The Borough officials were not aware of the discussion that occurred at BlockWatch and does not have any information on the project. One donation was given to the Borough Manager this evening. She was directed to return the check. Borough Council will have to approve the project prior to any donations being accepted.

**COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:**

1. Ms. Lohrman has received an engagement letter from David Kunsman Corporation, Inc. to perform the Borough's audit for 2008, 2009 and 2010. The Borough has already appointed Kunsman Corporation to perform the audit in 2008. Ms. Lohrman and several other Borough officials have been approached by Mr. Goodman about doing the audit again. Auditing is a professional service and is not required to go out for bid. Matter was deferred to Caucus.
2. Mayor Perruso has received a request from PSAB requesting Borough Council to consider the passage of the ordinance that would ask our State Legislators to vote against Senate Bill 596 which would mandate a statewide municipal police pension system. The bill would be compensating those who have police pension plans that are in jeopardy. Motion by Mr. Starniri to pass the resolution with the next available number. Second by Ms. Lilly. The appropriate officers will execute the resolution and it will be forwarded onto our State Legislators.
3. Ms. Lohrman has received an email from the Baseball Association requested permission to hold a car wash fund raiser at Meuser Park. Ms. Lilly added that the car wash and other fund raisers would benefit 15 kids that want to go to Williamsport to a camp. The fundraisers would not benefit the whole association. Mr. Verenna requested the matter be tabled and deferred to Rec Board.
4. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to LANTA regarding the bus stop at Ridge Street and Freemansburg Avenue. The new sign has been installed and the bus is making stops there. However, the old sign in front of LaBella's will remain for a few weeks. LANTA has requested periodic updates on whether the addition of the new stop has decreased the loitering complains in the area.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:**

None

**FIRE:**

1. Chief Collins informed Council that six or seven years ago a Thermal Imaging Camera was donated to the Fire Department. The camera was a demo model and is no longer serviceable. Chief Collins requested permission to purchase a new camera in the amount of \$9,600.00 under state contract before the old camera dies. The funds would be taken from the LST account. Motion to approve request by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

**POLICE:**

1. Mr. Starniri inquired if Mr. Minotti was working on the parking lot and fee schedule ordinances. He responded that he had received the information from Ms. Lohrman and was working on it. Mr. Minotti will possibly work in the penalties in also. Chief Nace does have enough tickets for the next few months.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

1. Mr. Verenna would like the parking lot on Hillside Avenue to be completed. The work has not yet started. Ms. Lohrman will speak to Mr. Drake.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:**

1. Mr. Klass informed Council that the pool positions have been advertised in the paper. Three applications for the manager position have been received and one other person has shown interest. The Parks Committee will interview the candidates and the committee will select someone.

SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. Minotti informed Council that the Open Records Law has been changed. The new law makes the municipality the responsible party. PSAB will be holding classes on the changes. Mr. Minotti suggested that Ms. Lohrman attend the training.
2. Mr. Minotti has been in contact with the solicitor from the City of Easton. He believes the graffiti ordinance could be presented to City Council as early as next week. Mr. Minotti will continue to receive input from the City on the adoption of the ordinance.
3. Mr. Minotti has received a copy of the revised Risk Management Agreement with our insurance company. There is one item that was not changed. Mr. Minotti is in the process of taking care of this item.
4. Mayor Perruso has received a proposed agreement between the Wilson Borough Police and the Wilson Area School District. Mr. Minotti and Chief Nace do not have a problem with the agreement, but Council should review it prior to its passage. Mr. Minotti will provide a copy of the agreement to Ms. Lohrman for dissemination to Council. Ms. Lohrman will place the agreement on the agenda for the next meeting.
5. Mr. Minotti is also working on the rental ordinance.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the last MECAB meeting was held at the Grist Mill in Hellertown. Mr. Nippon and Mayor Perruso had a discussion on newspaper distribution. A discussion was also held on NIMS and equipment being put in particular areas. Mr. Solomon, Hellertown Downtown Manager, discussed the unique place there are to shop and eat in Hellertown.

The next meeting will be held on March 26, 2008 in Freemansburg. Mayor Perruso stated that they have asked the Borough Manager and Public Works Superintendents to attend.

2. Mr. Klass inquired whether any discussions were held on the casinos. On-going discussions have been held on the topic.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that she has continued to have complaints about the lack of clean up after the Palmer Fire Company's pig roast. Last year a letter was sent to them explaining what was needed for them to do in order for them to continue to hold the event at Meuser Park. Ms. Lohrman was requested to have the Palmer Volunteer Fire Co. appear at the next Council meeting to discuss their event.

2. Ms. Lohrman had inquired whether Council wished to refund a portion of the Borough Real Estate Tax to Mr. Crozier. The matter was tabled. Ms. Lohrman was instructed to request eligibility criteria from the Veterans.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that the sound system has been looked at and a portion of the system will be sent out for repairs this week.

2. Ms. Lilly inquired as to whether Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams had received the required NIMS training. Mr. Verenna has, but Mr. Williams has not. Ms. Lohrman will supply him the information.

3. After a short Caucus, Mr. Minotti announced that Borough Council will not take any action on the withdraw of the appeal with the Wilson Zoning Hearing Board. Borough Council feels that the Zoning Board erred in their decision to grant the variance. The Borough has the right to appeal through the Borough Code and the Municipal Planning Code. This instance is not the first time the Borough has appealed a decision by the Zoning Board.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$86,574.78 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Verenna.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Transcribed from a tape.

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KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY