

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 27, 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
Joan Lilly
Bob Reiss
Louis Starniri

James Klass
James McGowan
David Schug
David Williams

ABSENT:

Tony Verenna

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the April 13, 2009 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. Williams. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Kim Johnson of 2448 Birch Street appeared before Council to discuss a parking problem in the alley behind her home. Ms. Johnson is unable to get in and out of her garage because of people illegally parking in the alley. Ms. Johnson had an accident in the alley last week with a neighbor who parks partly in the grass and partly in the alley. Chief Nace will assess the situation tomorrow morning.
2. Jamie Lynch appeared before Council to discuss the developers agreement between the Borough and the Wilson Area School District for the Wilson Intermediate School project. Mr. DeEsch informed Mr. Lynch that the agreement had been sent to the school district solicitor for his review.
3. Winnie Howey appeared before Council to request permission to use Meuser Park for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, 2009. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to approve the request as long as the park was not already booked. Second by Mr. Williams.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Three bids were received for Housing Rehab project HRH06-12. They are as follows:

J.C. Construction	\$16,400.00
S.J. Sawyer & Co.	\$24,550.00
Williamson Home Improvements, LLC	\$15,125.00

Ms. Lohrman will forward the bids to Mr. Corriere for the committee to review.

2. A letter from the Avona Volunteer Fire Company was received requesting permission to rent Meuser Park for their annual Pig Roast on July 25, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.
3. A letter was received from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church requesting permission to place a banner across Northampton Street for two weeks to advertise their Spring Festival. The festival will be held from May 15, 2009 through May 17, 2009. The banner will be the same as was in the previous years with only the dates changed. Motion to approve request using the same requirements as previous years by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Schug.
4. A letter was received from Heather Flank requesting permission to close the 2100 block of Hay Street on June 27, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a block party. Motion to approve request by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Schug.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the fines collected by Judge Koury in February were \$76,48.59 and the fines collected in March were \$7,842.61.
2. Mayor Perruso has reviewed the arbitrator's findings and has spoken to Chief Nace in this regard. Some changes will be made in the department.
3. Mayor Perruso informed Council that Borough Solicitor Lou Minotti was released from the hospital today.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received rates from three local financial institutions for the certificates of deposit that mature on April 29, 2009. The rates are as follows:

- Lafayette Ambassador Bank – 9 month - 1.77% APY/1.75%
- 12 month – 2.20% APY/2.18%
- National Penn Bank – 3 month – 0.85%
- 6 month – 1.05%
- 9 month – 1.25%
- 12 month – 1.50%

Merchants of Bangor – 10 month – 1.35% APY

Motion by Mr. Feinberg to renew the certificates of deposit at Lafayette Ambassador Bank for a 1 year term. Second by Mr. Reiss.

2. Ms. Lohrman has received a proposal from EMC Insurance for the Borough's Workmen's Comp Insurance. The proposal was for \$88,790.00. This is a reduction of approximately \$20,000.00 from last year's premium. The insurance will renew on May 1, 2009.

3. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Chief Collins had spoken to Craig Swinsburg at Easton Suburban Water Authority in regards to putting in a fire hydrant at the intersection of 24th and Hay Streets. Mr. Swinsburg has already had the hydrant installed during the construction on Hay Street at no cost to the Borough. The Borough will be responsible for an additional fee of \$50.00 per quarter for the hydrant.

4. Ms. Lohrman discussed the first yard waste recycling pick up last week. Thirteen residents had scheduled a pickup. Mr. Flowers had discussed the program with Palmer Nursery and they were willing to charge the Borough a \$5.00 per cubic yard fee. A company in Bethlehem were going to charge the Borough \$8.00 per cubic yard. By using Palmer Nursery, the Borough was saving \$3.00 a cubic yard and it's closer for the Public Works Department to use. Ms. Lohrman thanked Mr. Behler and his department for all their help in getting the program started.

5. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the May 25, 2009 Council Meeting was on Memorial Day. She inquired what Council wished to do about the meeting. Motion by Mr. Reiss to cancel the meeting and authorize Ms. Lohrman to pay the bills. Second by Mr. Starniri.

6. Ms. Lohrman has received notice that the Housing Rehab Committee would like to apply for another HOME program grant. Mr. Corriere has 8 applications from 2008 and has received another 12 applications this year. Mr. Corriere does not have enough funds to complete all the applications. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Ms. Pandl in regards to the grant application. The grant is now open applications. The new round of applications is due in August of 2009. If Council is interested in applying again, Ms. Pandl would like to hold a Public Hearing in May or June. She suggests applying for the maximum amount of \$500,000.00. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to hold the Public Meeting on the HOME program grant on May 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri.

7. Ms. Lohrman requested a short Caucus on a personnel matter.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins requested Council to consider a change in the Buyer Notification fees. The fee that is collected is for the initial inspection and one reinspection. Chief Collins has been going three or four times to the property until all the violations have been repaired. Ms. Lohrman will forward the appropriate information to Mr. DeEsch for review. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to authorized Mr. DeEsch to proceed with the fee update. Second by Mr. Starniri.

POLICE:

1. Chief Nace inquired whether Council would consider banning the use of cellphones while driving. The City of Bethlehem is considering doing it. Council would like to see what happens in Bethlehem prior to making a decision for Wilson Borough. Mr. Klass added that it could cost the Borough a considerable amount of money if the ordinance were challenged.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Starniri inquired about when a Confined Space drill was going to be scheduled. Mr. Behler will check with Mr. Drake and report back to Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Ms. Lilly thanked the Police Department for having the canines attend Opening Day for baseball. She also thanked the Fire Department for bringing over the ladder truck. The kids were thrilled.

2. Ms. Lilly informed Council that the Wilson Baseball Association would be holding a breakfast fundraiser on May 17, 2009 at the Strausser Community Center. Ms. Lilly made a Motion to waive the fee for the use of the center. Second by Mr. Reiss.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. DeEsch has completed developer's agreements for the school district and Alexandria Manor, an approval letter for the project, and a sidewalk easement agreement. All items have been forwarded to the appropriate solicitor for review.

2. Mr. DeEsch informed Council that the arbitrator had found the Borough in violation in the overtime grievance, but no backpay was awarded.

3. Mr. DeEsch has sent a letter to the DEP in regards to the Borough's recycling ordinance. Mr. DeEsch believes that the Borough is in compliance by definition. Mr. DeEsch has not received a response from the DEP as of yet.

4. Mr. DeEsch requested that Ms. Lohrman review the Open Records information and let him know if any changes were needed.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan reminded Council that the next MECAB meeting would be on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Strausser Community Center. Ed Knittle will be the guest speaker. Everyone is invited.

COG:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that there will be an electronic recycling collection on May 9, 2009 at Easton Area High School. It was very successful last year. Flyers are in the brochure rack by the office and an information link has been added to the Borough's website.

2. Mr. McGowan stated that the electronic advertising bill have been tabled for the time being. There is no reason that a display ad could not be used. One paper can play against another.

3. A household waste event will be held at NCACC on October 10, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that she had spoken to Ms. Montgomery concerning putting stone around the bocce courts. Ms. Montgomery had responded that the funds held back were a retainer and had to be paid out when the project was completed. Ms. Montgomery felt it would be better if the Borough added the stone if Council wished to do so since if Alfero did it, prevailing wage would have to be paid. It would cost less if the Public Works Department did the work. Mr. Drake thought it would cost no more than \$2,000.00 for the stone and the felt liner.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Corriere had presented Council members with an article from the newspaper concerning the licensing of contractors by the Attorney General's Office. The Act requires contractors to register with the state by July 1, 2009. Mr. Corriere would like to include this on his application. Mr. Feinberg added that the Borough did not have to enact any special ordinance or resolution since it was a state law. If a contractor is not licensed by the state, they cannot work in Wilson Borough.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$390,222.64 for were paid on a Motion by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY