

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 24, 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
Daneen McGinley	James McGowan
Bob Reiss	David Schug
Louis Starniri	

ABSENT:

Joan Lilly, Ron Nixon

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the April 10, 2006 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Ms. McGinley. Second by Mr. Reiss.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Joe Bogusky of 2212 Firmstone Street presented Council a request from the residents of Firmstone Street to consider making parking on the field side of Firmstone Street from 2212 Firmstone Street to the end of the Mearhoff property. The request was made for the safety of the children attending the athletic events and would allow emergency equipment access to the block during such vents. Mr. Klass agreed that something should be done about the situation. Mr. Klass suggested considering no parking from the Wamsley property to the alley. Mr. Starniri added that parking is not permitted certain distances from curbs. Mr. Minotti requested that Chief Nace do a parking study on the matter and report back to Council.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from Easton Auto Body requesting an increase in towing and storage rates. The rates have not been increased in several years.
2. A letter was received from the U.S. Department of Justice congratulating Wilson Borough on being selected to participate in the 2006 Technology Initiative grant program funded and administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Wilson Borough has been provided \$19,745.00 in funding. Ms. Lohrman reminded Council that this grant was provided for by Senator Dent for MDTs. Ms. Lohrman will be working with the Police department to complete the application process. The deadline is May 31, 2006.
3. A letter was received from Drew's Beverage requesting installing a street light at the cutout on Edelman Street across from his business. The business was recently robbed at gunpoint and additional lighting should deter it from happening again. The lighting will also make the area better lit for traffic entering and exiting the stores on Edelman Street.
4. One bid was received for refurbishing the recreational courts at Meuser Park. The bid from Pavement Maintenance Contractors, Inc. was for \$15,680.00.
5. Mr. Feinberg received a letter from Memorial United Church of Christ requesting permission to close off Forest Street from S. 19th Street to S. 20th Street from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for an outside picnic and open house on June 3, 2006.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso welcomed the two students who attended the Council meeting from Government Day. Mayor Perruso had a great day and felt the students had had a great time spending the day with the Borough.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman reviewed information received from the April 17, 2006 meeting she attended with

Mayor Perruso and Mr. McGowan between the Borough and PennDot and P.J. Leyman, Inc. It was explained at the meeting that since the 24th Street bridge project was mainly being financed with federal and state funding, the cost of the bridge was based on the most cost effective type of bridge, the box culvert bridge. The Borough has now requested an alternative type of bridge. Several items on the TS & L must be redone since bridge type has changed. The Borough could be responsible for the difference in cost. Additional core borings were also discussed at the meeting. However, they will be postponed until the TS & L has been completed. A supplement to the agreement will be necessary. P.J. Leyman will be submitting to PennDot a new timeline proposal by the end of this week. The bridge project will be delayed until 2008. Mayor Perruso expressed his fear that the Borough is not longer at the head of the list anymore and the bridge may not be completed. Mr. Reiss expressed his concern over the continuing cost of repairs and worried that the bridge might be closed if condition of the bridge became too bad. Mr. McGowan did not agree and reminded everyone that a sewer line might have to be replaced if the bridge remained a box culvert. Mr. Starniri felt the Borough will definitely end up paying our share of the bridge.

2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the June 12, 2006 Council meeting was at the same time as the annual PSAB conference. As several persons present will be attending the conference, Ms. Lohrman expressed her concern that if the meeting was held, Council may not have a quorum present.

3. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Business Redevelopment committee had met on April 11, 2006. Representative Bob Freeman had also attended the meeting. The committee had discussed the streetscape grant application that will be submitted by Stacy Schlaner, Northampton County Grants Administrator, on behalf of all nine 9 communities in the Borough Revitalization Program. Items discussed at the meeting were: welcome signs, trees, concrete planters, benches, and signage. Rep. Freeman will supply the group with other grant funding streams for items that cannot be purchased through the streetscape grant. The Redevelopment committee will meet again on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at noon to finalize our grant submission as requests must be made to Ms. Schanler by April 28, 2006. Council members were invited to attend the meeting.

4. Ms. Lohrman has received the quote from Brown & Brown Insurance for our Workmen's Comp insurance from EMC Insurance. The premium has greatly increased over last year due in large part to one large claim. The premium is \$96,319.00 up from \$87,829.92 last year. This year's premium does not include any adjustments made after our yearly audit.

5. Ms. Lohrman thanked Mayor Perruso, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss, Chief Nace, Officer Shull, Chief Collins, Mr. Sipel, Mr. Drake, Mr. Behler, Mr. Corriere, and Ms. Guth for their assistance with Government Day. She believed everyone had a good day.

6. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that she is about to pay the 1st Debt Service and the 2nd Quarter Operating expense to the sewer authority. As she has in the last two semi-annual payments, she had to transfer funds from the reserve account to cover the two payments. Six months ago, Ms. Lohrman was unable to repay the transfer from the liquid account. Council may wish to think about the on-going shortage of funds.

7. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that she would be on vacation next week. If anyone needed anything, they should see her by Friday.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri informed Council that the Drager air packs have arrived. The Fire department is training on them this evening.

2. Mr. Starniri inquired if Council would request the Civil Service Commission to hold a officers test in June. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Klass. Mr. Reiss inquired as to who was paying for the exam as this is the third exam given. Mr. Starniri responded that there was not any provision for the employees to pay for the exam. Council will look into the matter is the exam is given again.

3. Mr. Starniri made a Motion to hire Michael Ilch as a part time fire fighter. There had been some question as to whether he lived within the five miles radius and he does. Second by Mr. Klass.

POLICE:

1. Chief Nace has ordered the new police car. It will take several months before it is received.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Drake had met with a representative of the Borough's insurance provider. Mr. Drake would like to form a safety committee to meet once a month. Other members of the committee would be Chief Nace, Chief Collins, Mayor Perruso, and Ms. Lohrman. The meeting would have to be formal with minutes being taken. The Borough could receive a 5% discount on the insurance premium if a committee was formed.

2. Mr. Drake would like to offer a free six hour CPR class to anyone who is interested. The Public Works employees would be included.

3. Mr. Drake informed Council that the Public Works department had hauled 240 loads of dirt from Forks Township. Additional dirt may be available in Palmer.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass requested Council's permission to rehire AquaServe this year. The fee for chemicals would be \$6,975.00 and the fee for a manager is \$8,395.00. Motion to approve AquaServe by Mr. Klass. Second by Mr. Starniri. Mr. Klass is looking at getting a price for AquaServe to provide the Borough with an Assistant Manager.

2. Mr. Klass made a Motion to accept the bid from Pavement Maintenance Contractors, Inc. for refurbishing the courts at Meuser Park if the specifications are met. Second by Ms. McGinley. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug, and Mr. Starniri. A negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a six to one vote. Mr. Drake will review the bid. Mr. McGowan felt the cost of the repairs was extreme. Mr. Starniri responded that Representative Freeman was giving the Borough a \$5,000.00 grant for the repairs and \$10,000.00 would be coming from the interest in the Tax Anticipation Account.

Mr. McGowan inquired as to why one of the nets was down at the tennis courts. Mr. Drake responded that one of the poles needed to be replaced.

3. Mr. Klass informed Council that he and Mr. Nixon had met down at Fisk field. Mr. Klass would like to meet with Ms. Montgomery after Ms. Lohrman's vacation about the field. Ms. Lohrman will set the meeting up.

4. Mr. Drake went to the middle school to look into the starting block matter at the swimming pool. Mr. Drake stated that four bolts must be pulled out the cement and inserts would be needed. Mr. Drake also stated that 16 x 16 cuts would need to be removed from each sidewalk. Mr. Drake did not feel comfortable digging around the pool. Mr. Drake also has issues with leaving the blocks up for several weeks in an area that is not supposed to be a diving area. Mr. Drake will contact Ms. Rosenkranz about the matter.

5. Mr. Starniri will be putting the newsletter together shortly. He verified with Mr. Klass that the pool rates for this coming year would remain the same as they were last year. The pool party rates are undecided as the committee will be considering holding pool parties during the day. Expenses and costs would then be reduced. Swim team members will be required to hold pool passes. This policy was overlooked last year.

SOLICITOR:

None

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan has no information concerning the next meeting which had been scheduled in Hellertown.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg appointed Mr. Klass, Mr. Drake, and Chief Nace to look into the Bogusky parking matter.

2. Motion by Mr. Reiss to approve the rate increase requested by Easton Auto Body. Second by Ms. McGinley. Chief Nace stated that he wanted to talk to Chrin's about towing services. Mr. Reiss did not feel comfortable using Chrin's. Ms. Lohrman will revise the resolution with the new towing and storage fees.

3. Mayor Perruso felt the Drew's Beverage request for a street light was justified. Motion to approve request by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Klass. Mr. Schug felt that approving the request might encourage others to request additional street lights. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. McGinley, and Mr. Reiss. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. McGowan, Mr. Schug, and Mr. Starniri. Motion carried by a four to three vote.

4. A discussion was held on the cancellation of the June 12, 2006 Council meeting. Mr. Feinberg suggested changing the meeting to June 21, 2006. Motion by Mr. Reiss to cancel the June 12, 2006 and not reschedule the meeting. Second by Ms. McGinley. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that the Public Meeting for Mr. Miga has yet to be scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ms. McGinley would like to resurrect the Monument Committee for the establishment of a

monument for Desert Storm/Iraq. Mr. Drake stated that there is one more island to put a memorial on. The park across from Mr. Starniri might be an appropriate spot. A committee had been in place with Mr. Vern Young, Mr. Drake, and Mr. Starniri. The new committee will consist of: Mr. Drake, Mr. Starniri, Mayor Perruso, and Ms. McGinley. Ms. McGinley with the assistance of Ms. Lohrman will contact the Borough businesses for monument donations. The students at the high may wish to become involved. A thought was it would be proper etiquette to wait for the war to be over before a memorial is done.

2. Mayor Perruso informed Council that King Henry in appreciation for permitting dances at the community center will be performing a free concert at Meuser Park on June 18, 2006. King Henry is also thinking about doing a dance at the pool.

3. A letter was received from Richard Siebler requesting the Borough to replace Gwen Verenna on the Library Board. Ms. Verenna was only attended 3 meetings in the last year due without notifying the Board of her absences. It was acknowledged that Ms. Verenna has had personal problem including a sick mother. Other issues were discussed. Mr. Minotti requested the matter be tabled until further information is received.

4. Mr. McGowan informed Council about possible changes to the sewer authority board. The ownership of the authority is based on the ownership of the capacity. The proposed number of people from each municipality on the Board for Wilson could increase from one to two. All the BLL capacity has been sold. The Borough's share of the debt service from 21.8% to 16.1% . Mr. Minotti requested a copy of the proposal. Several Council members would also like to review the proposal.

5. Mayor Perruso inquired as to whether or not Mr. Minotti would review the new COG by-laws. Solicitors from other municipalities have reviewed the by-laws.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$96,061.61 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Schug. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. McGinley made a Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Second by Mr. Reiss and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY