

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

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
Bob Reiss
David Williams

James Klass
James McGowan
Tony Verenna

ABSENT:

David Schug, Louis Starniri

Also present were: Mayor David Perruso, Attorney Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Chief Michael Collins, Superintendent Greg Drake (late)

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the August 24, 2009 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. A Notice of Public Hearing had been advertised in order for Borough Council to discuss modifying the administrative funds in CDBG 2005 and CDBG 2005 so it could be used for the construction of the bike path. As Ms. Pandl was unavailable to attend the meeting, Ms. Lohrman presented the information. The available funds from CDBG 2005 that can be used for the bike path are \$14,500.00 and the available funds from CDBG 2006 that can be used for the bike path are \$15,275.00. Motion to proceed with the CDBG modification as presented by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Verenna. Ms. Lohrman will notify Ms. Pandl of Council's discussion. An additional hearing and/or paperwork may be required.

2. David Jones of 2046 Freemansburg Avenue appeared before Council to discuss a parking problem at the Avona fields during nightly soccer and football practices. Wilson Police gave out parking tickets last week because vehicles were parked facing the wrong way. If the vehicles are facing the correct way, it is more difficult to pull out when leaving. Mr. Jones was looking for a solution. The Borough lot is available and has been used, but Mr. Verenna pointed out that people were blocking the gas pumps. Mr. Klass reminded Council that they had talked about making Firmstone Street one way as there is not enough room for two cars to get through. Mr. Jones suggested that the Police step back and allow people to park facing the wrong way. Mayor Perruso stated that someone must have called and complained about the parking. The Police must act if there is a complaint. Construction parking is available. Mr. Klass suggested parking on one side of the street only. Mr. Minotti responded that the Borough could try it out for thirty days or a traffic study could be completed. Motion by Mr. Klass to prohibit parking on the south side of the street. Second by Mr. Verenna. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by Ms. Lilly and Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a five to two vote.

3. Helen Remaley tried to get into her garage on Saturday evening, but kids were blocking her access. When she got into her house and came out with her cap on, the kids left and still have not returned.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church requesting permission to have a banner hung across Northampton Street to advertise their Fall Greek Food Festival on October 2, 3, and 4, 2009. The banner would be hung two weeks prior to their event. Ms. Lohrman has received the appropriate insurance certificate. Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve request. Second by Ms. Lilly. Ms. Lohrman was instructed to remind the church about the noise ordinance that begins at 11:00 p.m. each evening.

2. A letter was received from the Borough of West Easton informing the Borough that the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority had made the Adamson Street sewer line along Avona Avenue between Forethought Alley and the intersection of Spring Street and Keystone Avenue a common line. Wilson will begin billing Wilson Manor and the seven adjacent townhouses next year.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received a request for a Handicapped Parking sign for Lynne Cichon at 2206 Ferry Street. The request has been approved by Chief Nace. Mr. McGowan thought that there were already two signs in the block. Mayor Perusso responded that Chief Nace had made a notation that there was only one sign in the block. The other sign must have been removed. Motion to approve request by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Verenna.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that bids for the Fisk Field project had been advertised on September 5, 2009 and September 12, 2009. 10 bid packets had been picked up as of this afternoon. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Bid openings will be held on Friday, October 2, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.

2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the bike path project had begun. Brush has been removed and the surveyors had stacked out most of the area. There is a problem below the swimming pool parking lot. People had been dumping all kinds of debris off the side of the parking lot. The debris has slid down the slope and landed on the bike path. Mr. Drake will be removing the debris off the path tomorrow. The contractors will be evening off the slope and applying a vegetative stabilizer on it to keep the dirt from sliding down the hill in the future. Prices for equipment and manpower will be provided to the Borough Engineer. The cost of the project will increase accordingly.

3. Mr. Schug has met with members of the Building and Grounds Committee of the library board. Mr. Schug has received a list of items that the board would like the Borough to consider doing. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the list with Council. No cost figures were provided to Council.

4. Ms. Lohrman has handed out the 2010 budget worksheets to all department heads. The requests are due back the first week in October.

5. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Rocco DelVecchio regarding the loan for the fire truck. The rate had been set for 5 years at 4.15%. The floor is 4.00% and the cap is 7.00%. The rate is up for renewal and Mr. DelVecchio is keeping the rate the same for the next five years. Therefore, the payment will stay the same for another five years. The loan was for 12 years and is scheduled to be paid off in 2016.

6. Ms. Lohrman has received paperwork from Mr. Drake regarding an account at Lafayette Bank for the memorials on Washington Blvd. Mr. Young had been in charge of the project, but he passed away several years ago. The account is dormant and may be escheated soon. Mr. Feinberg suggested moving the account to the Borough and having a line item for the expenses. The Public Works department takes care of the maintenance. Mayor Perruso added that there were no provisions made for adding more bricks. Ms. Lohrman will discuss the matter with Lafayette Bank.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mr. McGowan has been looking into finding a new grant writer for the Borough. Mr. McGowan has received two resumes. One of the applicants is more into marketing and the other is more than what we need. He has also spoken to Victor Rodite. He is trying to back out of grant writing and spend more time focusing on the administration of Two Rivers COG and the Slate Belt.

2. Mr. McGowan attended two meetings on the earned income collection changes. The more meetings he has attended, the more confusing the matter gets. In several areas, the school district collects the tax. The LST tax collection may also be changed. Mr. McGowan will be attending another meeting on September 23, 2009. The meeting to make the final decision will be held on October 22, 2009.

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins would like permission to hire Michael Kummer and William Ruch, Jr. pending favorable background checks. Chief Collins stated that they would be replacing one firefighter who left and another who has taken himself out of the schedule. Motion to approve request by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Ms. Lilly.

2. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that the Fire Arbitration Hearing will be held on September 24, 2009. The Borough will be represented by Mr. DeEsch.

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna informed Council that the Public Works Department is working on 15th Street. Mr. Drake added that they would be up to Northampton Street tomorrow.

2. Mr. Drake was requested to put no parking signs on the south side of Firmstone Street. He was

also directed to put up signs that parking is available at the Borough Garage. There will be no parking in front of the gas pumps.

3. Mr. Klass would like to initiate a traffic study. Mr. Feinberg responded that the Police Department could do the study. Ms. Lilly suggested including 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during football practice.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Drake mentioned that the pool is closed.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti has received a letter from the Forks Township Solicitor regarding the third installment of the excess sewer capacity that the Borough had sold them several years ago. Mr. Minotti is in possession of a Bill of Sale that needs to be signed by Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Lohrman. The payment is in the amount of \$330,000.00.

2. Mr. Minotti has received the deed from Attorney Thomas Walters for the Hay Terrace property the Borough received for the pumping station property. Mr. Minotti will record the deed and advance the Borough for the fees. Ms. Lohrman should receive the recorded deed in seven to ten days.

3. The final draft of the developer's agreement with the Wilson Area School District has been completed. The school district has forwarded executed copies to Mr. Feinberg. Whatever out of pocket expenses are incurred by the Borough, they will be reimbursed by the school district. Motion by Mr. Klass to authorized the execution of the agreement. Second by Mr. Verenna.

4. Mr. Minotti has been informed that the Tran vs Wilson Borough has been settled for \$18,700.00. The Borough's exposure is \$15,000.00. The Borough will be getting an Order shortly.

5. Mr. Minotti has been receiving information on an upcoming employment TEAM seminar sponsored by PSAB. The seminar is this week. Mr. Minotti is unable to attend, but thinks someone from the Borough should go and provide him with handouts. Ms. Lilly suggested Mr. DeEsch.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next meeting will be held on September 30, 2009 at the community center. No topic has been selected.

2. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next COG meeting will be at the community center on October 21, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received an estimate of \$340.00 for the treatment of clover at Meuser Park. Mr. Behler has spoken to the lawn care people and the clover should be treated in the fall of this year and again in spring prior to the pool opening up. Council will take the estimate under advisement.

2. Ms. Lohrman brought to Ms. Lilly's attention that the Rec Board May/June 2009 Treasurer's Report has the Deposits and Payments in the wrong column. She suggested have the report revised prior to this year's audit.

Ms. Lohrman inquired about a CD that is listed on the 2007/2008 Rec Board Financial Statement and was to be renewed in January, if it was actually renewed because it is not listed on the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Lilly responded that it was renewed. Ms. Lohrman suggested adding it on the report going forward.

Mr. Reiss inquired that if Rec Board had all this money, why did the parents have to pay \$50.00 for each child to attend the summer program. It had been free years ago. Ms. Lilly responded that Mr. Reiss should attend the Rec Board meeting on Thursday evening for an answer the question.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lilly suggested looking into other engineering firms. Proposals should be gotten from other firms for prices. The engineers are appointed every year. Mr. Reiss felt that the Borough gets what they pay for and our current engineers have saved the Borough money over the years.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$173,593.96 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Williams.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Second by Mr. Williams and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY