

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
DECEMBER 19, 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 (Late)
David Schug

James Klass
Dannen McGinley
Bob Reiss, President
Louis Starniri

ABSENT:

Ronald Nixon

Also present were: Mayor David S. Perruso, Solicitor Dennis DeEsch
Assistant Superintendent Ron Behler, Code Enforcement Officer Paul R. Corriere

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the December 12, 2005 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Ms. McGinley.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Sara Pandl appeared before Council to review the recent CDBG compliance audit by Beverly Hutzel, DCED. Ms. Hutzel recommended the Borough revise the CDBG 2002 and CDBG 2003 budget to reallocate the Housing Rehab funds to allow additional funds for the acquisition of Elementis field. Even with the reallocation of funds, the Borough still has \$125,000.00 in CDBG 2003 through 2005 for Housing Rehabilitation. The HOME application has not yet been reviewed. PHFA should be reviewing the application sometime towards the end of January 2006. Ms. Hutzel feels it would be to the Borough advantage to spend the rehab funding. The Borough would have approximately one year's worth of funding. Resolution 1127 would address the remediation in the CDBG 2002 and 2003 programs.

Ms. Pandl has filed a notice in the newspaper for the environmental review. Of the last three years, only Elementis field would require additional review. Comments on the environmental review are due in by January 9, 2006. A resolution would need to be passed and the funds released after that point in time.

2. Joe Bogusky appeared before Council to inform them that he had completed all the items contained in the 1996 agreement. Mr. Bogusky requested that Council write a letter to his bonding company to release the bond. Mr. Bogusky had requested the bond be clear as far back as 1999. Mr. Bogusky stated that Don Frederickson had inspected the street and agreed at first through written correspondence, but later orally that the street had met with his approval. It appears that the Borough did not take any action on the request. Mr. Reiss in agreement with other Council members stated that the Borough agrees that it is our responsibility to complete the wearing coat, but it would not occur until the last house on the street was completed. Mr. Bogusky did not recall that portion of the agreement. Mr. Bogusky stated that he had put in 2 storm water inlets and an electric line, sewer and water to the refreshment stand at the ballfield in addition to the agreement. Mr. Reiss stated that it was his understanding that the base coat was defective from the start of the project. The road has continued to deteriorate over time. Mr. Bogusky requested Council to check with the solicitor and the engineer to further investigate the matter. Mr. DeEsch will discuss the matter with Mr. Minotti. Ms. Lohrman was instructed to review the Minutes from March 1999 through May 1999.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter from Bob Bryant, Project Engineer for P.J. Lehman, Inc. requested a letter be sent requesting a six month extension for preliminary engineering be granted on the 24th Street bridge project.

2. A letter from Attorney Raymond Majczan was received requesting permission to hold a free reverse mortgage workshop for local seniors in the community center. Motion by Mr. McGowan to deny request as Mr. Majczan is not a Borough resident. Second by Mr. Feinberg.

3. A letter was received from United Check Cashing requesting a directional sign be placed at the corner of 18th and Northampton Streets.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso thanked Ms. McGinley for doing a great job for organizing the parade.
2. Mayor Perruso has received additional information concerning the Chrin's transfer station. Mayor Perruso stated that Wilson Borough was one of the few municipalities that did not support the project. Mayor Perruso inquired whether the Borough is willing to reconsider it's position. Mr. Starniri inquired as to how the project would benefit the Borough. Mr. Reiss responded that Chrin's was willing to do what Waste Management was doing in Pen Argyl as far as supplying electric to the school district. Ms. McGinley pointed out that the transfer station was in Williams Township and they did not support the project. Motion by Mr. Feinberg to support the project. Second by Mr. Reiss. Motion was defeated by the remainder of Council.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman stated that the Reorganization Meeting must be held Tuesday, January 3, 2006. Ms. Lohrman inquired as to what time Council would like to meet. Mr. Reiss suggested 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Several Council members felt it was too early. Council agreed to hold the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Lohrman will advertise the meeting for that time.
2. Ms. Lohrman reiterated the CDBG findings with Ms. Hutzel.
Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Attorney General's Office would be on the premises beginning Wednesday, December 28, 2005 to perform the pension audit for the years 2002 through 2004.
3. Ms. Lohrman has information on the INVEST program through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Treasury Department. The rates seem competitive; similar to PLGIT. Ms. Lohrman inquired as to whether the Borough would be interested in signing up for the program even though we did not have any funds to invest at the present time. There would not be any fees associated with the program. Ms. Lohrman would receive updates on the programs and rates if the Borough signs up.
4. Ms. Lohrman requested a short Caucus after the meeting on an employee matter.
5. Ms. Lohrman reviewed the letter from the International Association of Fire Fighters Local No. 1914 requesting the amount of their pension contributions be increased from 5.92% to 7.00%. The union is 100% in favor of the increase and Chief Collins has agreed verbally. The new hires that begin work on January 2, 2006 have been notified of the increase. Ms. Lohrman has contacted PMRS about the contribution increase. Ms. Lohrman was directed to send PMRS a letter requesting the change and PMRS will forward a new agreement to the Borough.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. DeEsch reviewed the letter and drawing received from Weis Markets. The Borough is unable to go straight across the land because of the slope. Mr. Minotti will be in contact with Weis.
2. Mr. DeEsch reviewed the proposed amendment to the Fire Contract. The "Heart and Lung Act" provision is the same as is in the Police Contract.
3. Mr. DeEsch felt that Minotti & DeEsch would have taken action to an inquiry from Mr. Bogusky and/or his attorney as Council had requested. Council agreed this would have been the case.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan reminded Council that the next MECAB meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Mr. Klass to approve the directional sign requested by United Check Cashing if the fee is paid. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Motion by Mr. Starniri to enroll in the INVEST program. Second by Mr. Klass.

3. Motion to authorize Ms. Lohrman to proceed with the increase in the Fire pension contribution from 5.92% to 7.00% by sending a letter to PMRS. Second by Ms. McGinley.

4. Motion to approve the amendment to the Fire contract to include the "Heart and Lung Act" provision by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.

5. Motion by Ms. Lilly to approve the six month preliminary engineering extension with P.J. Lehman. Second by Mr. McGowan. Affirmative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. McGowan, and Mr. Schug. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. Klass, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Reiss, and Mr. Starniri. Motion was defeated by a vote of five to three.

Mr. Klass made a Motion to contact P.J. Lehman and recommending that a 40 feet box bridge with a retaining wall would be acceptable to the Borough. Second by Starniri. Motion tabled.

Mr. DeEsch made a suggestion to grant a one month extension, i.e. until February, and ask P.J. Lehman, Inc. for an explanation as to why the six month extension is needed. Mr. Klass requested that a representative attend the next Council meeting. Motion by Ms. Lilly to grant a one month extension and if a one month extension was not acceptable to grant a six month extension. Ms. Lohrman was requested to have P.J. Lehman attend the January 9, 2006 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Klass.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1127 – Approving Modification to the CDBG Program FFY 2002, 2003. Motion by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Ms. Lilly.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$34,557.05 were paid on a Motion by Ms. Lilly. Ms. Lohrman also requested permission to pay Waste Management, the approved seminar for Mr. DeEsch, and any utility bills due before the next Council meeting. 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