

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 24, 2005

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

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg
Joan A. Lilly
James McGowan
David Schug

James Klass
Daneen McGinley
Bob Reiss, President
Louis Starniri

ABSENT:

Ronald Nixon

Also present were: Solicitor Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Superintendent Greg Drake, Chief Richard Nace, Mayor David S. Perruso

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the October 10, 2005 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Joe Hurd of 1803 Fairview Avenue appeared before Council to inform them that he was reimbursed for sponsorship money he had paid to one of the sports associations.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. The Borough received one bid from Overhead Door Company of Allentown for garage doors at the Public Works garage. The bid for the Series 593 is \$12,740.00 and the bid for the Series 426 is \$12,160.00. The Series 593 has better installation than the Series 426 garage doors. The bid for both series includes installation and wood. Motion to approve the bid for the Series 593 garage doors by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. McGinley.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received a Handicapped Parking application from Thomas and Bonney Reichard of 1935 Ferry Street. Someone has passed away on the block and a spot is now available. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. McGinley.
2. Mayor Perruso has received a Handicapped Parking application from Carolee Westwood of 2126 Forest Street. Ms. Westwood has requested a waiver of the fee. Motion by Ms. McGinley to deny the handicapped parking request until the fee is paid. Second by Mr. Starniri.
3. Mayor Perruso requested a short Caucus.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that the General Government committee has met and discussed the current fee schedule. The committee recommends increasing the pavilion rental fee for residents from \$25.00 to \$50.00 and non-residents from \$50.00 to \$100.00. The band shell rental fee was recommended to be increased for residents \$50.00 to \$100.00 and for non-residents from \$100.00 to \$200.00. The park rental fee should be eliminated and rented only with Council's approval on a case by case basis. The Italian Festival can stay. Mr. Feinberg also recommended increasing the fee for home inspections from \$50.00 to \$100.00. Mr. Feinberg would like to have the \$10,000.00 cap on permit fees removed. Mr. Minotti stated that he would have to review the matter as the Borough would have to justify the fee increase.
2. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that the committee had reviewed the residential licensing program.

Ms. Guth will supply Mr. Feinberg with the number of rental units in the Borough. Mr. Feinberg suggested charging a fee of \$50.00 for each apartment and \$100.00 for each home.

3. Mr. Feinberg has received a few requests from employees for direct deposit. Mr. Feinberg and the committee felt that the cost of offering the direct deposit was too expensive. The Borough would need 100 employees to sign up, the access of the funds for the employees would be a day later, and payroll would have to be completed a day earlier.

4. Mr. Feinberg discussed on going problems with the trench ordinance. Utilities are not obtaining trench permits in a timely manner if they obtain them at all. Mr. Minotti stated that the utilities should be notified about the permit. Ms. Lohrman responded that they were all notified after the ordinance had been passed. UGI does pay for a permit and supply information, but it is after the fact. Mr. McGowan suggested that Mr. Drake or Mr. Corriere compare the information with our PA One Call reports.

5. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to approve the suggested changes to the pavilion and band shell fees. Second by Mr. Schug. Ms. Lohrman will supply Mr. Minotti with a copy of the fee ordinance.

6. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to increase the home inspection fee from \$50.00 to \$100.00. Second by Ms. McGinley.

7. Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to no longer rent the park unless Council approves the request. Mr. Feinberg felt the park was not being used as a park any longer. Second by Mr. Starniri. In addition, as the Borough has given approval for the Italian Fest in August 2006, Mr. Feinberg suggested charging \$500.00 per day for the park, pavilions, and band shell. Electric service is included, but police services would not. No special parking will be permitted. The use of the bathrooms was discussed. Port a johns will be requested. The renters will still be responsible for any damages incurred. Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Schug. Ms. Lilly inquired about the Lions Fair and the Vets for Pets. Mayor Perruso and Mr. Reiss responded that the Lions Fair benefits the Borough and the Vets for Pets is for charity and should be allowed to continue.

8. Mr. Feinberg relayed to Council that apartment licensing and inspections and the nuisance ordinance will continue to be discussed by the committee.

FIRE:

1. Mr. Klass informed Council that nine of the ten applicants had taken the written exam for the Fire Department Eligibility List. The test was successful. The agility part of the exam will be given on Sunday, October 30, 2005 at 7:30 a.m. The oral exam will be given at a later date.

POLICE:

1. Chief Nace informed Council that the Civil Service Commission is waiting for the applications to be returned for the Police Department Eligibility List.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Drake stated that all the road paving had be completed.
2. The leaf collection has begun, but Mr. Drake has not had many leaves to collect. The schedule was placed in the summer newsletter.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Klass reviewed the Pool report. The deficit was greatly decreased over previous years. The refreshment stand made money for the first time in years. Mr. Klass thanked Ms. Guth for all the work she had done this year at the pool.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti requested approval for the appropriate persons to execute the conveyance of the property on Wood Ave. to Easton Suburban Water Authority. Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Ms. Lilly.

2. Mr. Minotti reviewed pertinent information concerning the proposed EMST ordinance. It was suggested by Ms. Guth to have the first payment due on March 31, 2006 same as the OPT would have been. Mr. McGowan stated that Harrisburg was considering allowing payments being made throughout the year. The Borough may need to change the ordinance if it does not agree with changes Harrisburg may make. The Borough will be responsible for sending out the notices and for enforcement.

3. Mr. Minotti requested a Caucus after the tonight's adjournment.

4. Mr. Reiss inquired as to why Borough officials were not brought up to date on the status of the Bethlehem Corporation litigation. Mr. Minotti responded that any questions should have been brought to him at his office.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the next MECAB meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in Freemansburg.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman reminded Council that two items from the last meeting were not resolved. The first was the resignation from the Planning Commission by Michael Lizzano, Sr. Motion to accept the resignation by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. McGinley. Ms. Lohrman was directed to send Mr. Lizzano a letter of appreciation.

The second matter from the last meeting that was not resolved was a request for two signs by the Marine Corps. League. Motion to approve sign request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. McGinley.

2. The direct deposit issue was discussed under the General Government committee report. Motion not to offer direct deposit by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

3. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the letter from the City of Easton concerning the Fisk field parking on the adjacent baseball field. Ms. Guth, in the absence of Ms. Lohrman, and Mr. Drake had met with a representative of the City to review where the parking area is. The Borough has authorization to use the field until November 12, 2005. Ms. Lohrman stated that unfortunately the football association has not been able to take advantage of the offer as the fields have been too wet for practice and parking.

4. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Lafayette Bank had increased their rates comparable to Merchants Bank and would waive the penalty. Since the last meeting, Merchants Bank had increased their rates to be as follows: 6 to 12 months APY 4.06%, 12 to 23 months APY 4.21%, and 24 months APY 4.31%. PLGIT also contacted us and they have a special rate of 3.93%. The CD must mature between January 3, 2006 and January 13, 2006. Mr. McGowan felt that all the funds from the sewer capacity account at Lafayette Bank should be transferred to Merchants Bank. Ms. Lohrman felt that some money should stay in the liquid account at Lafayette. Motion by Mr. McGowan to transfer all but \$250,000.00 from the Lafayette account to Merchants Bank. Second by Ms. Lilly.

5. Ms. Lohrman inquired as to whether Mr. Minotti had had an opportunity to review the lease agreement for the billboards. As he had not had the opportunity, Ms. Lohrman will forward a copy of the lease to Mr. Minotti for his review.

6. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Mayor Perruso, Mr. Feinberg, Mayor Perruso and she had met with Amy Riddle concerning the bike path and Fisk field. Ms. Riddle has been in contact with Craig Swinsburg in regards to the driveway permit off Wood Ave. The water company still had not received the permit from PennDot. The Borough can begin to put dirt at Fisk field as soon as the driveway permit is received. If the area used for the dirt is less than an acre, a permit from the county Conservation District is not needed. However, a plan for proper erosion and sedimentation controls must be in effect. The silt fence and temporary seeding could be done by the Public Works department. Ms. Riddle is working on the plan for the fields.

7. Ms. Lohrman went on to inform Council that Ms. Riddle had received the incorrect information from PennDot concerning the right-of-way on S. 25th Street. Ms. Riddle had expected to receive the updated information late last week. Ms. Riddle will begin obtaining the One Call information and other necessary permits and information needed for the bike path. Mr. Feinberg added that Ms. Riddle will use the minimal amount of land need at Weis Markets around the bend. Ms. Riddle will furnish us with the plan needed to submit to the DCNR for final approval. She will also prepare the bidding documents.

8. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that he had requested that Ms. Riddle supply the Borough with a bid document for the municipal building parking lot to make it uniformly correct and drain properly.

9. Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Schug, Mayor Perruso, and Ms. Lohrman had a recent meeting concerning Edelman Street. Ms. Lohrman reviewed a letter delivered to the residents and businesses on Edelman Street. The project is scheduled to begin on October 31, 2005 and end on November 19, 2005 weather permitting. The paving will be done on November 17, 2005 from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. The residents and businesses had agreed that evening would be the best time for the paving to be done. The paving will be postponed until November 18, 2005 if the weather is bad. There will be a preconstruction meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. on site. Any available Council members were invited to attend.

10. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the information the Borough had received concerning recent changes to the health and Rx insurance plans for retirees. The Borough currently offers retirees the Senior 3 Plan with a wrap around prescription plan. With the advent of Medicare Part D, it has been determined that the prescription wrap around is not credible prescription coverage, i.e., it is not as good as or better than Medicare Part D. Benecon is offering through Blue Cross a continuation of the Senior Medicare Hospital and Medical Program for a cost of \$153.22 per person. In place of the wrap around prescription plan, Avalon Health, Ltd., a subsidiary of Capital Blue Cross, is offering two plans. Option A is similar to Medicare Part D and costs \$45.76 a month per person. Option B is a better prescription plan and does not have any gaps in coverage that Option A and Medicare Part D has. The cost for Option B is \$114.00. Ms. Lohrman recommended offering our retirees the Senior Medicare Hospital and Medical Program and the Avalon Prescription Option B. The retirees do have the option of going with Medicare, staying in the Borough's plan or going outside for their own coverage. The cost of the premiums will be paid by the retiree and is lower in cost than what they are presently paying. Motion to approve Ms. Lohrman's recommendation by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Schug.

Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Lehigh Valley Insurance Cooperative is going modified

self insured beginning in 2006. The maximum cost to the Borough is only a 1.1% increase over this years cost. The rates for vision and dental insurance for all will be the same as this years cost as the Pennsylvania Municipal Cooperative had signed a two year contract with the insurance companies. Overall, the budgetary costs for health insurance will slightly decrease for 2006.

11. Ms. Lohrman requested permission to close the office on Black Friday, November 25, 2005, as has been done in the past. Employees will use their floating holidays to make up the time. Motion to approve request by Ms. McGinley. Second by Mr. Starniri.

12. Ms. Lohrman had presented Council with the 2006 preliminary budget requests in their Council packets. A budget meeting will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to begin the budget process. Mr. Drake and Chief Collins will be requested to attend. Ms. Lohrman will place the necessary advertisement.

13. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the recently received Metz contract. Ms. Lohrman supplied Council with last year's contract figures. Ms. Lohrman was directed to contact Mike Farrell and see if he would submit a proposal for our heating and air conditioning needs.

14. Ms. Guth informed Council that she estimates about \$60,000.00 is owed on back BPT. This figure does not include businesses that do not have a business license. Ms. Lohrman estimates there is about 50 businesses operating without a license. Nor does the \$60,000.00 does not include large projects such as the hospital and school expansions and Wilson Manor and the adjacent townhouses. A very lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the matter ensued. Motion by Ms. McGinley to hire Richard Wamsley for a six month trial period at a rate of \$10.00 per hour with a 12 hour work week. Second by Mr. Feinberg. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. McGinley, 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1124 – Authorizing Expenditures of General Municipal Pension System State Aid. Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Starniri.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$126,976.84 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. McGinley.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Feinberg made a Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY