

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
APRIL 28, 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 and Assistant Superintendent Ron Behler

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the April 14, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Verenna.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Mark Hartney, Borough Revitalization Manager, appeared before Council to discuss helping the Borough obtain an economic vision of Wilson Borough. The Steering Committee would like to have a SWOT analysis done on the Northampton Street, Washington Blvd/Street, and Butler Street. It analysis would engage the entire community to see what they want to see in Wilson. The analysis would cost approximately \$30,000.00. The Steering Committee has been trying to secure a \$19,000.00 grant from the county to pay for a portion of the analysis. The Borough would be responsible for the remainder. Mr. Hartney believes the Borough's portion of the funding could come from 2005 and 2006 CDBG money. Mr. Klass stated that we would have a blue print for businesses going forward. The analysis should take between six and eight months to complete. Motion by Mr. Klass to proceed with the analysis if the Borough is approved for the County funding. Second by Mr. Verenna. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by an eight to one vote.

Mr. Hartney has accepted a new position in the Foundation. He introduced Sharon Davis. She will be taking over as the Borough Revitalization Manager.

2. Jennifer Pospisil informed Council that National Night Out would be held on August 5, 2008 in Meuser Park. Ms. Pospisil requested permission to purchase 4' x 6' banners for National Night Out. Five banners would cost \$141.00. Ms. Pospisil requested permission to hang a banner over Northampton Street. Motion to approve request as long as provisions of the Borough's banner resolution were met by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly. Several other banner locations were discussed. Ms. Pospisil has talked to the National Guard about attending National Night Out.

3. Scott Fitch appeared before Council to discuss the status of his business. Mr. Fitch stated that his business is not doing well in part due to an age restriction. Persons under the age of 18 are not allowed on the premises. Mr. Fitch alleges that he does not have a problem with the people under 18. When Mr. Fitch appeared before Council in 2004, Council had agreed to remove the age restriction on his business. Prior to amending the ordinance concerning billiard halls, it was discovered that the age restriction was a state law and the Borough could not change the law. Mayor Perruso responded that the police department had received complaints about his business so they have to enforce any laws governing his business. Mr. Fitch stated that his business was providing a public service by giving the children a place to go. Mr. Fitch is attempting to get the age restriction changed, but it has not been made law yet. The discussion continued. Someone in the audience that lives near the billiard hall stated that she has called the police on several occasions because of the behavior of Mr. Fitch's patrons out his building. Ms. Lilly suggested that Mr. Fitch come back to Council once the law is changed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from Heather Flank requesting permission close the 2100 block of Hay Street on June 28, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a block party. Motion to approve request by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

2. Four bids were opened on Housing Rehab project HR06-12. They were as follows:
  - S.J. Sawyer & Company - \$16,990.00
  - Dutt Construction, LLC - \$14,225.00
  - Scott Wililamson - \$12,865.00
  - Paul Petty Roofing & Siding - \$16,868.00

Ms. Lohrman will forward the bids onto Mr. Corriere and the Housing Rehab committee.

Mr. Corriere informed Council that he does inspect the properties during the construction of the project. He usually goes to the property every other day. Ms. Lilly requested permission to allow Mr. Corriere to review the bids and accept the lowest responsible bid. Second by Mr. Starniri. Mr. Klass stated that there were some discrepancies in the price of the bids. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that they did not have to accept the bid tonight. Motion passed.

3. A letter was received from Jeffrey Zettlemoyer, West Easton Borough Manager, informing Wilson Borough that West Easton had passed Ordinance Number 845. Ms. Lohrman's letter was discussed prior to the passage of the ordinance. Mr. McGowan was not sure based on Mr. Zettlemoyer's letter that West Easton Council agreed to allow Wilson the billing rights to the seven townhouses and Wilson Manor once the Adamson Street common use line is passed by all parties. Motion by Ms. Lilly to request Mr. Minotti to contact the solicitor from West Easton to verify who will be billing the properties in the future. Second by Mr. Starniri. Mr. Schug inquired if Wilson would be responsible for 50% of the maintenance and repairs to the line after the ordinance is passed. The answer was in the affirmative. Ms. Lohrman will supply Mr. Minotti with a copy of the West Easton ordinance and other appropriate information.

#### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso would like everyone to support National Night Out at the park in August.
2. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the total fines collected by Judge Koury were \$8,030.59.

#### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the PSAB Annual Conference will be held from June 8 – June 11, 2008 in Seven Springs Mountain Resort. The Spouse/Guest package includes activities, reception, Sunday barbecue, Monday and Tuesday lunches, banquet and gift. The Spouse package costs \$150.00. Mr. Reiss and Mr. McGowan acknowledged reservations for two each and Mr. Starniri for one. Ms. Lohrman will make reservations this week.

Ms. Lohrman inquired about the Borough flag and if anyone from Council would be interested in presenting the flag at the conference. Mr. McGowan volunteered to check into the matter.

3. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the May 26, 2008 Council meeting fell on Memorial Day and the June 9, 2008 Council meeting fell during the Annual PSAB conference. Motion by Reiss to cancel the two meetings and not reschedule them. Second by Mr. Schug. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly and Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a seven to two vote.

4. Ms. Lohrman presented Council members with the proposed amendments to the PSAB Constitution. The changes will be voted on by our borough delegate to the PSAB conference. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to appoint Mr. Starniri the Borough delegate and Mr. McGowan the alternate delegate to the conference. Second by Ms. Lilly. Ms. Lohrman will supply Mr. Starniri and Mr. McGowan highlighted copies of the constitution draft.

5. Ms. Lohrman has received the Costars proposal for the sound system. The cost of the sound system would be \$12,078.00. It would cost an additional \$1,840.00 to replace the speakers. As the proposal is issued under Costars, the system would not have to go out for bid. Motion by Mr. Reiss to purchase the sound system and replace the speakers. Second by Mr. Williams. Mr. Feinberg felt that the funds could come out of the LST account.

6. Ms. Lohrman has received a letter from Northampton County Assessment Office concerning tracking agriculture conservation easements and open space conservation easements. Ms. Lohrman verified that Borough Council had never passed an ordinance on the easements. She will send a letter to the Assessment Office stating such.

7. Ms. Lohrman has been contacted by Borough Engineer, Amy Riddle Montgomery, about the soil study. It will begin shortly. The study will take about three days to complete. Equipment will be brought in for drilling. The study area will be secured at the end of each day. Ms. Lohrman will notify the baseball association when the study will begin just in case the field will become unavailable during the study.

8. Ms. Lohrman attended a training session on the Right to Know law. The new law takes effect next year. There are a few items the Borough will have to do in the future to be in compliant with the law going forward.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mr. McGowan has been collecting material for the fee schedule revisions and the escrow agreement. Mr. McGowan will schedule a meeting with the committee next week.

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri reminded Council that draft ordinances concerning the parking meter and parking fines and parking of motor vehicles on streets were in Council packets. The drafts will be discussed under Deferred Business.
2. Chief Nace has spoken to Chief Dorney on the accreditation process.
3. A Caucus on a personnel matter was requested. Chief Nace was asked to be present at the Caucus.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna thanked the Public Works Department on the fine job they had done on removing the tree at Meuser Park and the work on the pavilion.
2. Mr. Verenna, Ms. Lilly and Mr. McGowan will review the summer help applications prior to the next Council meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass has met with the new pool, management staff. Mr. Drake and Ms. Lohrman had also met with the staff. Everything seems to be running smoothly.
2. Pre-season pool passes will be sold on May 10, 2008, May 17, 2008 and May 18, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
3. The light pole has been installed in the middle of the park. Mr. Verenna has replaced the light by the refreshment stand with a different type of light. The area is brighter and it should be more cost effective to use the new light. Two additional lights will be replaced.
4. The bocce committee met with Amy Riddle last week to review the plans. Stands had been planned on both sides of the court, but the east side stands have been removed from the plan. The removal of the stands will reduce the size of the area needed by the courts.

A discussion was held at the meeting about putting in a parking lot along side of the courts. The committee decided to recommend building 10 handicapped spaces. The lot will be optional on the plans. Mr. Drake has since suggested building putting the spaces on top the old shuffleboard courts. The road running through the park from the community center to the new pavilion was discussed. Several Council members have concerns about driving through the park so close to where the children are playing in the playground. It was suggested removing several feet from the path to keep cars out of the park. It would make it more difficult for the police to drive through the park. Council requested Mr. Drake to look into putting in a fence between the south side of the road and the playground.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti presented Council with four copies of the Public Works agreement. Mr. Minotti requested that Council execute the agreement and provide him with a signed copy.
2. Mr. Minotti has met with Chief Collins regarding the rental inspection ordinance. Mr. Minotti hopes to have a draft copy of the ordinance for Council at the next meeting.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan invited Council members to attend the MECAB meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northampton Community Center. The topic of the meeting will be the annual tour.
2. Mayor Perruso asked if Council would provide lunch to the people on the MECAB tour. Various other communities have sponsored the lunch. Motion to provide lunch on the MECAB tour by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Klass.

COG:

1. Mr. Klass stated that it had been voted several times not to use the county to collect taxes. However, there are three bills on the floor now to have the county collect the taxes.
2. Senate Bill 777 would change the per cent of taxes. Northampton County currently collects the delinquent real estate taxes.
3. Northampton County DCED has hired Thomas Dittmar as the Environmental Services Coordinator. Mr. Klass requested Council to consider starting a position of environmental coordinator and forming a steering committee. The Borough could work on several issues at the Borough level. Mr. Klass would be interested in working on the project. One or two Council people and others could serve on the committee. Mr. Klass suggested looking at Palmer Township's website. Mr. McGowan responded that the Borough has been waiting for the County to do something for years. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to appoint Mr. Klass as the Borough's environmental coordinator. Second by Mr. Reiss.
4. Mayor Perruso has gotten several complaints about the garbage around Weis Markets. Mr.

Corriere has spoken to a Boy Scout troop in Williams Township about cleaning up the area as a service project. Mr. Corriere will let Council know if the troop is willing to do it.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Council review draft ordinance 740 regarding vehicle size and weight. Mr. Reiss had a problem with having wreckers on the list because there are Borough residents who live in the Borough and bring home the wrecker while on call. Mr. Minotti felt that the draft ordinance was reasonable. Mr. Starniri stated that the current ordinance did not work and the draft ordinance addressed most of the issues the Borough had with the old ordinance. Motion by Mr. Starniri to advertise draft ordinance 740 as presented. Second by Mr. Klass. Mr. McGowan had issues with dual wheel vehicles parking on Borough streets. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly and Mr. Starniri. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Motion was defeated by a five to four vote.

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to amend draft ordinance 740 to change wrecker to wrecker with vehicle in tow and add rollback if included in 75 PA CSA Section 102. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss and Mr. Starniri. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Motion carried by a five to four vote. Mr. Minotti felt the changing the draft ordinance was cutting corners.

2. Council reviewed the draft ordinance that would change the fines to \$15.00 and \$30.00 and made two brackets instead of three for parking violations. Motion to advertise draft fine ordinance by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a seven to one vote.

3. Council also reviewed the draft ordinance that would change the fines to \$15.00 and \$30.00 and made two brackets instead of three for parking meter violations. Motion by Mr. Starniri to keep the ordinance at the same format. Second by Ms. Lilly. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg Ms. Lilly and Mr. Starniri. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Klass, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug and Mr. Williams. Motion was defeated by a five to three vote.

Motion by Mr. Klass to change the fines of the proposed ordinance to \$10.00, \$20.00 and \$50.00. Second by Mr. Starniri. Affirmative votes were Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. McGowan and Mr. Schug. Motion carried by a six to two vote.

4. After a short Caucus, Mr. Feinberg made a Motion for the appropriate officers to execute the Public Works contract. Second by Mr. Starniri.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lilly inquired whether the Spring Garden Street developer would be required to pay a recreational fee. Mr. Feinberg will check into the matter.

2. Mr. Klass informed Council that both the Manager and the Assistant Manager of the pool have Child Abuse checks. Mr. Klass felt that the adults that work at the pool also should have the checks completed. The Borough could pay for the checks. Motion by Mr. Klass to proceed with the checks. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$436,839.21 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Second by Mr. Feinberg and Council concurred.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY