

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
JULY 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  
James McGowan  
David Schug  
Tony Verenna

Joan Lilly  
Bob Reiss  
Louis Starniri  
David Williams

ABSENT:

James Klass

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the July 13, 2009 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Sara Pandl appeared before Council to discuss the submission of a \$500,000 HOME program grant. The Borough had received a HOME program grant in 2006 in the amount of \$350,000.00. Mr. Corriere believes that the Borough has funding for another year before it runs out. The state would like to put the funds towards certain geographic areas. Currently the Borough is targeting the southern and eastern portions of the municipality. The funding has strengthened the housing stock of the Borough and Ms. Pandl believes another grant would assist the Borough even more. Ms. Pandl has provided the Borough with a copy of the draft application. Motion to approve Resolution 1166 – authorizing the filing of the application for funds with the DCED by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri. Ms. Pandl will be attending a HOME program seminar this week. She will send in the application next week after she make sure there will not be any changes in the application procedures.

2. Craig Alercia from the 100 block of N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street appeared before Council to discuss the ongoing problems that are going on in the block where he lives. Drug dealing continues. One dealer moves out and another one moves in. The noise is very bad. The Police have told him that they are tired of coming to the neighborhood. Several people have been arrested. Some have been evicted. There have been at least 100 calls in the neighborhood since he moved in 10 years ago. He continues to pick up debris off the street. The gentleman that has written to the Borough about the problems in the neighborhood has a legitimate complaint.

3. Nancy Cramer bought a house on Third Street in 2002. People in the neighborhood keep their garbage in front of their houses. Garbage cans are spewing over and the stench is terrible. Skunks and rodents are becoming a problem. Parking is also a problem. One family will have four or five cars. People are double parking in their driveways and the vehicles are sticking out into the street. Visibility is a problem when driving. Mayor Perruso responded that parking is a problem throughout the Borough. It was not built to handle all the cars. Mr. Corriere has been at one of the neighbors several times about the garbage. He has made them move it, but several days later, they move it back. Mr. Corriere has told them that they must keep a lid on the can. Mr. Cramer suggested having an ordinance that garbage cans must be out of view. In Allentown, residents are fined if the garbage cans are visible.

4. Agnes Gallagher from the 2100 block of Hay Street complained about a family with four or five kids in it that are scratching cars with their bicycles that do not have hand grips on them. The kids drop their bikes wherever they like. Mr. Feinberg questioned whether the residents had notified the police about the damage to their cars. Ms. Gallagher did not know, but Chief Nace responded that he had not been told of any damage done. Mr. Verenna advised Ms. Gallagher to call the police when it happens again and they will have the bikes picked up. Ms. Gallagher has the right to do so. Ms. Gallagher will let her neighbors know that they should call the police.

5. David Jones from 2046 Freemansburg Avenue informed Council that a lot of children have gotten stung by bees at Meuser Park near the fence. Mr. Jones suggested spraying the clover in the spring to keep the bees away. Mr. Behler will make a note to take care of it next year.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from JENA Engineering requesting an extension for one year on the Special Exception granted by the Wilson Zoning Hearing Board in November 2008 to construct a personal care home on the B-1 Boulevard Zoning District. Mr. Starniri questioned if Council could grant an extension on an action taken by the Wilson Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Corriere responded that Mr. Miga had appealed the Special Exception, but he had not filed it to the Commonwealth. Mr. Corriere felt that the Borough would be allowed to give an extension. Mr. Corriere will contact the attorney for the Zoning Hearing Board. There is time as the original Special Exception does not expire until November. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the owner needs to secure the building as windows are broken in the rear of the building and he saw two people come out of it the other day. Mr. Corriere has issued a demolition permit, but the building has not been razed. The Police Department was going to contact the owner about securing the building.

2. Angelo DiBiagio from the Italian American Cultural Club of the Lehigh Valley has requested permission to hold their monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and indoor and outdoor events throughout the year at a fee of \$75.00 per event versus the current fee of \$200.00. Mr. Reiss felt that the fee was too low and suggested \$100.00. The fee King Henry pays needs to be looked at again. Mr. Feinberg felt it would be a sad precedent. Weichert stopped using the center when it was raised up to \$200 and they only used the center one hour plus each week during the week. Motion by Ms. Lilly to deny the request for a rate reduction. Second by Mr. Schug. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Reiss and Mr. Verenna. Motion carried by a six to two vote to deny the rate reduction. The center could be rented at \$200.00 by a Wilson Borough resident.

3. A letter was received from Isabel Conlin, Principal of St. Jane Frances de Chantal School requesting permission to use the alleyway between 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 20<sup>th</sup> Street behind the school for a one mile run, which is part of the President's Physical Fitness Test. The requested closure dates are: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The number of dates for closure of the alley is nine. Mr. Feinberg stated that no one is there to move the cones for local traffic. Ms. Lohrman concurred adding that when she would come to work in the morning the cones were out, but no one was there to move the cones. Motion to approve the request by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Williams. Affirmative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Mr. Feinberg cast a Negative vote. Motion carried by a seven to one vote.

## COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Chief Nace has requested that the handicapped sign be removed at the Smickle residence in the 1700 block of Washington Blvd. Mr. Behler was asked to have it taken down.

## COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the bids were opened for the bike path project on Wednesday, July 22, 2009. The unofficial bid results range from \$153,623.29 to \$268,369.60. Ms. Montgomery will review the bid documents and expects to have a recommendation to award the bid at the August 10, 2009 Council meeting. Ms. Lilly inquired about the Fisk Field bid. Ms. Lohrman responded that Ms. Montgomery was working on the lighting portion of the bid. She expects the bid to go out in August. It may be possible for football to use the field for several weeks, but not for the entire season.

2. Ms. Lohrman has received an email from our computer company and they are going out of business. The Borough may be able to subcontract the remaining hours of the timeblock to another IT service company. Ms. Lohrman and Mr. Feinberg will be meeting with a representative of the other IT company this week. Mr. Feinberg has also spoken to Enternet about IT services. Ms. Lohrman will report back to Council on the matter.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

### FIRE:

1. Chief Collins reported that one of the door openers is broken. It is from the early 1980s. Chief Collins is getting a price to repair the opener. The springs are not right.
2. Chief Collins informed Council that the pump certification is coming up soon.

### POLICE:

1. Chief Nace reported that the new car is in service. Motion by Mr. Verenna to advertise for bids for Car 8, a Crown Victoria. The vehicle is not running. It needs a fuel pump which is inside the gas tank. Second by Mr. Reiss.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna informed Council that the graffiti that had been removed looks good. Ms. Howey has spoken to Mr. Drake. He wanted to test the different materials before going out to remove graffiti in the Borough. The Borough is still waiting for release. Ms. Lohrman has prepared a release similar to the one Easton uses. Mr. Minotti stated that he has reviewed it and the Borough could begin using it. Ms. Lohrman will supply Mr. Drake with copies of the release form. The Borough can begin offering to remove graffiti.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Ms. Lilly inquired about when the Public Works Department would begin spraying curbs. Mr. Behler responded that they had. Ms. Lohrman added that she had seen them been working on the north side and were spraying on Fairview Ave. and Lehigh Streets.

ATTORNEY:

None

MECAB:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Minotti requested a clarification of the status of the Fire Code. Chief Collins stated that the Fire Code is not part of the Uniform Construction Code. Chief Collins needs to have the code adopted so he can regulate hazardous materials. Chief Collins felt that the Borough could remove the section referring to the appointment of deputies, but it was not mandatory. Chief Collins has the Fire Code certification. Ms. Lohrman will place the topic on the agenda for next month.

2. Mr. Starniri inquired about the \$100 fine in the weed ordinance. He inquired if additional fines could be given if the grass was not cut. Although it is not in the weed ordinance itself, the 10 inch height the Borough has been using comes from the Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Corriere added that the fines have increased over the years.

Mr. Reiss informed Council that the fine for not shoveling snow was only \$10.00. Mr. Corriere will check to see what it is in the Property Maintenance Code.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1165 – Assigning Tax Collection Committee for Wilson Borough. Motion to approve Resolution 1165 by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$107,884.31 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Second by Ms. Lilly and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

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KAREN A LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY