

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

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 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg
Joan Lilly
Louis Starniri
David Williams

James Klass
James McGowan
Tony Verenna

ABSENT:

Bob Reiss, David Schug

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the August 25, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Williams.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Wilma McConnell of 1627 Butler Street appeared before Council to discuss an incident which occurred on August 24, 2008 involving Police Officer Assise. The incident involved an 18 year old young lady who is staying with Ms. McConnell. The young lady's mother called the Police and asked them to bring her home. Officer Siegfried arrived first at the scene and stated that the young lady was 18 years old and she was old enough to make her own decision about going home. Officer Assise arrived later and attempted to get the young lady to go home. Officer Assise allegedly made slanderous remarks regarding the home and the 18 previous calls the Police made to 1627 Butler Street. Ms. McConnell requested an apology and received one with justification of Officer Assise's behavior. Ms. McConnell believed that Officer Assise's behavior is not being addressed. Chief Nace has spoken to Officer Assise and did not believe the matter should be discussed any further without him being present. Chief Nace added that the Police had been at the address at least four times that incident reports were not completed on. Mr. Verenna requested that a meeting be held between Ms. McConell, Chief Nace, Mayor Perruso, Officer Assise and Officer Siegfried in order to resolve the problem. Ms. Lilly did not feel that it should make any difference on how many calls were made to a residence. Ms. McConnell also made a complaint that she had to pay \$5.00 for a copy of each incident at her home. Mayor Perruso was requested to set up a meeting with the interested parties.

2. Mark Kindt of 2465 Hay Street appeared before Council to discuss the paper alley next to his home. Mr. Kindt would like to transfer ownership of the back portion of his property if he were allowed to put a fence on the paper alley. Mr. Kindt will allow the Borough access to the sewer line which runs underneath the paper alley. The acquisition of the piece of Mr. Kindt's property would improve the visibility and traffic flow in the paved alley. Mr. Minotti would never recommend vacating the alley. The alley may be part of a subdivision and the other property owners may have private rights to the alley. Mr. Kindt would like to have the foot traffic removed from the alley. Mr. McGowan stated that this matter had come before Council before and Council voted it down. Mr. Minotti recommended that Mr. Kindt see a private attorney. Mr. Minotti will happy to discuss Mr. Kindt's concerns with him. Mr. Minotti also recommended that Mr. Kindt review his Title Insurance policy for any restrictions.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A request was received from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church requesting permission to have a special event banner be placed across Northampton Street to advertise the church's Fall Festival which will be held from October 3, 2008 through October 5, 2008. Motion to approve request by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has spoken to several individuals who attend the Sunday evening concerts in

Meuser Park that would like horses placed in the driveways around the park to keep people from driving through the park during the concert. People leaving the pavilions who are parking their cars in the park are causing a problem. Ms. Lilly felt the best way to end the problem was not to allow any parking in the park. Mr. McGowan responded that the sign in the driveway regarding no parking has been removed. Mr. Klass felt that using the Dixie lot for parking was a good idea, but it was apparently not going to happen. There is also a problem when all the cars leave the park at the same time. It is not done in an orderly manner. It may be necessary to have an officer direct traffic in the park if parking were allowed to be continued. Mr. Feinberg directed Council to think about a solution to the problem over the winter.

2. Mayor Perruso informed Council that it may be necessary to change Trick or Treat to another night as the bonfire was scheduled for Halloween night. Chief Collins responded that he was informed that the bonfire had been moved to October 30, 2008. Ms. Lohrman may have to advertise in newsletter and the newspaper if Trick or Treat is changed. Ms. Lohrman will place the matter on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

3. The total fines collected by Judge Koury were \$7,125.72.

4. Mayor Perruso has received information from Meals on Wheels. The organization is requesting a donation of \$2,100.00 to provide food to 18 people in Wilson Borough. Mr. Minotti questioned whether the Borough could provide a monetary donation to any organization. Mr. Feinberg added that the Borough has never given donations to any organization.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that three bids opened on Wednesday, September 3, 2008. The bids with alternate items are as follow:

	Base Bid	Alternate Items	Total Bid
Alfero Co., Inc.	\$57,682.73	\$38,967.11	\$96,649.84
Pavement Maintenance Contr.	\$87,752.80	\$51,832.29	\$139,585.09
Eastern Utility Contracting	\$110,535.66	\$64,657.13	\$175,192.79

Ms. Montgomery has reviewed the bids. Ms. Montgomery found the Alfero bid in order and had favorably checked their references.

2. Ms. Lohrman has received information on 2008 Boucher & James, Inc. Municipal Scramble. The event will be held on Monday, October 6, 2008 at Silver Creek Country Club in Hellertown. Mr. Minotti may be interested in attending.

3. Ms. Lohrman contacted five companies recommended by PFM Advisors to provide actuarial services to the Borough. All five companies have shown interest. Ms. Lohrman was directed to supply Mr. Minotti the information received for his review.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri has received a letter from Local 1914 providing days and times for a meeting to discuss the upcoming contract. The Local is available on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays at 7:00 p.m. The committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Starniri will contact Local 1914 to see if the date and time are agreeable.

2. Chief Collins informed Council that the Safety Committee had received a suggestion for installing an exhaust system in the fire garage. Chief Collins has spoken to two vendors. The prices range from \$36,000.00 to \$44,500.00. One of the companies operates under Co-Stars. The funds to pay for the system could come from the LST account.

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri requested a Caucus on a grievance matter.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna informed Council that Mr. Drake has met with our Liquid Fuel person at PennDot. The department plans on having Bushkill Street from the 15th Street to 17th Street, S. 18th Street from Northampton Street to Fairview Avenue, and S. 17th Street from Beech Street to Lehigh Street milled. The 1600 block of Bushkill Street has replaced the 2400 block of Hay Street because the water company is planning on tearing up Hay Street. Mr. Drake will be meeting with a representative of the milling company to get an estimate to see if it has to go out for bid.

2. Mr. Verenna requested information on the weed ordinance, garbage ordinance, and curb repair be placed in the next newsletter.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass informed Council that Mr. Drake is in the process of digging up all the returns in the pool. He has found 3 leaks so far. Before the pool closed for the fall, it had been losing six to seven inches of water a day. Mr. Klass complimented the department for the work done at the pool this year.
2. Mr. Klass has pictures of the picnic tables that he is interested in putting at the pool. The cost of the tables are \$630.00. The total would come to \$7,500.00. The matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
3. Ms. Lilly inquired if the Pool Manager could provide a year end report to Council. Mr. Klass will contact Ms. Wacik.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that the Borough had sold 150,000 gallons per day of excess sewer capacity to Forks Township in September 2007. Forks Township is paying the Borough in installments. They owe the Borough \$345,000.00 no later than September 30, 2008. Mr. Minotti requested that the Borough sign a Bill of Sale which he will hold in escrow until the check arrives. Mr. McGowan requested that Mr. Schimmel be sent a copy of the Bill of Sale so he can adjust the Borough's sewer capacity. Motion to approve request by Mr. Klass. Second by Ms. Lilly.

MECAB:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Starniri reviewed the computer usage document. He would like all employees to sign a copy of the document. If the document is not signed within 90 days, internet access will be denied to the department. Motion to approve the document by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.

In addition, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Lohrman met with the Borough's computer consultant. A secondary screen saver will be created that the employees will have to accept in order to gain access to the PCs.

2. Mr. Verenna made a Motion to accept the base bid from Alfero for the bocce courts. Ms. Lilly inquired where the money was coming from to pay for the courts. Mr. Feinberg responded that \$20,000.00 could come from the interest on the Tax Anticipation Account and the remainder from 2006 CDBG money budgeted for Housing Rehab. Ms. Lilly wondered why the Borough had to build such fancy bocce courts. Mr. Feinberg responded that they were going to be regulation courts. Ms. Lilly stated that not everyone will be using the courts. Mr. McGowan felt that the Borough was adding maintenance work. Mr. McGowan inquired about building one court only. Only one court would not be good for tournaments. Ms. Lilly inquired about eliminating some of the bid items. Ms. Lohrman responded that the Borough would have to reject all bids and then rebid what items they would like to keep in the bid. Second by Mr. Klass. Affirmative votes by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Williams. Motion carried by a four to three vote.

3. Motion by Mr. Starniri to authorize Ms. Lohrman to prepare the necessary paperwork to modify CDBG 2006 to remove funds from Housing Rehab and add it to the bocce courts. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Mr. McGowan felt that the money could be used for better purposes such as fixing curbs through the Borough. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Williams. Motion carried by a four to three vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Corriere informed Council that the Planning Commission had approved a subdivision of 1825-1827 Lehigh Street. The home is a double and the owner would like the property subdivided. Northampton County does not require a mylar on such cases. The only requirement would be to have the municipality write a letter to the county approving the subdivision request. The property has separate water and sewer lines and all access between the two properties is sealed. Motion by Mr. Klass to approve the subdivision. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Mr. Starniri inquired about the antenna matter discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Corriere has requested additional information. Other municipalities are also looking into the matter.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$206,763.06 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Williams.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. Second by Mr. Verenna and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY