

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
AUGUST 27, 2007

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	Joan Lilly
James McGowan	Bob Reiss
David Schug	Louis Starniri
David Williams	

ABSENT:

James Klass, Ronald Nixon

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the August 13, 2007 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Attorney Stanley Margle appeared before Council to answer questions on Bethlehem Township's request to purchase 9,250 gpd of excess sewer capacity. Mr. Feinberg reviewed sewer capacity information from several years of the Borough's Chapter 94 reports. The Borough has more than enough capacity to sell the capacity Bethlehem Township wants, the capacity Forks Township wants, the capacity needed for the Dixie Lofts project and enough to cover the 20% capacity the Borough needs to keep. Mr. Schug inquired whether or not the Borough had to go back to EAJSA. The Borough does indeed have inform the sewer authority that it wishes to sell capacity. Motion by Mr. Reiss to sell 9,250 gpd of excess sewer capacity to Bethlehem Township. Second by Mr. Schug. Mr. McGowan inquired if Attorney Margle had approached Palmer Township about the purchase of excess capacity. Attorney Margle responded that as stated at a previous meeting, he had and none of the other municipalities were interested in selling capacity. Mr. McGowan inquired if Palmer would be interested in extending their line into Bethlehem Township. Mr. Margle has spoken to Palmer four or five times. Mr. McGowan informed Council that he had issues with the billing of non-member municipalities. Mr. McGowan stated that the Bushkill interceptor is already overloaded. Borough Council seemed willing to discuss the sale of excess sewer capacity on a case by case basis. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a six to one vote.

2. Sharlene Laureigh of 1847 Hay Terrace applied for housing rehab assistance several years ago. Ms. Lauriegh was told by Mr. Corriere that the chances are slim that her project would be completed as he did not have the time to administer the grant. If the funds are not used in a specific time frame, the funds would be lost. Mr. Corriere did respond that he did not have the time to work on housing rehab. Ms. Laureigh stated that she had personal experience in writing and administering grants and was willing to volunteer her time in getting the program going again. Mr. Feinberg replied that Council was unaware of the situation and will evaluate the matter.

3. Lisa Rodriguez wished to give Council positive feedback on the swimming pool. She felt that it was best if the Borough continued to hire people from the outside to work at the pool especially in a supervisory position.

4. Fran Roscioli of the Wilson Midget Football Association felt that there was a conflict of interest in a recent decision made by the Recreation Board. It has been past practice to decline children from playing midget football if they live outside the school district. This year three children applied from outside the district to play football in the program. The Football Association denied all three of the applications. Recreation Board overruled the Football Association and allowed one child from Lower Mt. Bethel to play football in Wilson. Mr. Roscioli felt that Ms. Lilly, President of the Wilson Recreation Board, overstepped her bounds by contacting the League President about the child playing football. Ms. Lilly responded that the League President did not have a problem with the child playing. Mr. Roscioli stated that it was a League Board decision and not just the President's decision. The Board did not meet for several weeks and Mr. Roscioli did not feel that child should be playing football until the Board voted on the matter. The team could forfeit any games played if there were a player on the team that was ineligible. Mr. Reiss was concerned about the child being covered by insurance if an injury occurred.

Ms. Lohrman stated that Rec Board carried the insurance not the Borough. Ms. Lilly responded that the child should be covered if he were on the roster. Mr. Minotti responded that this was not a Council matter. The Recreation Board was created to oversee the youth athletic program. Mr. Minotti was aware of exception(s) to the rule(s), but this situation was not one of them. Tony Verenna added that he did not feel it appropriate to use Borough and School District tax money to pay for outsiders to participate in Wilson's midget sports programs. Mr. Roscioli added that the player outside the area could play in four locations. Forks Township had already had signups and the program was closed to additional participants. The league boundaries are school district boundaries. If the child could not play in Forks, he should play for the Easton team. Mr. Roscioli felt that every decision made by the Football Association is overruled by Rec Board. Mr. Feinberg stated that Borough Council will not overrule Rec Board's decision. Mr. Verenna and several Council members felt that the child should not play until a decision by the league is made. Mr. Reiss felt that the child should wait. Mr. Feinberg asked Mr. Roscioli to request the League Board to hold a special meeting to make a ruling on the matter. Mr. Minotti added that the Rec Board should give Mr. Roscioli some discretion as to whether or not they allow the child to participate.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from Memorial United Church of Christ requesting permission to close Forest Street for Rally Day and Church Picnic on Sunday, September 9, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2. An email was received from Bob Bryant, Engineer for the 24th Street bridge project, informing Wilson Borough that due to PennDot's low bridge priority list and low staffing, the 24th Street bridge project will not be completed until 2009 or 2010.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received two requests for Handicapped Parking signs. The request from Henry Casella of 1855 Fairview Avenue has been approved by Chief Nace. The other request from Samuel Snyder of 1908 Ferry Street is located in a block with two handicapped spaces on it already. Motion by Mr. Starniri to approve the Casella request and to table the Snyder request for further information. Second by Mr. Williams.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman reminded Council that the Inspection Maintenance Agreement with Che Mechanical expires on October 14, 2007. The agreement was originally for \$1,458.00 and will automatically renew with a four (4%) per cent increase unless cancelled or revised at least 30 days prior to the renewal date. Motion to renew the Che agreement for a one year term by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Williams.
2. Ms. Lohrman has received the bike path plan documents and the estimate of costs for the completion of the bike path. Ms. Montgomery has split the project into three segments for bidding purposes. Mr. Feinberg added that he hopes that 2/3 of the project funds will be donated. Ms. Lohrman will need permission to advertise for bids.
3. Ms. Lohrman has received a proposal from Edwards Business Machines for a new copier that can also be used as a scanner and fax machine. The new lease will be for 48 months at a cost of \$337.00 per month. The overall savings over the four years if the Borough used the new proposed copier would be \$2,286.24 as compared to the use of a stand alone copier and fax machine. Motion by Mr. Reiss to approve the proposal for a four year lease for a new copier. Second by Ms. Lilly.
4. Ms. Lohrman has received the 2008 MMO worksheets for the Wilson Borough Firemen Pension Plan and for the Wilson Borough Pension (Non-Uniform) Plan. The figures will be used for the 2008 budget. The MMO for the Firemen Pension Plan is \$0.00. The MMO for the Non-Uniform Plan is \$27,534.00. Ms. Lohrman expects the 2008 MMO for the Police Pension fund in the next few weeks.
5. Several Borough officials have spoken to Easton Suburban Water Authority officials about the use of the water company building for storage that is across the street from the municipal building. The building should be turned over to the Borough next year. Ms. Lohrman has been requested by our insurance company for a Certificate of Insurance from the water company for the building. Ms. Lohrman did receive the certificate today with an email from Craig Swinsburg informing her that the water company's solicitor is drafting a memo of understanding so that each parties responsibilities are known. The water company will need access to a few instruments in the building. Ms. Lohrman will keep Council apprised of the situation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins requested a Caucus on a personnel matter.

POLICE:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that Chief Nace has been putting out the speed sign. Anyone who has ideas where the sign should be put was requested to contact Chief Nace.

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. Minotti has received a call from Attorney Kline regarding the payment of the excess sewer capacity. The funds have become available for payment to the Borough. As soon as the funds are received, Mr. Minotti will provide a bill of sale to Forks Township.

2. Mr. Minotti inquired about a letter of extension needed for the Larry O'Neill development. Ms. Lohrman has requested that Mr. Corriere contact Mr. O'Neill for the letter. Mr. Corriere did request a letter, but has not received it as of yet. Mr. O'Neill is still waiting for information from PennDot. If the Borough does not receive the extension letter shortly, Mr. Minotti will request the plan be declined.

3. Mr. Minotti requested a Caucus on two matters of potential litigation.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that MECAB does not meet during the summer months. The next meeting will be held the end of September.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. The advertising of the bike path will be held off for the time being.

2. After a short Caucus, Ms. Lilly made a Motion to hire Russ Hank to open and close the Strausser Community Center on weekends. Second by Mr. Starniri.

3. Motion by Mr. Starniri to accept the resignation of Mark Cooke as Lieutenant in the Fire Department. Mr. Cooke will continue to serve in his previous position. Second by Ms. Lilly.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg has obtained copies of the Megan's Law Ordinance that had recently been passed by two local municipalities. Mr. Feinberg requested Mr. Minotti to review the ordinances.

2. Ms. Lilly has received complaints from some of the residents about the weeds growing on the O'Neill property. Mr. Corriere will take care of the matter.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$110,890.89 paid and bills paid on a Motion by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Williams.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY