

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 27, 2006

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. President Feinberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg, President	James Klass
Joan A. Lilly	James McGowan
Bob Reiss	David Schug
Louis Starniri	

ABSENT:

Daneen McGinley, Ronald Nixon

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 13, 2006 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Schug.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from Daniel Redington, Director of Mary Meuser Library, requesting the reappointment of Richard A. Siebler, Thomas J. Schuyler, and Joseph Grollman to the Library Board. The Library Board members' terms expired in December 2005.
2. A letter was received from Cornelio Catena, President and CEO of Easton Hospital, requesting the installation of a street light on S. 20th Street between Fairview Avenue and Lehigh Streets. The request is being made for safety issues.
3. A letter was received from Al Loomis of Benecon informing the Borough of new HIPPA Security Rules that will become effective for group health plans. The Rules are federally mandated and concern health information of our employees that the Borough receives. The Borough is required to conduct a Risk Assessment and create a written Security Management Plan. Ms. Lohrman requested permission to contact Benecon in regard to the Security Program.
4. A letter was received from Rep. Bob Freeman, Rep. Richard Grucela, and Senator Rob Wonderling concerning a meeting with local officials from the Easton area for an informational meeting on the provision and benefits of Act 67 of 2000 (Joint Municipal Comprehensive Planning) and to explore the options of such a planning process for our region. The meeting will be held on March 1, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kirby Hall of Civil Rights on the campus of Lafayette College.
5. Ms. Lohrman has received a telephone call from David McGuckin of PennDot. Mr. McGuckin acknowledged receiving the Borough's letter concerning the review of the 24th Street bridge. Mr. McGuckin stated that the central office schedules projects for the bridge unit. Since the collapse of a bridge in western Pennsylvania, the office has dictated that all the bridges of the same type will be reviewed. These bridges have priority over all other projects. Mr. McGuckin did not know when the bridge unit would review the Borough's project.
6. Ms. Lohrman has received the Agreement for the Use of Polling Place from Northampton County. The Primary Election is May 16, 2006 and the General Election is November 7, 2006.
7. A letter was received from Ronald C. Carr, Principal of D'Huy Engineering, Inc., requesting Borough Council to consider removing the 2-hour parking limitations on the north side of the 1900 block of Northampton Street. Cadmus Specialty Publications is expanding their facility and feels additional locations for parking would be very beneficial to the operations of Cadmus. There is not significant area remaining in the front of the building to accomplish that.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso reported receiving \$7,166.61 in fines collected by Judge Koury.

2. Mayor Perruso informed Council that Chief Nace had only received two quotes for the additional security cameras for the municipal building. One quote was slightly under \$10,000.00 and the other was slightly over \$10,000.00. Mr. Minotti directed the Borough to put the equipment out for bid. Chief Nace felt it may be difficult to get bids as the Borough had just put \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 in new equipment and it may not be compatible with what the Borough had just purchased. Chief Nace will prepare the specs for the bid.

3. Mayor Perruso felt that the 1900 block for Northampton Street did need available parking during lunch hours for the jewelry store, Betty's and the hair dresser. Mr. Starniri stated that maybe the engineer could design the addition in a different manner or use the parking lot of the east or west side of the plant. Motion by Mr. Starniri to deny the request and keep the parking limited. Second by Ms. Lilly.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Borough had received a lease purchase agreement for the air packs for the fire department which had been approved at the last Council meeting. Ms. Lohrman had discussed with matter with Mr. Feinberg. He had felt that the Borough may wish to reconsider and pay the full amount for the air packs this year. The shortage in the amount budget was approximately \$20,000.00. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the figures discussed in the Public Hearing. Ms. Lilly suggested taking the \$20,000.00 from the EMST account. Motion to use the EMST account to fund the difference by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly. Chief Collins informed Council that the quote for the accountability system was significantly lower than the actual cost and the purchase is off the table.

2. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the damage to a light pole which occurred in late September. After Ms. Lohrman received the accident report and the invoices for the pole's repair, Ms. Lohrman submitted the information to the Borough's insurance company. The claim was denied as the light poles are not scheduled property on the Declarations pages. Ms. Lohrman has written a letter to the owner of the vehicle requesting reimbursement for the damages, but has not received any response. Mr. Minotti stated that an action could be placed against her. The claim could be turned over to the owner's insurance company, but the company was not listed on the accident report. Motion to turn the matter over to Mr. Minotti by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Reiss. Ms. Lohrman was directed to contact Brown & Brown Insurance about the matter and discuss what else may not be covered and what the cost would be to add the coverage.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins reminded Council that the NIMS training would be held on Monday, March 20, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the community center.

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

POLICE:

1. Chief Nace informed Council that the Civil Service Commission had completed the testing for the Police department. The list is completed and posted. None of the top three candidates has military service. All three candidates would be eligible for a position would one become available. Mr. Klass suggested setting up a procedure before the selection process would be needed. Mr. Klass suggested having Mayor Perruso, Chief Nace, and a member of Council interview the candidates when the time comes and make a recommendation to Council. Mr. McGowan and Mr. Starniri felt that the Borough was being premature discussing the matter. Motion by Mr. Klass to use the suggested committee. Second by Mr. Reiss. Affirmative votes were Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Mr. Reiss and Mr. Schug. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Starniri. Motion carried by a four to three vote.

2. Mr. Klass has received information on a seminar on Civil Service rules and regulations. Mr. Klass would like to contact the other members of the commission to see if they are interested in attending.

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass requested permission to proceed with the basketball, tennis and handball courts. Mr. Minotti stated that the Borough would need to bid the project out. Motion to proceed with the refurbishing of the courts by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Reiss.

SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. Minotti has just received two letters from the solicitor of West Easton. As the Council has not had the opportunity to review the information prior to tonight's meeting, Mr. Minotti would like to defer the discussion until the next meeting. Mr. Minotti will respond after the Borough has discussed the matter.

2. Mr. Minotti presented an overview of the Steven J. matter. The Borough has received received an Order of Court granting a Preliminary Injunction. All residents must be 45 years old or older and the facility can only hold up to 16 persons. Eastern Comfort has until April 1, 2006 to be in compliance as they will need time to find suitable housing for the residents. Steven J., Inc. has filed for a Curative Amendment. Borough Council must hold a Public Hearing within 60 days. The amendment does not supercede the Court Order. Mr. Minotti would like to hold the meeting on April 10, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Minotti will supply Ms. Lohrman will the appropriate information. Borough Council must appoint an independent attorney for the hearing. Mr. Minotti suggested Thomas Walters. Motion to proceed as outlined by Mr. Minotti by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Klass. In addition, it will be necessary for Mr. Corriere to post the property at least one week in advance and have a court stenographer in attendance. The matter will go before the Wilson Borough Planning Commission on February 28, 2006. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has also been notified.

3. Mr. Minotti has received information from Reed Smith concerning amendments to Act 600. A seminar will be offered on May 10, 2006 and May 11, 2006 in State College. Mr. Minotti requested that Ms. Lohrman send copies of the information to Jack Lister for his review and input.

4. Mr. Minotti informed Council that he has not heard anything back from Weis Markets. Mr. Feinberg responded that Council would discuss the matter in Caucus.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting would be held in Northampton at the community center. The date will be announced at the next meeting. The speaker will be Sara Pandl.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Mr. Starniri to reappoint Richard A. Siebler, Thomas A. Schuyler, and Joseph Grollman to the Mary Meuser Memorial Library Board. Second by Mr. Schug.

2. Motion by Mr. Starniri to approve the street light request on S. 20th Street between Fairview Avenue and Lehigh Street. Second by Mr. McGowan.

3. Motion to authorize the execution of the Agreement for Use of Polling Place with the County of Northampton by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.

4. Although Ms. Lohrman will not be able to attend the Joint Municipal Comprehensive Planning meeting at Lafayette College, Mayor Perruso, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Feinberg felt they would be attending.

5. Upon hearing the PennDot information concerning the 24th Street bridge, Mayor Perruso felt the bridge project would not be completed.

6. Motion to proceed with Benecon's Security Program by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Starniri.

7. Motion to authorize the members of the Civil Service Commission to attend a Civil Service seminar at \$50.00 by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Klass.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1130 – Approving Preliminary Activities and the Use of Funds for FFY 06 CDBG Program. Motion to approve by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$89,941.85 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Schug.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY