

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 13, 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 6:00 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: Mayor David Perruso, Attorney Dennis DeEsch, Superintendent Greg Drake, Code Enforcement Officer Paul R. Corriere and Chief Richard Nace (Late)

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 30, 2009 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Williams.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Bob Fehnel, President of the Wilson Area School Board, appeared before Council to discuss the revised plans for the Wilson Intermediate School. Updated plans have been supplied to Borough Officials and the Borough Engineer has reviewed the revised plans. Mr. DeEsch stated that he would prefer a separate easement agreement. The school district agreed that they would be open to having a separate easement agreement. The blanket easement will remain on the plans. Mr. Verenna made a Motion to approve the plans subject to the conditions set for in the Engineers letter: all construction being in compliance with the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code and the International Building Code, the Applicant entering into a developer's agreement with the Borough, posting the required financial security for improvement required by the developer's agreement, and the attendance at the pre-construction meeting with the Borough prior to commencement of work. Second by Mr. Reiss.

Mr. Fehnel requested a waiver on the developer's agreement. Mr. Feinberg and Mr. DeEsch felt it was important to have the agreement in place. Council denied the request for a waiver on the developer's agreement. The Borough solicitor will have the developer's agreement written.

Mr. Fehnel requested a waiver on posting the required financial security on the school project. Mr. Feinberg understood that most of the security would be required for public access. It did not affect the project itself. The costs for the public improvement will not be known until the work is put out for bid. Mr. Feinberg and Mr. DeEsch felt it was not necessary to have a bond or escrow. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to waive the requirement for a security bond or escrow. Second by Mr. Verenna.

The traffic on Firmstone Street was discussed. The bus traffic will go out to 25th Street and the parents will go out Balata Street. No traffic will go around the back of the school. The plans call for the partial repair of the street after the widening is completed. The school district will put out bids for both a partial and total repair of the street. All utilities will be contacted prior to working on Firmstone Street. If the alternate bid for the total repair of the street is awarded, the school district may ask for a waiver of the permit fees. Mr. Drake felt that it would cost way over \$10,000 to just do an overlay of the street. Council is willing to entertain further discussion on the Firmstone Street matter.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso thanked everyone for their cards and well wishes during his recent illness.
2. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the Borough has received \$7,648.19 in fines from Magistrate Koury's office for the month of February.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received further information on increasing the Borough's Police liability

insurance. The Borough's current coverage is \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$3,000,000 aggregate for all claims in one year. The policy has a \$15,000 deductible. The Borough also has a \$2,000,000 umbrella policy, but that policy does not currently go over the Police policy. NIF/Praetorian is offering to provide a \$1,000,000 policy with no deductible. The new policy would only have a \$1,000,000 aggregate, but the \$2,000,000 general umbrella would increase to \$5,000,000. There would be a shared limit with the other policies the Borough has. The cost of the insurance is currently \$12,240.00. The cost of the insurance by moving the police to NIF and increasing the umbrella is \$11,134.00. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to move the police liability police to NIF. Second by Mr. Reiss.

2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Borough has four certificates of deposit totaling \$1,663,445.47 maturing on April 29, 2009. Ms. Lohrman requesting permission to get quotes from local financial institutions to renew the certificates. Motion to authorize getting quotes for the renewals by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

3. Ms. Lohrman has received a request to hire Maureen Campbell of 2418 Sycamore Street as a fill in Crossing Guard. Chief Nace has favorably completed a background check on Ms. Campbell. Motion to hire Ms. Campbell by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Starniri.

4. Ms. Lohrman received a call from Jay Scheibman last week concerning the bike path and Fisk Field. Letters to proceed have been issued by the DCNR on both projects. The letter for the bike path was received today. Ms. Lohrman is still waiting to receive the one for Fisk Field. Ms. Montgomery is working on finalizing the specs and bidding documents for Fisk Field. Permission to advertise for the project will be requested of Council once the documents are completed.

5. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that at the last meeting Council authorized payment of up to \$3,000.00 for the repair of the Police vehicle with the bad engine. The invoice for the repairs was actually \$3,188.70. Ms. Lohrman requested authorization from Council to pay the invoice. Motion to pay the entire invoice by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Starniri. The check engine light had been on after the engine was replaced, but the dealership has made minor repairs to the vehicle. The car is back on the road.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna informed Council that some of the committee members have spoken to Mr. Drake concerning the hiring of summer help. Mr. Drake would like to hire four workers not to go over the budgeted amount. The summer help will paint the curbs yellow and cut grass. The help will be put into groups and will be supervised by the Public Works employees. A discussion ensued concerning the work to be done, who was being hired and who was included or not included in the discussion to hire the summer help. One committee member had not seen the applications. Motion to hire four summer employees for the Public Works Department by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Verenna. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Reiss and Mr. Verenna. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. Mayor Perruso cast an affirmative vote to break the tie. Motion carried by a five to four vote. Mr. Drake will notify the applicants of Council's decision.

2. Mr. Verenna presented Council with a proposed plan to complete the surrounding bocce court area with stone and grass instead of just grass. Ms. Lilly responded that she felt that this was a Parks and Recreation Committee issue. Mr. Verenna has had several people ask when the courts would be open to use. Mr. Verenna would like to have the process expedited. The stone was not part of the bid package. Alfero is due to come back and reseed if necessary. Approximately \$3,000.00 has been held back for the completion of the project as a retainer. Mr. McGowan felt there may be a problem since the funding was coming from CDBG grants. The Borough would have to go back to Alfero in order to put in the stone. Mr. Starniri did not have a problem with putting stones under the stands to keep the grass from growing. Mr. Feinberg felt that the drainage may be changed if stone was put in instead of grass. Fisk Field will not be usable for a year after its completion. The bocce courts usage may be the same. Mr. Klass suggested discussing the change with the Borough Engineer. Mr. DeEsch added that the Borough should see if the contractor is willing to do the work. Mr. Corriere felt that projects are always subject to change orders. Mr. Drake would like to use 3/4" river stone. The bocce court area would be more maintenance free without the grass. Motion to discuss putting stone in with the contractor. Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Reiss. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Klass, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Williams.

Mayor Perruso cast the deciding affirmative vote. Motion carried by a five to four vote. Ms. Lohrman will discuss drainage concerns with the Borough Engineer.

3. Mr. Drake has met with a gentleman concerning the LED traffic lights. The company only sells the lights. They do not install the lights. The circuits would also have to be replaced. The Public Works Department employees and the Borough Electrician do not have the expertise to do the work. Mr. Drake has an estimate for the work from Traffic Solutions, but the project would have to be put out for bid. Motion by Mr. Klass to put the traffic signal conversion to LED lights out for bid. Second by Mr. Starniri. The Liquid Fuel funds could be used to pay for the project.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Two sets of bocce balls have been purchased by the Lions Club. It was suggested that the Pool Manager give out the bocce balls during the weekends. However, the people may wish to use the courts prior to the pool opening. Mr. McGowan suggested letting the Lions handle the bocce balls. The Police could open the courts up in the morning when they open up the bathrooms in the park. Mr. Klass suggested keeping the balls in the Fire Department. Mr. Feinberg responded that there may be a contractual problem if the Fire Department took care of the bocce balls. Quite a few people own their own bocce balls. Mr. Williams will have a sign placed on the courts of who to contact for the balls until the pool opens.

2. Mr. Drake informed Council that he had addressed the new drains that are required for the swimming pools this year. The Borough will be in compliance with the new requirements.

3. Mr. Drake will be putting sand back into the volleyball courts this year. He thinks he will be putting stone and felt in first before putting the sand in. Mr. Drake may contact Ehrlich beforehand.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. DeEsch will be having someone work on the developer's agreement with the school district.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting will be held on April 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center. Ed Knittle will discuss Spring safety for Public Works.

2. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next COG meeting will be held on April 15, 2009 in Freemansburg.

3. Mr. McGowan thanked all the people involved in making the Easter Egg Hunt a success. Lisa Guth did a terrific job in getting everything together.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg contacted the Borough Engineer in regards to the suggestion about filling in the culvert where the 24th Street bridge is. It would cost an estimated \$300,000 to remove the bridge and fill in the culvert. There is a sewer line in the culvert that would be difficult to access if it were covered by fill. Mr. Feinberg recommended authorizing the PennDot box culvert option. Mr. Feinberg added that the Borough could install a gate across the open ends and not put in the southern leg of the bike path. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to proceed with the box culvert bridge design. Second by Mr. Verenna. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a seven to one vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to appoint Winnie Howey to the open seat on the Planning Commission. Second by Mr. Verenna.

2. Joseph Yarka of 36 N. 18th Street appeared before Council to see if the Borough had a project he could do for his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Yarka will work with Mr. Drake to see what could be done for his project.

3. Barry Willever of 932 S. 24th Street appeared before Council to discuss ongoing problems with people going down on the former railroad bed to do drugs. Mr. Willever requested Council's assistance in getting the problem cleaned up. Chief Nace will address the issue.

Mr. Willever questioned whether or not his neighbor that runs a cat rescue place has a business license. Mr. Corriere responded that it really wasn't a business as he wasn't doing it to make money. Mr. Corriere has spoken to the neighbors on both sides of the shelter and the neighbors have not had a problem. Mr. Willever stated that the worst problem is with the limited parking. Mr. Willever added that it costs \$100 to adopt a cat or kitten. Mr. Corriere will check into the matter.

4. Phil Consentino of 1814 Lehigh Street appeared before Council to discuss the Final Sewer and Garbage Notice that he had received last week from his landlord. Mr. Consentino owes \$487.00 and is unable to pay the bill in full at the present time. Mr. Consentino presented Council with a doctor's note

saying the he has coronary artery disease and needs his water on. Mr. Consentino is willing to pay \$200.00 on April 20, 2009 and the remainder of the balance on May 1st. Council responded that if he paid on that schedule, he would have the bill paid off prior to the water being shut off.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1162 – Regional Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Lohrman prepared the resolution using the comments Attorney Monahan had made prior to the last Council meeting. Attorney Minotti had concurred with the comments. The merits of having a comprehensive plan were discussed. Ms. Lilly added that amending our current Comprehensive Plan

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$132,872.27 for were paid on a Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Verenna.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Second by Mr. Verenna and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY