

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 23, 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
Ron Nixon	Bob Reiss
David Schug	Louis Starniri

ABSENT:

Daneen McGinley

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the January 9, 2006 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Mr. Volkert of 1941 Fairview Ave. appeared before Council to complain about garbage from Easton Hospital blowing into his neighborhood. Mr. Volkert suggested placing a cage around the compactor. Mr. Volkert also has found surgical gloves, needles, and construction, cutting tools. Mr. Corriere agreed to discuss the matter with the hospital tomorrow.

Mr. Volkert also inquired about the Borough's policy on junk cars. Mr. Volkert has discovered a car behind the property located at 1848 Fairview Avenue with an expired registration. The windows are smashed out and neighborhood children are climbing on it. Chief Nace will take care of the car.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from the Lehigh Valley Italian American Celebration informing the Borough that the celebration will be moved to another municipality within their community. The decision to move the celebration was due to the significant increase in rental fees for the use of Meuser Park.

2. An email from Bob Bryant, P.E. was received. Mr. McGuckin from PennDot confirmed the receipt of the January 16th submission. Various design units are reviewing the submission. The review should be completed by either the first or second week in February.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso reported to Council that Judge Koury had collected \$6,414.15 in fines.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has been informed that the piano at the community center has been broken. Mayor Perruso responded that the piano was not ours. The piano was donated to AARP. It was suspected that the piano was broken during Santa's visit, but several Council members felt the piano was used during numerous functions by children. Mr. Drake added that the piano was not in good repair when they picked it up. Mr. Corriere added that he often inspects homes where the owner is looking to give their piano away. Ms. Lohrman will check with AARP and see if they wish to repair the piano. If not, Mr. Drake will dispose of the piano and Mr. Corriere will keep his eyes open for a replacement piano.

2. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the memo from Sara Pandl concerning the FFY 2006 CDBG program. Ms. Pandl estimates an allotment of \$145,000.00 in 2006. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the schedule of meetings as follows: February 13, 2006, February 27, 2006, March 13, 2006 and March 27, 2006. Ms. Lohrman will check with Ms. Pandl for the time of the meetings. Ms. Lohrman requested Council members to think about ideas for projects they may wish to do. Funds will be earmarked for the ladder truck payment and administration and planning.

3. Ms. Lohrman has spoken with Ms. Pandl and Mr. Corriere concerning the Housing Rehab

program. In her compliance audit, Beverly Hutzel from the DCEC encouraged the Borough to reinstate the program. Ms. Lohrman inquired whether the committee would like to meet.

4. Ms. Lohrman has received a request from Officer Potope and Chief Nace to increase the canine rental from \$235.00 per month to \$255.00 per month. The increase is due to the increase in the K-9 training from \$1,800.00 a year to \$2,280.00 a year. The canine officers pay for the training from the canine rental. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Mr. Minotti in this regard and he suggested a contract amendment effective January 1, 2006.

5. Ms. Lohrman has met with Sara Pandl to discuss the year end CDBG reports. In June, CDBG 2001 must be closed out. The Borough has completed all the activities in the year except for Administration. The Borough has more than enough funds to complete the closeout. Ms. Pandl suggested using \$4,114.81 in Administration to reimburse the Borough for the acquisition of Fisk field. The entire acquisition will have been paid from CDBG funds. Motion by Mr. Klass to use the excess funds in the amount of \$4,114.81 to reimburse the Borough for Fisk field acquisition. Second by Mr. Nixon.

6. Ms. Lohrman had a recent telephone conversation with Brandy from McCormick, Taylor concerning the flashing signs the Borough had wished to include in our Safe Routes to School project. Brandy informed Ms. Lohrman that the FHWA had developed a new set of rules and flashing signs no longer qualified for reimbursement. Brandy also indicated that there was a big push to get the Safe Routes to School projects completed. Ms. Lohrman forwarded the information to Ms. Riddle-Montgomery.

6. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Chief Collins had contacted Mr. Baranowski about having a NIMS class at Wilson Borough in the evening. Ms. Lohrman noted that 15 persons must attend the class in order to hold it. Ms. Lohrman will notify Council when Chief Collins schedules the class.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Mr. Feinberg has received information from the County Emergency Management concerning a proposal to participate in a program to buy out properties in a disaster prone area. Mr. Feinberg explained that the Borough is in no way obligated to the program, but must be in the group in order to receive federal funds. Motion to approve participating in the program by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Klass.

POLICE:

1. Chief Nace informed Council that eight applicants took the Police exam on Saturday morning. Ms. Lohrman sent the tests back today for grading. The results will be returned to the Borough.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Nixon informed Council that Mr. Drake was interested in purchasing a truck for the Public Works department under State Contract using Liquid Fuel funds. The purchase price of the truck is \$22,400.00. The truck will be a Ford 250 4x4, set-up for a plow and towing, and have the lights. The truck can come in yellow, white, blue, red, or green. The price is only good for 30 days. Motion by Mr. Nixon to purchase the truck in yellow as per outlined by Mr. Drake. Second by Mr. Reiss.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass informed Council that the Bike Path committee had met. The Borough will need to get started soon. Plans and approvals are needed. Mayor Perruso added that the Weis Markets matter needs to be resolved. Mr. Feinberg stated that the plans must get to PennDot.

2. Mr. Klass informed Council that Mr. Drake will be in the process of getting input on reconditioning the tennis and basketball courts at Meuser Park. Mr. Klass suggested looking for CDBG funds to pay for the project. Mayor Perruso will be looking for matching grant opportunities at the next PSAB conference. Mr. Drake added that the blacktop is fine, but the cracks on the courts will have to be sealed and the coated.

3. Mr. Klass has scheduled a Parks and Recreation committee meeting on Friday, January 27, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the management at the pool.

SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. Minotti has sent a letter to the Property Manager at Weis Markets. The letter contained the bike path drawing as revised by our engineer. Mr. Minotti had requested a response from Weis' for this evening's meeting, but had not receive one. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that the Borough could ask for an easement or purchase the land. Mr. Minotti suggested requested Council to give Weis Markets another week or two to respond. Mr. McGowan and several others discussed the revised plan and the possibility

that the entire triangle may not be needed. Mr. Minotti responded that the Borough should still go after the triangle area and work out the path of the bike path at a later date.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that no meeting would be held in next week. The next meeting will be held in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received a telephone call from Ron Sterner of Edelman Street. Mr. Sterner continues to have problems with the parking at his home. Mr. Sterner works the evening shift. When he returns home in the morning, there are no spots available. Chrin's is not the only offender. Taylor Rental is also parking rental trucks on the street. Mayor Perruso suggested making residential parking areas on the street. Chief Nace responded that employees are parking on the street also. Mr. Reiss added that Chrin's had applied for a demolition permit, but never removed the building to make additional parking. Chief Nace and Mr. Corriere will visit the Edelman Street businesses and discuss the parking situation. If parking does not improve, Council will consider permit parking. Ms. Lohrman was requested to follow up with letters to the businesses.

2. Ms. Lohrman was directed to set up a meeting with Sara Pandl and the Housing Rehab committee early next week, but not on Tuesday. Ms. Lohrman will notify the committee members when the meeting is scheduled.

3. Motion by Mr. Reiss to amend the Police Dog contracts containing the new monthly lease payment of \$255.00 per month. Second by Mr. Nixon.

4. Ms. Lohrman was directed to notify Council members when the evening NIMS class was scheduled.

5. Mr. Starniri suggested using CDBG funds for buying lots for parking. One area suggested was on Edelman Street. Mr. Reiss responded that Council had discussed the matter before and the price of the lot was too prohibitive.

6. Mayor Perruso inquired about the status of the property located at 20th & Ferry Streets. The property was condemned, but nothing has happened to improve the conditions. Mr. Corriere stated that two people were interested in purchasing the property. The price is being negotiated. Mayor Perruso inquired how this could be as the Borough had condemned the property. Mr. Minotti explained that it was not the same type of condemnation as what the Borough had done for Elementis field. Mr. Minotti will follow up on the matter.

7. A lengthy discussion was held on the Firmstone Street matter. Issues discussed were: the funds needed to repair the street before paving, terms of the contract, and timeframes items were to have been completed by. Council went into Caucus on the issue. After the Caucus concluded, Mr. Lilly made a Motion to have Mr. Minotti continue to look into the matter. Second by Mr. McGowan.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg reviewed a proposed Zoning change to Schedule IV, Regulations for Off-Street Parking Spaces he had prepared. Mr. Feinberg would like to increase the parking required for eating and drinking establishments, and restaurants and dining establishments. The proposed Zoning change would only be for businesses that were sold after the amendment was approved. Mr. Minotti explained that he felt there would be a problem with legal non-conforming uses. The Borough may not be allowed to limit certain types of businesses. The matter may be an issue for the Planning Commission to discuss.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$119,300.18 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Nixon. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY