

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 22, 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
James McGowan
David Schug
Tony Verenna

Joan Lilly
Bob Reiss
Louis Starniri
David Williams

ABSENT:

James Klass

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the September 8, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Williams.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Brenda Fulmer of 135 S. 17th Street appeared before Council to discuss people being attacked in her area over the last few months. Ms. Fulmer felt that the Borough did not have enough Police on patrol in particular on the second and third shifts. Ms. Fulmer is concerned about her children being outside of her home. Mr. McGowan asked Ms. Fulmer how much money she was willing to pay for increase Police coverage. Ms. Fulmer felt that BlockWatch was nice, but people have jobs and do not have the time to help. Mr. Starniri added when Wilson Borough dropped Police service to West Easton, it had kept on the additional officer hire to cover the other municipality. Mayor Perruso will discuss the recent incidents with Chief Nace and will also discuss additional patrols in the area. Mayor Perruso also suggested that Ms. Fulmer talk to Ms. Howey after the meeting. Ms. Fulmer suggested Chief Nace report problems to Borough Council so they would be aware of what's going on in the neighborhoods.

2. Winnie Howey and Steve Koch from Blockwatch inquired about what was going on with the graffiti ordinance. BlockWatch supports the passage of the ordinance and would like it to be adopted. The City of Easton passed an ordinance in May 2008. Mr. Minotti responded that Council needs to determine what they wish to get out of the ordinance. Ms. Lohrman has received a copy of the ordinance and will give Mr. Minotti and Borough Council copies of Easton's ordinance for the next meeting. Council has previously discussed the purchase of the machine to remove the graffiti. Mr. McGowan stated that the Public Works Department already has pressure washers at the garage. Mr. Starniri reminded Council that they previously had questions regarding Borough employees going on private property to clean the graffiti and any penalties there would be if the graffiti was not cleaned up. Mr. Starniri felt that reviewing Easton's ordinance would be a good starting point for Borough Council. Mr. Koch reminded Council that pressure washers may cause damage to the paint and/or property. In those cases, painting with a primer may be a better way of removing the graffiti.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. An email was received by Tammy Wintermute requesting permission to hold a tricky tray/Chinese auction at the Strausser Community Center in November on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening to raise money for the Center for Animal Health and Welfare. Ms. Wintermute inquired whether Council would consider waiving the rental fee. Ms. Wintermute would welcome an organization such as the Lions to sell refreshments during the event. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that he personally would be paying the rental fee for the organization. The center has been booked for November 29, 2008.

2. Ms. Lohrman was copied an email from Brandy Rotz to Bob Bryant concerning the 24th Street bridge project. Ms. Rotz still has not received any comments on the TS&L report. She has been in contact with the Bridge Unit and has elevated the issue to the Contract Manager and the Assistant District Executive of Design on September 11, 2008. Ms. Rotz informed the Bridge Unit that if they did not respond soon, she would assume the design was acceptable as submitted and move forward. However, she would need the authorization of the Contract Manager before she could give this approval.

3. Ms. Lohrman has received one bid for a Housing Rehab project. Mr. Corriere responded that he

would like to hold off the bids until the next meeting as other contractors interested in the project had difficulty getting into the house to prepare a bid. The bid received was from S.J. Sawyer & Company for \$12,900.00.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received a letter informing him that the Police Department has filed for arbitration. Mr. Minotti must submit a name to the Police.
2. Mayor Perruso reminded Council that the bonfire will be held on Halloween. Council discussed various days and times for holding Trick or Treat. After listening to Council's input, Mayor Perruso scheduled Trick or Treat on Thursday, October 30, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Guth will put a notice in the newsletter.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has prepared the MMOs for the Fire Pension Plan and the Non-Uniform Plan. The MMO for the Fire Plan is \$0.00 and the MMO for the Non-Uniform Plan is \$30,700.57. Ms. Lohrman will use the figures when preparing the 2009 budget.
2. Ms. Lohrman requested a Caucus on a personnel matter.
3. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the second round of the Façade Grant program would begin next week. An informational seminar will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Strausser Community Center. Ms. Lohrman suggested Council members attend the event for additional information.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri informed Council that the committee has begun negotiating with Local 1914. Both Fire and Police have filed for arbitration.
2. Chief Collins informed Council that the mailing should be going out to the owners of rental properties by the end of the month. Registrations are due in the fourth quarter of 2008. Chief Collins will be putting information concerning the program in the newsletter.

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri informed Council that the committee will begin negotiating with the union shortly.

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. None

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti would like to meet with the committee after the Council meeting.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the MECAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at the Macungie Institute. Election of Officers will be held and the schedule for 2008 and 2009 will be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lilly expressed her dissatisfaction with Council considering modifying CDBG 2006 and taking \$38,000.00 from Housing Rehab and putting it towards the bocce courts. Ms. Lilly felt that there were many houses in the Borough that need some rehabilitation. Mr. Corriere has seven applications in the works and another 25 applications on file. Ms. Lilly felt it was a disservice to use the funds for a

project that only a few people will use. Mr. McGowan read a list of curb and sidewalk projects that were being funded through the county CDBG program. Mr. McGowan felt that this activity was a better use of the money. Mr. Starniri responded that the Borough had a \$350,000 HOME program grant that to start to use by November of this year or the funds would no longer be available. Mr. McGowan stated that the HOME program funds have to be paid back while the CDBG funds would not. The HOME program funds would eventually become self-generating.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lilly stated that she had a phone call about an incident involving the Public Works Department. Ms. Lohrman responded that it was a personnel matter and should be discussed in Caucus.
2. Ms. Lohrman has been informed that two of our Crossing Guards are no longer working for the Borough. Ms. Verba has received two applications for the positions. Chief Nace has favorably completed background checks on the individuals. Ms. Lohrman recommended to Council the hiring of Patricia Bleam and Roseanna Clyburn as part-time Crossing Guards. Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Reiss.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1159 – Approving Revision to the CDBG Program FFY 2006. Motion to approve by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Verenna. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Verenna. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug and Mr. Williams. Mayor Perruso cast the deciding affirmative vote. Resolution 1159 passed by a five to four vote.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$144,221.83 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Reiss.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY