

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
FEBRUARY 13, 2006

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

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg, President	James Klass
Joan A. Lilly	Daneen McGinley
James McGowan	Ron Nixon
Louis Starniri	

ABSENT:

Bob Reiss, Dave Schug

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 January 23, 2006 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Joe Civitella, from McTish, Kunkel Associates, appeared before Council to present a preliminary set of Phase II plans for the O'Neill development. The traffic study is 75% complete. The Phase II plans and the traffic study will be presented at the next Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Civitella explained to Council that although the study indicates that a traffic signal is not indicated at Miller Street, several of the proposed retail outlets going into the development would like a traffic signal. PennDot will not approve the signal if it is not warranted unless the municipality requests it. The developer will be responsible for the initial costs and then the borough would be responsible going forward. Mr. Civitella requested Council to consider requesting the signal in writing. It would be better to decide if the Borough would like to signal now. Mr. McGowan inquired about the status of Hillside Avenue. Mr. Civitella responded that a signal is not warranted at the intersection nor PennDot consider one. Motion by Ms. Lilly to send a letter to Mr. O'Neill to request a traffic signal at Miller Street and Freemansburg Avenue. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Darrell Picard of T & D Automotive informed Council that his business located on S. 25<sup>th</sup> Street has grown until the last two years. He believes the problem lies with his lack of parking. Mr. Picard inquired if Council was interested in entertaining thoughts of selling or leasing the adjacent property which is owned by the Borough to him. Mr. Minotti felt the parcel of land Mr. Picard was interested in is currently leased to the school district. Mr. Minotti suggested that Mr. Picard contact either Attorney Don Spry or Tony Sortino. Any information received should be supplied to Ms. Lohrman. Mr. Minotti reminded Mr. Picard that if the Borough would sell the land, certain procedures would have to be followed, i.e., the property would have to be put out for bid.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Chief Collins has arranged a NIMS training to be held on Monday, March 20, 2006 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the community center. It will be necessary for 15 people to be registered in the class for it to be held. An application must be filled out. Other groups will be notified when the class will be held. Ms. Lilly is interested in attending along with members of the Fire Department.

2. Ms. Lohrman reminded the members of the Police Pension Board there will be a meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.

3. A letter was received from Attorney Joseph P. McDonald, Jr. requesting an increase in fees from \$100.00 per hour to \$125.00 per hour and an increase in the hearing fee from \$130.00 to \$250.00.

4. A thank you letter was received from West Easton Mayor Gerald Gross thanking the Borough for our action in resolving the Wilson Manor detention pond matter.

5. A thank you letter was received from the 1900 block of Fairview Avenue for our prompt action on their behalf with Easton Hospital.

6. An email was received from 24<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Project Manager Bob Bryant. Our January 16,

2006 submission regarding the effects of changing the proposed bridge structure from a box culvert to a bridge will be delayed. The Bridge unit is inundated with on-going projects and additional work. Mr. Bryant suggests sending a letter to the PennDot District office expressing our concern over any delay.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received requests for two handicapped parking spots. Chief Nace has found that neither application meets the ordinance's requirements. The first application for 2312 Fourth Street has adequate off-street parking all of which is closed than any street parking we have to offer. The second application is for 1911 Ferry Street. There are already two handicapped spots in the block. Motion by Mr. Starniri to decline both handicapped parking applications. Second by Mr. Klass.

2. Mayor Perruso felt that snow emergency went well. The parking lots were heavily used. Ms. Lilly questioned the use of the Eyeland lot. Mr. McGowan felt that only four cars could be parked there. Other parking was for the businesses. It may be advantageous to have additional parking throughout the Borough for such instances.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Several weeks ago, Local #1914 approached the Borough to revise the fire pension ordinance to allow the firefighters to increase their pension contributions from 5.92% to 7.00%. After the firefighters had met with PMRS, they discovered that each firefighter could contribute an amount from 5.92% to 15% into their pension plan. Each firefighter is able to contribute a different percentage. Ms. Lohrman has received from PMRS copies of the revised agreement and an amended ordinance to Council's review. Motion by Mr. Klass to advertise the amended ordinance contingent upon a favorable review by Mr. Minotti. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Housing Rehab committee had met with Sara Pandl. The Borough's HOME program application has been presented by Beverly Hutzel from the DCED. The maximum grant amount for Boroughs will only be \$350,000.00. New guidelines will be coming out soon, but the criteria should not be too different than the one the Borough had previously used. The Borough is encouraged to use the funding already committed in our CDBG grants. The committee suggests capping each project at \$20,000.00. If additional violations are found, they must be corrected even if it costs more than the cap. It is possible to complete one project each month without any additional staff. Mr. Corriere will be accepting applications once again. The Borough needs to requalify contractors again. Ms. Lohrman requested Council's permission to advertise for contractors for our housing rehab program.

3. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the revised plan for the municipal building parking lot. The plan shows five new stormwater inlets with 12 inch pipe tying into an existing stormwater inlet on the southeast corner of the building next to the police department. The plan also regrades the lot, increases the pipe size, and addresses the lighting problems. Ms. Montgomery has sent ideas for the new lighting fixtures or the Borough can chose their own. Motion by Ms. McGinley to advertise for bids with revising it for new inlets in the lot only and keeping the 10 inch pipe along the building. Second by Mr. Starniri. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. Lilly, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Nixon, and Mr. Starniri. A negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion passed by a six to one vote.

4. Ms. Lohrman reported to Council that the Bike Path committee had met with Sara Pandl and Amy Montgomery. The committee reviewed the plan submitted by Pat Lemmerman and discussed what planned what actions needed to be taken going forward. Ms. Montgomery will prepare a detailed grading plan, permits including HOPs, and specs and bid plans. It was suggested that Ms. Lohrman send a copy of the Lemmerman plan to John Earl, our contact with the DCNR. Ms. Lohrman has forwarded a copy of the plan with assures to Mr. Earl that the Borough would forward necessary plans and permits as they are received. Copies of the letter to the DCNR have been dispersed to Council members.

5. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the email from Brandy Rotz from McCormick Taylor concerning the Safe Routes to School project. PennDot is attempting to accelerate the projects and have them completed in a timely manner. To that end, Ms. Rotz sent a project schedule to be completed by the Borough Engineer. Ms. Montgomery forwarded a copy of the schedule to Ms. Lohrman today. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the highlights of the schedule with Council. Project completion is tentatively scheduled for October 5, 2006.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

#### FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri requested a Caucus after the end of the meeting.

2. Chief Collins reminded Council that he had submitted a proposal last year to replace the air packs in the Fire Department at a cost of \$122,000.00. Borough Council had budgeted ½ of the funds in 2006 and would budget the other ½ in 2007. The Fire Department has received packs and proposals from three different manufacturers. Each of the three companies offers the equipment at state contract prices. The department is recommending the equipment be purchased from Drager. The proposal for the air packs

has come in a \$74,520.00, much lower than anticipated. The company is allowing all the packs to be purchased this year. The remainder of the funds can be paid in 2007. Chief Collins also requested permission to purchase an accountability system at a cost of \$9,400.00. Chief Collins will purchase the air bottles over several years. He does not wish to have to replace all the bottles at one time. Motion to purchase the air packs from Drager by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. McGinley.

#### POLICE:

1. Chief Nace informed Council that the Borough is only down to two towing companies. Chrin's would not come out during the snow emergency this weekend and Easton Auto Body only came out to the Borough only after completing the towing in Easton. Chief Nace stated that some companies have a problem with vehicle storage after they've taken possession of the vehicle. Mr. Klass added that there may be a limit to what they can charge. Motion by Ms. McGinley to authorize Chief Nace to find another towing company. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Chief Nace informed Council that the agility test for the police department candidates would be given on Saturday, February 18, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. followed by the oral exam at 1:00 p.m.

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Nixon thanked the Public Works department for the great job they did this weekend during the snow emergency. Ms. McGinley questioned about plowing a certain alley by her home. Mr. Behler responded that the Public Works department will plow alleys if they can get a plow into it.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

#### SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. Minotti has prepared the revised Police Dog contracts containing the new rental fee. As Council has previously approved the contracts, Ms. Lohrman will have them executed.

2. Mr. Minotti requested a Caucus on two items. The first item is a potential legal dispute and the second is on an assessment appeal that may require action.

#### MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the MECAB meeting would be held on February 22, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Fountain Hill. Diane Elliott will be the guest speaker.

2. Mr. McGowan invited Council to the next COG meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Forks Township.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None

#### DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Starniri felt that Mr. McDonald does an excellent job working with the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Starniri made a Motion to approve the request by Mr. McDonald to increase his fees to \$125.00 per hour and \$250.00 per hearing. Second by Ms. McGinley.

2. Motion by Mr. Starniri to authorize Ms. Lohrman to send a letter to PennDot expressing the Borough's concern over any delay on plan review of the 24<sup>th</sup> Street bridge project. Second by Ms. Lilly.

3. Motion to advertise for contractor's using the same basic criteria as before, but allowing for some modification if necessary by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

4. Ms. Lilly requested a Caucus on a personnel matter.

5. Mr. Minotti informed Council that he has reviewed the documents and letters concerning the Bogusky matter. Mr. Minotti is satisfied that all the improvements are in place and the developer's securities should be released. Furthermore, the Borough should proceed to install the wearing coat from Front Street to Iron Street. Motion by Mr. Nixon to approve the request as outlined by Mr. Minotti. Second by Ms. McGinley. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Nixon, and Mr. Starniri. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Mr. Klass abstained from voting. Motion passed by a five to one vote with one abstention.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Klass felt that Mr. Wamsley has been doing a great job in collecting our delinquent Business Privilege Tax.

#### ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1129 – To Participate in PACC (PA Capital City) Automotive and Equipment Contract.  
Motion by Mr. Nixon. Second by Ms. McGinley.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$53,869.46 were paid on a Motion by Mr. McGinley. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. McGinley made a Motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Second by Mr. Nixon and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

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KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY