

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
NOVEMBER 10, 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
Bob Reiss
Louis Starniri
David Williams

James Klass
James McGowan
David Schug
Tony Verenna

ABSENT:

None

Also present were: Mayor David S. Perruso, Solicitor Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Chief Michael Collins and Assistant Superintendent Ron Behler

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the October 27, 2008 Council Meeting were approved with one correction. Mr. McGowan stated that the cost of \$2.83 per unit was for water not sewerage. The cost per unit of sewerage would be closer to \$4.00 per unit. Motion to approve the minutes with the correction by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Starniri.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Anna Lagler, Manager of Lafayette Towers and Washington Court Apartments, appeared before Council to discuss a possible reduction of the Residential Rental Property license fee. The apartment buildings have a considerable vacancies and the company is in a financial bind. The company pays for all utilities except cable and telephone. Mr. Feinberg responded that Borough Council has not given anyone else a reduction in the fee. Ms. Lagler felt that paying \$55.00 per apartment was excessive. Council was not willing to make any exceptions.

2. Joe Murgia of 2708 Farmersville Road received a call from Dick Wamsley regarding an apartment he had advertised for rental in the Treasure Hunt. Mr. Murgia applauded the three people in the Code Department for going after absentee landlords. Mr. Murgia is in favor of the Residential Rental Property Inspection Ordinance.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Ms. Lohrman reminded the Police Pension Board that there would be a face to face meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. A representative from PFM Advisors will be attending the meeting to answer questions on the portfolio.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perusso reminded Council that the Veteran's Day parade would be held tomorrow, November 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received a subscription letter for the Pennsylvania Borough News. All Council members, Mayor Perruso and Mr. Minotti wish to continue their subscriptions.

2. Ms. Lohrman has met with Mr. Kunsman in order to prepare for the 2008 audit. The Borough has a contract with Kunsman and Company to perform the 2008 audit. Mr. Kunsman has prepared a Letter of Engagement to perform the 2009, 2010 and 2011 audit for a fee of \$15,000.00. Ms. Lohrman has not heard back from Goodman and Company concerning its interest in performing the audit going forward. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to execute the agreement with David Kunsman and Company. Second by Ms. Lilly.

3. Ms. Lohrman has met with a representative from LA Fitness concerning having a corporate membership for the employees. Ms. Lohrman stated that representatives from the fire department had met with LA Fitness and a few employees may be interested. Ms. Lohrman was provided with an enrollment agreement with LA Fitness. The company is willing to reduce the membership rate, but the

monthly fee is the same for everyone. Ms. Lohrman will be required to notify the staff of the date and time a representative from LA Fitness will be on site for sign ups. Six employees must enroll to receive the reduced membership fee. Borough Council was not interested in participating in the corporate membership. Enrollment will be up to the individual employee.

4. Ms. Lohrman has been in contact with our insurance carrier regarding the possible increase in the Police Liability coverage. The Borough's carrier is not willing to increase the coverage, but the General Liability carrier is willing to increase the coverage to \$5,000,000 with shared coverage between Police Liability and General Liability. The premium would be \$19,036.00. If the Borough decided in favor of the increase, there would be a refund on the Police Liability policy. The Borough would lose a small Killed in Service coverage if it changed coverage. Ms. Lohrman was directed to get the provisions of the policy in writing for Mr. Minotti to review.

5. Ms. Lohrman provided Borough Council with a revised draft of the 2009 budget. With the change in assessment, the deficit is approximately \$98,000.00. There will be an additional budget meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

6. Ms. Lohrman requested permission to close the Borough Office on Black Friday, November 28, 2008 as has been done in the past. Employees will use their Personal Day in compensation for the time off. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.

7. Ms. Lohrman has received a request from P.J. Lehman, 24th Street Bridge Engineers, for a six month extension. Motion to approve request by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. McGowan.

8. When balancing the Merchants of Bangor Sewer Reserve account, Ms. Lohrman discovered that the interest rate had dropped to 0.07%. Ms. Lohrman contacted Diane Murphy about the account. The Borough could transfer the funds to a Money Market account which is paying 1.85%. Merchants Bank is also offering a 16 month CD at an APY of 3.90%. Ms. Lilly requested that Ms. Lohrman see what the other banks are paying on money market accounts and report back at the next Council meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri requested a Caucus to discuss the progress of contract negotiations with the Police and Fire departments.

2. Chief Collins informed Council that the installation of the exhaust system had begun today.

3. Mr. Starniri informed Council that Chief Collins was in the process of obtaining QRS status. There is not a cost to the department receive it. There is grant funds available for equipment and supplies for those departments who receive the status. It will take approximately 45 days to complete the process.

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Verenna inquired about the status of getting prices for the graffiti machine. Mr. Behler was not aware of the status, but Mr. Feinberg has received a few prices and is working on obtaining a trade in price.

2. Mr. Verenna would like to meet with Mr. Behler at the community center to discuss several maintenance issues.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti has reviewed the contract with the Northampton County DCED for planning services. Mr. Minotti questioned the length the contract. Ms. Lohrman stated that she had questioned the contract periods and was informed that although one month had passed before the Borough had received the contract and it was due to expire in December, the county was not willing to change the dates. The county is also aware that the project will take at least six months to complete. Mr. Minotti was concerned about the working on page 6 on having a good a marketable title to the premises. Ms. Lohrman responded that the Borough was contracting services not property. Ms. Lohrman will contact the county for clarification.

2. Mr. Minotti stated that it is his opinion that the Borough will not pay for damages for sewer backups. The invoices should be sent to the Helms' insurance carrier. Mr. Minotti will notify the Helms in writing of his opinion. Mr. Starniri stated that the Borough has encouraged Borough residents to purchase sewerage backup and sinkhole riders to their insurance policies.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that MECAB and COG would not meet again until January, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

1. Ordinance 745 – Graffiti Ordinance. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Verenna and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. McGowan and Mr. Schug. Ordinance 745 passed by a seven to two vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$41,364.52 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Verenna. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Reiss made a Motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Second by Mr. Feinberg and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY