

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTOBER 27, 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  
Joan Lilly  
Bob Reiss  
Tony Verenna

James Klass  
James McGowan  
Louis Starniri  
David Williams

ABSENT:

David Schug

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the October 13, 2008 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Dan Redington, Director of Mary Meuser Library, appeared before Council to provide them with an update on what has been happening at the library. Mr. Redington supplied Council members with the 2007 Annual Director's Report. Meuser Library has been designated a Family Place library. The library provides playtime and pre-library activities. The Board has approved the 2009 budget proposal. They hope that Borough Council will approve the budget increase requested. The Board would like to address several building issues. Any questions regarding the budget proposal should be directed to Mr. Redington.

2. Norman Shafer of 18<sup>th</sup> and Ferry Streets appeared before Council to express his dismay that Council had passed the rental inspection ordinance. He felt that the ordinance and the fees were out of line and that he was not properly notified that the ordinance was being discussed. Mr. Feinberg responded that Council had been discussing the ordinance for six months, it had properly advertised in the newspaper and it was also displayed on the Borough's website. Mr. Shafer stated that he was not provided with a copy of the ordinance. Mr. Shafer had not requested one from the Borough office. He felt that the ordinance was unfair. Mr. Starniri stated that Council had passed the ordinance because many of the landlords in Wilson Borough were not as responsible as he was and Council felt that they must act in order to provide safe housing for the residents.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Borough Council has received a request from Joe Pokojni of the Northampton County Detachment Marine Corps Leagues requesting permission to put a "Toys for Tots" banner in Meuser Park from November 15, 2008 to December 18, 2008. The banner will be made by Coca-Cola and will be 3 feet by 8 feet in size. Ms. Lohrman added that Council had honored their request for the same last year. Motion by Mr. Reiss to allow the banner in Meuser Park. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. A letter was received from Harold and Carole Helm requesting \$828.10 in reimbursements for a sewer backup in the main that occurred on September 27, 2008. The reimbursements are for Roto-Rotor and Purofirst bills. Ms. Lohrman checked with Mr. Behler when the letter arrived. Mr. Behler verified that the sewer line had been clogged with tree roots and the main was opened by the Borough. Mr. Behler added that this particular line was not a problem area.

3. Ms. Lohrman has received a letter from Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority requesting payment of \$5,031.34 in additional payment following the 2007 audit for the sewer authority. The Borough would not be receiving a rebate. Mr. McGowan stated that the additional funds requested were on the capital side. He will be meeting with them again. Ms. Lohrman added that she is paying the 2<sup>nd</sup> Debt Service and the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Operating and Capital billing after this Council meeting. She had to transfer funds from the Lafayette Reserve account to make the \$272,000.00 payments and did not have the additional funds in the account to pay the \$5,000.00. Ms. Lohrman will pay the additional amount when she receives it.

#### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the total fines received from Judge Koury in September were \$7,853.92.
2. Mayor Perruso received a phone call from Varsity W requesting the use of the refreshment stand at the Avona Field during the bonfire. Mayor Perruso stated that Varsity W was told that they could not use the stand. Ms. Lilly responded that she also received a call and told Varsity W that she thought that the water may be turned off. Mayor Perruso stated that he had checked with Mr. Drake and the water had not been turned off. Ms. Lohrman verified that she had not signed the authorization to have the meter removed. Ms. Lilly stated that the school district had a key to the building. Ms. Lilly also added that baseball had not cleaned their stuff out of the refreshment stand. Mr. Verenna offered to discuss the matter with Bob Milositz, President of the Wilson Baseball Association.

#### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that she had met with Bill Hildebrant, the Borough's new actuary. Ms. Lohrman supplied Mr. Hildebrant with previous years Act 205 reports, MMOs, fund statements and pension ordinances. Mr. Hildebrant assisted Ms. Lohrman in the preparation of the 2009 MMO for the Police Pension plan. The amount is \$26,526.50 and it has been placed in the 2009 budget worksheets. Mr. Hildebrant will be contacting Mr. Minotti to review the pension ordinances and discuss updates need to it. Mr. Hildebrant will also contact Mr. Kunsman about the preparation of new reports requested by the Auditor General at audit time. He has also contacted Mr. Lister to discuss the release of personnel records that he is in possession of. Ms. Lohrman may have to put the request in writing before the records will be released.
2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Borough had a CD in the amount of slightly over \$1,000,000.00 at Merchants of Bangor that matures on October 29, 2008. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the rates she had received for a like term from Merchants of Bank, Lafayette Bank, and PLGIT. Ms. Lohrman had requested a rate from KNBT- National Penn Bank, but did not receive a quote. Ms. Lohrman reminded Council that Merchants and Lafayette Bank would not penalize the Borough for an early withdraw if the money was being taken out for a need. Motion by Mr. McGowan to keep the money at Merchants of Bangor for a 1 year term at an APY of 4.05%. Second by Mr. Starniri.
3. Ms. Lohrman presented Borough Council with the first draft of the 2009 budget. She noted that the cash available was preliminary and she would have a better handle on it in the next week or two. Ms. Lohrman has not received the updated assessment from the county. It usually arrives the first week in November. Mr. Feinberg called a budget meeting for Council to discuss the 2009 budget on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Lohrman will properly advertise the meeting.
4. Ms. Lohrman has finally received the contract for the \$19,000.00 economic development planning grant with Northampton County. Ms. Lohrman and Mr. Feinberg have reviewed the contract and have several questions. One of them involves the grant period of October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. The SWOT analysis takes six to nine months to do and there is not any way that the county can have a paid invoice and a copy of the report when it may not be completed until next summer. Ms. Davis is looking into the matter. Ms. Lohrman requested authorization for Mr. Minotti to review the contract. Council had no objections to Ms. Lohrman's request.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

##### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

##### FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri requested a Caucus to discuss on-going negotiations with Local 1914.

##### POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri requested a Caucus to discuss on-going negotiations with Wilson Borough Police Association.

##### PUBLIC WORKS:

None

##### PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Ms. Lilly inquired about the status of the Recreation Building. The building is owned by the Borough, but is situated on school district property. Ms. Lilly is concerned that the school district may take the land. Mayor Perruso responded that the Borough built the building. The school district has not been willing to agree to a lease. Mr. Reiss responded that the school district has been very cooperative

over the last few years and Council should not complain. Mr. Klass reminded everyone that the use of school district facilities are paid for. They are not free of charge.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti has supplied Council with a draft of the graffiti ordinance. Ms. Lilly inquired about the machine that had been discussed for the removal of graffiti. Mr. Feinberg has spoken to a local representative who deals in the machines. He has two machines. A used machine would cost \$7,000.00 and a new machine would cost \$9,000.00. It is possible that the Borough could trade-in the two old machines and lower the cost. The psi is adjustable. Mr. McGowan stated that the Borough did not need to purchase a new machine and they already had two of them. Mr. Feinberg responded that in order to remove the graffiti, heat and chemicals were needed. The new machine will have a boiler attached. The old machines did not. Mr. McGowan felt the purchase of the new machine was a waste of money. Mr. Klass questioned the cost of the graffiti removal. If the homeowner agrees to allow the Borough to remove the graffiti, it would be done at no cost. However, if the homeowner will not agree to have the Borough remove it, then the homeowner may have to pay to have it remove it. Mr. Starniri stated that he would not want to make a property owner the victim twice. Motion by Mr. Williams to advertise the graffiti ordinance. Second by Mr. Reiss. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passed by a seven to one vote.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council MECAB had met last Wednesday night. Barry Pax reviewed information concerning the Right to Know Act. The Borough should appointment an Open Records Officer and one or two other people to work on requests when the Officer is not there. Mr. Minotti will be attending a seminar by Judge Simpson in a few weeks. He will provide an outline to Council after the seminar.

COG:

1. COG had a meeting on October 15, 2008. Ms. Otis presented information on a yard waste study. Mr. McGowan has received information on a possible proposal. If one takes a load in, one must take a load out. Participants can buy containers and they will pick the materials up. Mr. McGowan felt that the rates were reasonable.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg felt that the Borough should consider billing sewerage on a per unit scale instead of a block unit price. Mr. Feinberg requested Council to consider it and put it in effect next year. Ms. Lilly requested numbers. Mr. McGowan felt it would be a slightly fairer system. He felt it would cost approximately \$2.83 a unit.

2. Mr. Starniri has received information on the Weed to Seed program that Officer Shull had attended. Mr. Starniri will give the information to Ms. Lohrman if anyone wishes to review it.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$650,124.16 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Reiss.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Verenna made a Motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

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KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY