

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
JULY 9, 2007

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, President	James Klass
Joan Lilly	Ronald Nixon
James McGowan	David Williams

ABSENT:

Bob Reiss, David Schug, Louis Starniri

Also present were: Mayor David Perruso, Attorney Louis Minotti, Chief Michael Collins, Code Enforcement Officer Paul R. Corriere, Superintendent Greg Drake

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the June 11, 2007 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan . Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Shahara Shorter of 2201 Fairview Avenue and Thomas Pettibone appeared before Council to discuss a problem with Ms. Shorter's automobile that was stolen on October 27, 2006. The automobile was recovered on South Side by the Easton Police on November 13, 2006. Easton Auto Body towed the vehicle to their facility. Ms. Shorter was never notified that her vehicle was found until May 17, 2007. Easton Auto Body had originally charged Ms. Shorter \$5,700.00 in fees, but has lowered them to \$800.00. Ms. Shorter is willing to pay for the towing fee, but cannot afford paying the remainder of the fees. Mayor Perruso responded that he had spoken to Chief Nace about the matter. Chief Nace was going to talk to Easton Auto Body about the fees. Mayor Perruso has not been able to determine the outcome of the conversation as Chief Nace is on vacation today. Ms. Lilly questioned who should be responsible for the fees. Mr. Minotti responded that he would need more information before he could determine who is responsible for the oversight. Mayor Perruso will continue to look into the matter and someone from the Borough will get back to Ms. Shorter.

2. Roland Brodt of 1841 Fairview Avenue appeared before Council to discuss property maintenance problems at 1849 Fairview Avenue. The roof is in disrepair with slates falling off of it. The tree in the backyard has limbs coming off of it. The grass is not cut and there is garbage on the property. Mr. Corriere has been contacted and he has spoken to the property owner without much success. The owner is low income and appears to have difficulty making repairs. Mr. Brodt has offered to help trim the tree, but the owner has declined the offer. Mr. McGowan suggested having the property owner apply for a housing rehab grant, but there were questions whether the owner would complete the application or qualify for the grant. Council suggested to Mr. Brodt that he could take the property owner to Judge Koury to recoup the cost for the repairs he has made to his property from the damage her home has done to his. Mr. Minotti felt that the tree matter was a civil matter. Mr. Corriere will stop at the property again and give the property owner 15 days to fix the property maintenance violations or be cited by Judge Koury.

3. Lou Mammano, a 22 year resident of 2402 Victor Street, appeared before Council about two families on his block that double park for 15 to 30 minutes at a time on Victor Street. The street is one-way with parking on one side of the street. Emergency vehicles are unable to get through. Cars have to go up on the curb to get through the street. The police have been called on several occasions, but the cars are moved prior to the police getting on site. The vehicles are also honking horns at all hours of the day and night. The problem stems from 2403 Victor Street and 2405 Victor Street. Mayor Perruso will talk to Chief Nace and have him address the situation.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from Mary Meuser Memorial Library requesting permission to close N. 18th Street from Northampton Street to the alley from 1:00 p.m. on September 7, 2007 to 5:00 p.m. on September 9, 2007 for the annual Book Fair. In the event of rain, the Book Fair will be held the following weekend. Motion by Mr. McGowan to approve the street closure. Second by Mr. Nixon. Ms. Lohrman was requested to send letters to Dr. Schoeppner and Dr. Silberman.

2. A letter was received from Sharhara Shorter concerning her stolen vehicle. The matter was

discussed under Presentation of Matters by Persons Present.

3. A letter was received from Mary Meuser Memorial Library informing the Borough that Pamela Fehnel has resigned from the Library Board. Mr. Redington requested that the Borough extend their appreciation to Ms. Fehnel for her commitment to the library and requested an appointment to the Board to replace Ms. Fehnel. Motion by Mr. McGowan to accept the resignation of Ms. Fehnel from the Library Board and send a letter of appreciation. Second by Ms. Lilly.

4. A letter was received last year from Larry Kleinhans of 145 Browns Drive requesting an appointment to the Library Board. Mr. Kleinhans letter was kept on file until an opening has become available. Motion by Ms. Lilly to appoint Larry Kleinhans to the Library Board. Second by Mr. Nixon.

5. A letter was received from Mary Wendland, Chairperson for the 1900 Block of Fairview Avenue Block Party, requesting permission to close the 1900 block of Fairview Avenue on Saturday, September 1, 2007 for a Block Party. Motion to approve the street closure by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. McGowan.

6. A letter was received from David Daiello of 2750 Victoria Lane requesting a refund for pool passes purchased on June 22, 2007. Mr. Daiello has requesting a refund due to an incident which occurred at the pool on June 26, 2007. Ms. Lohrman had provided Council members with a copy of the police report on the incident. Motion by Mr. Klass to approve the \$145.00 pool pass refund. Ms. Lilly expressed her concern that Borough Council may be setting a precedent if a refund was granted. Second by Mr. Williams. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Williams, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Nixon. A Negative vote was cast by Ms. Lilly. Motion carried by a five to one vote.

7. A letter was received from Memorial United Church of Christ requesting permission to close Forest Street on Saturday, July 21, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. so the Youth Group could hold a car wash as a fund raiser. Motion to approve street closure by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Nixon.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that the fines collected by Judge Koury in May were \$5,441.59.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Greater Shiloh Church in regards to the Gospelfest the church had requested to be held on August 25, 2007 at Meuser Park. Ms. Lohrman explained to the church that a portion of the park had already been rented on August 25th. Ms. Lohrman informed the church that the Borough would have to be supplied with appropriate insurance coverage and possible police coverage at the park. The church was agreeable as they were holding a similar event in Phillipsburg. Greater Shiloh Church has requested the Gospelfest be held on September 15, 2007. Motion by Ms. Lilly to approve the request as long as the church meets all the requirements set forth by the Borough. Second by Mr. Nixon.

2. Ms. Lohrman provided Council members with information from the Two Rivers COG regarding a recent ruling by the FCC concerning new video providers filing applications to municipalities to provide cable television to residents. Verizon does not feel it needs to negotiate with each municipality as the other cable television providers had done in the past. PSAB was involved in this issue last year and the Borough had passed a resolution stating their position.

3. Ms. Lohrman supplied Council members with information concerning the Public Records Right to Know Law that Mr. Feinberg had received from PSAB at last month's conference. Mr. Feinberg requested Mr. Minotti to review the information. Mr. Minotti will review the information, but did not initially feel that Council would need to adopt a resolution to adopt the law.

4. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Met-Ed regarding the outdoor area lighting letter the Borough had received several weeks ago. The lights in question are attached to poles near the Community Center. One of the poles is in the middle of the pool parking lot and the other is near the center. Had both poles not had transmission lines on them, Met-Ed could have transferred the poles to the Borough. However, both poles have transmission lines on them. The Borough will have to have an electrician remove the lights and find an alternative place for the lights and then have them metered. Ms. Lilly felt it would be cost effective to move the lights now. As the Borough has until 2012 to remove the sodium vapor lights, Council felt the matter could wait until sometime in the future to move the lights.

5. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Council Chambers has been repainted. The roof continues to leak in Chambers, in the Fire Department garage, and now in Mr. Corriere's office. Mr. Feinberg has contacted a roofer twice about fixing the roof. Ms. Lohrman also informed Council that there is still mold on the motion detector in Council Chambers. Ms. Lohrman has contacted the mold remediation company and they will be coming this week to look at the mold.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins requested permission to hire Mike Smith and Kyle Garis as part-time fire fighters. Both applicants have been interviewed and recommended by the committee. Motion to hire Mr. Smith and Mr. Garis by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Nixon.

2. Brad Harron invited Borough Council to attend and participate in the IAFF FireOps 101 program to be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mack South Fire Station on Lehigh Street in Allentown. All local and state government officials in the surrounding area will be invited to participate. The day long event will allow the officials to experience a day in the life of a firefighter. Mr. Harron will attend the next Council meeting to see if anyone is interested in attending. Questions prior to the next Council meeting can be directed to Mr. Harron or Mr. Rogers.

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass informed Council that there was a problem with a refrigerator at the pool. The Borough may need to purchase a new one. Motion by Mr. Klass to replace the refrigerator if Mr. Drake cannot fix it. Second by Mr. Nixon. The ice machine was discussed. It will be paid out of pool renovations. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Nixon. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly and Mr. McGowan.

2. Ms. Lilly requested a list of pool employees be supplied to Council for review and approval. Mr. Klass will supply Council a list at the next meeting.

SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. Minotti receive a call from Karl Kline, solicitor of Forks Township, requesting a meeting to discuss the possible purchase of sewer capacity. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that member municipalities had the first rights to purchase any available capacity that would be for sale. Mr. Feinberg added that Forks Township had voted to purchase the 9,250 gallons that the Borough had offered to sell to Bethlehem Township several weeks ago. Mr. Feinberg felt that several of the supervisors were not in favor of purchase additional capacity. The current price of sewer capacity is \$8.00 per gallon. Mr. Feinberg appointed himself, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Minotti to meet with the representative of Forks Township. Mr. McGowan added that he thought that it was better for the members of the authority to sell to other members because of issues with the debt service. Mr. Minotti will set up a meeting with Forks Township.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan reminded Council that MECAB was on summer hiatus and will start up again in September.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that he had attended an EAJSA Engineering Committee meeting last week. The meeting was held to discuss the infiltration problem in West Easton. The Borough of West Easton has a sewer allocation of 200,000 gallons per day, but are actually using 400,000 gallons per day. The engineers for the sewer authority told West Easton that they must aggressively resolve their infiltration problem. The Engineering Committee will make this recommendation to the Board meeting next week. Any and all development in West Easton will be stifled until the infiltration issue is resolved.

2. Ms. Lilly inquired whether the Borough would be interested in paying the cost of the Shorter vehicle at Easton Auto Body. Mr. Minotti responded that it was premature to place any blame on our Police Department. Mr. McGowan questioned whether the Easton Police Department was not at fault.

3. Ms. Lilly inquired about the status of the restrooms in the municipal building. Mr. Drake made a recommendation to open up the restrooms and make one unisex, handicapped bathroom. Motion by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Klass. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Nixon. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Mr. Drake will begin the project in the fall.

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$62,187.41 paid and bills paid on June 25, 2007 in the amount of \$91,146.29 were ratified on a Motion by Mr. Nixon. Second by Mr. Williams.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Second by Mr. Nixon and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY