

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 25, 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, Easton PA. President Feinberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg, President	Joan Lilly
Daneen McGinley	James McGowan
Ronald Nixon	Bob Reiss
David Schug	Louis Starniri

ABSENT:

James Klass

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the September 11, 2006 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Robert Siegfried from Wilson Manor Apartments along with three other residents of Wilson Manor appeared before Council to complain about youths throwing stones from the recently completed ramp to the bike path at the resident's automobiles and the building. The Police have been called several times, but the perpetrators have not been identified. One of the Wilson Manor residents noted that most of the incidents have occurred either on a Monday or a Wednesday after nightfall. Mayor Perruso requested that Chief Nace have someone in the woods to watch the situation. Chief Nace temporarily left the meeting to speak to the officers currently on shift.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Mr. Minotti has received a letter from Attorney James Preston extending the deadline for the final decision on the Wilson Park Land Development Plan through October 26, 2006. The Borough will likely review the plan at its regularly scheduled Council Meeting on October 9, 2006. Therefore, Steve Guy will not appear at this evening's meeting, but will be in attendance at the meeting on October 9, 2006.

2. A letter was received from the Wilson Borough Baseball Association discussing the problem with the shortage of playing fields and the increasing number of children in the baseball program.

3. The following three bids were received for the gasoline pumps:

1. Francis Smith & Sons, Inc. - \$23,846.00
2. Berks Petroleum Construction Services - \$19,077.00
3. Boyko's Petroleum Service, Inc. - \$18,029.00

4. The following two bids were received for street paving:

1. Bracalente Construction, Inc. - \$122,450.00
2. Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC. - \$109,226.00

5. Ms. Lohrman has received a letter from John Stoffa, Northampton County Executive, informing Wilson Borough that the county has been notified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that they meet the threshold to qualify as an Entitled Urban County under the Community Development Block Grant Program and are eligible as a result to received CDBG funds directly from HUD. Ms. Lohrman continued and reviewed the repercussions to the Borough's own CDBG program. If the Borough does not wish to be included in the County's program, the Borough must opt out by sending a letter to HUD and the County in writing no later than October 13, 2006. Ms. Lohrman will be attending a meeting on October 6, 2006 with Mr. Stoffa to discuss the matter. She will discuss the information with Borough Council so they may make a decision by October 13, 2006.

6. A letter was received from Jennifer Lavoie requesting permission to hold a Block Party on Saturday, October 14, 2006.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso requested that Council make a decision on rectifying the parking problem on

Edelman Street. Mr. McGowan responded that he had been by there on Sunday and again today and there was adequate parking available. Ms. Lilly agreed. Permit parking was discussed. It was proposed to make four parking spots at 22 feet per each spot. With the area required at the curb cut, the total distance is 101 feet needed for the four spots designated for the residents. It was discussed if the four residences would be included in the parking or just the two who do not have off-street parking. Motion by Mr. McGowan not to pursue two hour permit parking as it would be setting a precedent. Second by Ms. Lilly. Affirmative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Schug. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Reiss, and Mr. Starniri. Motion was defeated by a three to five vote. Motion by Mr. Reiss to allow 2 hour parking by permit only for four spots at 101 feet on Edelman Street. Second by Mr. Starniri. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Reiss, and Mr. Starniri. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Schug. Motion carried by a five to three vote. Ms. Lohrman will forward the information on to Mr. Minotti to prepare the ordinance.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the estimated project time line for the completion of the Safe Routes to School project as prepared by Borough Engineer Amy Montgomery. The project was scaled back to include the crosswalks and curb cuts for the four intersections on Butler Street. Ms. Pandl is checking into when the next funding grant cycle will occur for Safe Routes to School. The Borough can apply again for funding to complete the remaining seven crosswalks. It is hoped that the project completion date for the Butler Street crosswalks would be December 16, 2006.

2. Ms. Lohrman has met with the new AFLAC representative. She will be meeting with employees who wish to discuss their current coverage or with employees who may wish to discuss AFLAC's products. Ms. Lohrman added that anyone who receives a paycheck from the Borough including elected officials are eligible to have AFLAC coverage. Anyone interested in meeting with the AFLAC rep should let Ms. Lohrman know.

3. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that she, Amy Montgomery, and Mr. Feinberg attended a meeting on Monday, September 18, 2006, to open the bids for the municipal building parking lot. Enclosed in Council packets were the project bid results tabulated by Ms. Montgomery. The bids are as follows:

1. Nimaris Construction – Base Bid - \$113,411.10 – Alternate Bid - \$18,800.00 Total \$132,211.10
2. Grace Industries – Base Bid - \$107,035.10 – Alternate Bid - \$28,800.00 Total Bid \$135,835.10
3. Lehigh Valley Site Contractors – Base Bid - \$150,719.25 – Alternate Bid - \$27,366.40 Total Bid \$178,085.65

All bid information from Grace Industries and Nimaris Construction was reviewed and found to be in order.

4. Ms. Lohrman explained to Council that the Borough must submit an application to the County in order to obtain the \$174,183.00 in funds allocated for Wilson Borough through the Northampton County Open Space Initiative passed in November of 2002. The funds will be used to match the DCNR grant for the development of Fisk field. Ms. Lohrman requested Council to pass Resolution 1141 so Ms. Pandl could submit the application to the county by Friday, September 29, 2006.

5. Ms. Lohrman has received the information from Mr. Drake concerning the Wonderling Grant for \$5,000.00 that Council had dedicated for a project at the pool. Mr. Drake has received three quotes replacing the retaining wall at the pool. The quotes were for: \$7,729.00, \$10,190.40 and \$10,404.20. The price includes wall blocks, retaining wall caps, and stone. The Public Works department would be providing the labor if the wall was replaced. Mr. Drake has also priced sliding boards for the diving area. The "open" slide is priced at \$2,088.00 and prices for the "enclosed" slides were for \$10,971.00 and \$3,828.00. Mr. Drake felt that the Borough's insurance company may have a problem with the installation of an open slide. Ms. Lohrman needs a decision on what project Council wishes to pursue as the grant application must be submitted on-line by Friday, September 29, 2006.

6. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the 2007 MMO for the Police Pension Plan is \$68,986.00. The amount will be used for budgetary purposes.

7. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the important points of the recent bridge inspection meeting. Mr. Feinberg, Mayor Perruso, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Drake and Ms. Lohrman had attended the meeting. The engineer believes if the deterioration continues at the present rate, the weight limit of 15 tons will have to be lowered or the bridge may have to be closed in a period of 1 to 3 years. Mr. Reiss inquired as to the weight of the fire trucks. Ms. Lohrman responded that the pumpers weighed 20 tons and the ladder truck was considerably more than the pumpers. Mr. McGowan stated that a weight restriction had been placed on the bridge for some time and if the bridge had to be closed that an alternate route would not increase the distance to Avona by that much. Mr. Reiss felt the grant for the bridge was lost when the Borough changed from the box culvert to a bridge structure. Mr. Feinberg felt the bridge review was still in process and we should hear something back from PennDot in the next few months. The bridge would still happen although it may be delayed. The bridge inspector had conceded that the box culvert may not have been a good idea with the bike path running through it.

8. Ms. Lohrman inquired if Council wished to have the drinking fountain in the lobby replaced. Council requested Mr. Drake to get for fountain.

9. Ms. Lohrman and Mr. Feinberg reviewed the meeting the sewer committee and a second

meeting that Mr. McGowan, Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Lohrman had had with the new manager of West Easton. West Easton was requesting to bill Wilson Manor and the seven townhouses on Avona Avenue for sewerage. Wilson had begun to bill the properties after their completion. Mr. Feinberg had no objection to West Easton billing the properties as long as Wilson has the sewer capacity returned on the properties and West Easton pays the debt service. It appears that the Avona Avenue sewer line still belongs to West Easton even though the sewer authority had deemed it a common use line. The municipalities involved have yet to vote on the change. Mr. Feinberg had brought the West Easton's attention that because of the differences in the way West Easton and Wilson bills for sewage, the sewer bill for Wilson Manor would increase from \$500 a quarter to \$1,600.00 a quarter. West Easton would be responsible to explain the increase. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to transfer the sewer billing for Wilson Manor and the seven townhouses to West Easton. Second by Mr. Schug. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Ms. McGinley, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Schug and Mr. Starniri. A negative vote was cast by Mr. Reiss. Motion carried by a seven to one vote.

West Easton continues to be interested in making changes in the traffic pattern at Center Street and Freemansburg Ave. Mr. Reiss stated that the Borough had made the change and the West Easton officials and residents demanded that the traffic pattern be put back the way it had been. Motion by Ms. McGinley not to perform a traffic study. Second by Mr. Starniri. West Easton could perform a study on their own at their expense.

10. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the minimum wage would be increasing beginning January 1, 2006 from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.65 an hour. A second increase on July 1, 2006 would bump the minimum wage up to \$7.15 an hour. Ms. Lohrman felt the biggest increase would be in the hourly rate for various positions at the swimming pool. Several Council people felt that some restrictions may apply to the rates such as age. Ms. Lohrman will check into the matter.

11. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that a clause exists in the Public Works contract regarding an increase in the Lehigh Valley Consumer Price Index over the 1st three quarter of the fourth year of contract. If the increase is over a certain percentage, the contract can be reopened during the fifth year or next year. Mr. Feinberg is looking into obtaining the consumer price index for the Lehigh Valley.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mr. McGowan stated that the committee had one project assigned to them at the last meeting which was to look into the ordinance pertaining to the size of trucks parked on the Borough's streets. Because of committee members schedules, the committee did not meet. Mr. McGowan initial feelings were to no allow dual axel vehicles to park on Borough streets for more than 2 hours without the permission of the Police.

2. Mr. Feinberg has received a copy of the newly passed ordinance from the City of Easton pertaining to their rental inspection program. Mr. Corriere added that he had spent time with our lead assessment inspector and he could obtain a copy of Pottsville's ordinance.

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

1. The Police committee will meet on Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. on a personnel matter.

2. A meeting will be scheduled the first week in October to discuss the accreditation process at Mr. Minotti's office. Mr. Mark Minotti will check to see when the meeting is scheduled.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Nixon made a Motion to approve the lowest bid on the gasoline pumps from Boyko's Petroleum Services. Second by Ms. McGinley. Mr. McGowan questioned what was contained in the bid. Ms. Lohrman read the bid specifications. It was suggested that the pumps remain and only change what was necessary to do the card reader portion. However, the entire system must be changed for it to work. Mr. McGowan requested that a paper trail continue to be made.

2. Mr. Nixon questioned where the funding was coming from on the street paving. Ms. Lohrman responded that the funds were coming from the Liquid Fuels account. The Public Works committee will review the bids and make a recommendation to Council on the bid approval.

3. Mayor Perruso inquired on the paving of Firmstone Street. Ms. Lohrman will check with Mr. Minotti to see if the Borough can proceed paving the street or if a Deed of Dedication is required.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Ms. Lilly pointed out to Ms. Lohrman that the letter from the Wilson Baseball Association was to be part of the Borough's DCNR grant application.

SOLICITOR:

None

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the MECAB meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Strausser Community Center. It will be a covered dish. Mayor Perruso wished Council members would attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to submit a grant application for the retaining wall restoration at the swimming pool. Second by Mr. Starniri.
2. Motion to approve the Louis Street Block Party by Ms. McGinley. Second by Mr. Schug.
3. Mr. McGowan reviewed the Bid Tabulation for the municipal building parking lot prepared by Ms. Montgomery. Mr. McGowan expressed his displeasure over several items including: the rock construction entrance, tree protection fence, removal of existing curbing, the size of the piping, the striping and painting, the landscaping, and the replacement of the parking lot lights. Several Council members did not agree with Mr. McGowan's assessment of what had been agreed on and not agreed on. Mr. Starniri felt it was a good plan. Mr. McGowan made a Motion to reject all bids. Second by Mr. Schug. Affirmative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Schug. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Reiss, and Mr. Starniri. Motion was defeated by a three to five vote. Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to accept the Total Bid from Nimaris Construction. Second by Mr. Reiss. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Reiss and Mr. Starniri. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Schug. Motion was approved by a five to three vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Nixon requested the Public Works committee to stick around after the Council Meeting to discuss the paving bids.
2. Mr. Corriere announced that the Borough had received a \$350,000.00 HOME grant. The information is ready to be placed on IDIS.
3. Ms. Lilly inquired about the 6th Street project in the City of Easton that was discussed at the Borough Business Steering Committee. Ms. Lohrman responded that a guest speaker who was working with the City had been in attendance at the meeting and reviewed several programs the City was involved in.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1141 – Municipal Park Acquisition and Development Program. Motion by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$168,801.63 were paid on a Motion by Ms. McGinley. Second by Mr. Nixon.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. McGinley made a Motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Second by Mr. Schug and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY