

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 13, 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	James Klass
Joan Lilly	James McGowan
Bob Reiss	Louis Starniri
Tony Verenna	David Williams

ABSENT:

David Schug

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 22, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. John Lippincott of the 2100 block of Hay Street appeared before Council to inquire as to why the date of Trick or Treat was changed. Mayor Perruso responded that the date was changed because of the bonfire. Trick or Treat is scheduled for October 30, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The date and time were changed so the children of all ages could participate in the parade. Mr. Lippincott felt that a greater problem would be created by changing the date. He expects an influx of children from outside of Wilson Borough to come to the Borough's Trick or Treat. Mayor Perruso and Mr. McGowan responded that outsiders always come to Wilson to Trick or Treat. Mr. Klass added that the school district set the date of the bonfire.

2. Don Barrett informed Council that the Borough would better be served by spending the bocce court money on a skate board park. Council responded that a skate board park caused insurance problems. Other municipalities have them. Mr. Barrett would rather see the bocce money go to repair other people's house. While the Borough has applications for grants, not everyone will qualify. The Borough's HOME program funds can only be used for housing rehabilitation.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. An email has been received from Richard Kreil of 2238 Ferry Street requesting Council to consider providing a dog park for the residents of Wilson. Dogs are in the park for various events and the cost would be minimal. The Borough also has enough land for the park. Mr. McGowan responded that there was an article in the Borough Magazine discussing dog parks. It would cost around \$50,000 to purchase the necessary materials for park. He also questioned who would clean up after the dogs and also take care of the tick and flea problems.

2. Three bids were received for HOME program project HRH06-08. They are as follows:

Dutt Construction	\$16,700.00
Bianco Contracting	\$17,203.08
TDM Construction	\$22,500.00

Ms. Lohrman will forward the bids to the Housing Rehab committee for review.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the total fines collected by Judge Koury in August 2008 were \$6,559.10.

2. Mayor Perruso has received two applications for Handicapped Parking spots. The applications are from Jorge Luis Rodriguez of 2204 Ferry Street and Linda J. Neff of 1552 ½ Northampton Street. Chief Nace has approved both applications. Motion to approve the Handicapped Parking spots by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Klass.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received a call from Jay from the DCNR. He asked about the status of the bike path. Ms. Lohrman responded that the DCNR has had a set of plans to review for the last year and the Borough was waiting for the DCNR to approve the plans before beginning the bike path construction. Jay indicated that it was correct. Ms. Lohrman added that the Borough had planned to complete the project once the DCNR approved the plans. Ms. Lohrman is waiting a call back from the DCNR.

2. Ms. Lohrman has received an email from Bob Bryant, the Borough's Engineer for the 24th Street bridge project. His Bridge Department is suggesting that they propose the PennDot to change the project to a Design Build project where both the bridge option and the box culvert option would be bid by contractors. The Borough and PennDot would see the actual prices for each option. This process should expedite the design process. Motion to approve changing the project to a Design Build by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Reiss.

3. Ms. Lohrman has received a letter from Craig Swinsburg, Director of Engineering of Easton Suburban Water Authority, is requesting the Borough perform the necessary inspection of the pavement restoration work for their recent street opening project. Ms. Lohrman had requested Mr. Drake meet with Mr. Swinsburg to inspect the road repairs. Mr. Drake did meet with Mr. Swinsburg, but did not provide Ms. Lohrman with a report on the repairs. Ms. Lohrman will defer matter to the next Council meeting. Mr. McGowan added that the funds were to be held for a period of two years after the pavement restoration work was completed.

4. Ms. Lohrman has been in contact with the PADEP in regards to the Borough's CY 2006 recycling grant application. The Borough has three deficiencies. The first item regards illegal dumping and/or littering program. The Borough has the proper dumping and littering ordinances in order. The county has also given the Borough a grant for trash cans in high traffic areas. The cans have been placed at various locations. The Public Works employees will empty the cans. The second item can be removed if the Borough mandates commercial recycling in the ordinance. Currently only residential recycling is mandated. Ms. Lohrman requested permission from Council to authorize Mr. Minotti to review the recycling ordinance to have commercial recycling mandatory. Many Borough businesses do recycle, but it is not mandatory. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly. The third item is more complicated. The Borough does not have a place to recycle shrubbery and tree trimmings. Mr. Klass thought that the Borough could put a place near Fisk Field, but the problem would be where to take the debris after the Borough collected it. The county is working on a site several miles from here. The Borough may be able to take the material there once it's open. The PADEP will be trying to help the Borough with a place to take the material after it's collected.

5. The Steering Committee of the Borough Revitalization Program has sent out an RFP for proposals for a SWOT analysis. Eight or nine letters of interest were received and two interviews were conducted. The committee recommends the appointment of Swiger Consulting, Inc. of Stroudsburg to perform the analysis. The county will be providing a grant to the Borough in the amount of \$19,000 for the project. The remainder of approximately \$10,000.00 will be paid out of CDBG Administration funds. Motion to appoint Swiger Consulting, Inc. to perform the SWOT analysis by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Feinberg.

6. Ms. Lohrman contacted the five actuarial firms whose names were provided by PFM Advisors. Four of the firms provided proposals. After reviewing the proposals and discussing them with Mr. Minotti, Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Lohrman would like to hire Beyer-Barber Company of Allentown to provide the needed actuarial services. Mr. Minotti had stated that the Borough had previously used Beyer-Barber prior to using Mr. Lister and there had not been any problems. Motion to approve the appointment of Beyer-Barber as Borough actuaries by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

7. Ms. Lohrman requested a Caucus on a personnel matter.

8. Ms. Lohrman received the Police budget today. She hopes to have the first budget proposal to Council on Friday, October 17, 2008. Mr. Klass has two additions to the Park budget.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri requested a Caucus for Police and Fire to discuss on-going contract negotiations.

2. Chief Collins has been in contact with Air Cleaning System regarding the exhaust system for the fire garage. Chief Collins has spoken to eight reference and all are happy with the system. The filter system costs \$44,000 and can be purchased through COSTARS at a 10% discount. The funds can come from the LST account. Motion to purchase the filter system by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a seven to one vote.

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Behler informed council that the 1500 and 1600 blocks of Liberty Street and S. 17th Street have been milled. A coat will be put on Liberty Street this week. Blacktopping will begin next week.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass presented the Pool Report. Mr. Verenna verified that the pool showed an overall deficit of \$84,000.00. Mr. Reiss felt that the refreshment stand should be making a profit, but it continues to lose money. Various topics were discussed including the pool management, capital items purchased, and the refreshment stand.

ATTORNEY:

None

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting will be held on October 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Stockertown. The Open Records Law will be discussed. The following meeting will be held on January 28, 2009 in Monroe County. Wilson Borough will be hosting the April 22, 2009 meeting.

COG:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next COG meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Williams Township. Two of the topics to be discussed are multi-municipal planning and the disposal of yard waste.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Minotti stated that the graffiti ordinance from the City of Easton follows the state statute. Charges for the violation of the ordinance are included in the ordinance. The ordinance gives the Police Department full jurisdiction. The municipality can offer to remove the graffiti. Mr. Minotti felt it was up to Council what they wished to do. Mr. Starniri made a Motion to authorize Mr. Minotti to draw up an ordinance along the same lines that the City of Easton has and prepare it to be advertised. Mr. McGowan objected that Council should take some time to study the ordinance. Mr. Feinberg responded that Council had been discussing the topic for several months. Mr. Verenna made a Second to Mr. Starniri's Motion. Motion to authorize Mr. Minotti to proceed with the graffiti ordinance by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast: Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly and Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a five to three vote. Mr. Klass had several questions regarding what was to be removed, was additional equipment being purchased and how was it going to be paid for. Mr. Klass' questions were addressed. Ms. Lilly stated that she did not have the other documents concerning the ordinance that had been in previous packets.

2. Mr. Feinberg inquired if Council would like to modify the CDBG funds for 2007 and 2008. All the funds were designated to the ladder truck and Fisk Field. Council did not indicate that they would like to make any changes to the activities.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$117,027.33 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Verenna.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Second by Mr. Verenna and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY