

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
JUNE 11, 2007

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

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg, President	Joan Lilly
James McGowan	Bob Reiss
David Schug	Louis Starniri
David Williams	

ABSENT:

James Klass, Ronald Nixon

Also present were: Mayor David Perruso, Attorney Dennis DeEsch, Chief Richard Nace, Code Enforcement Officer Paul R. Corriere, Superintendent Greg Drake

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the May 14, 2007 Council Meeting were approved with one correction. The property Ms. Lilly had in reference to at the last meeting was at 21<sup>st</sup> and Freemansburg Avenue. Motion to approve Minutes with correction by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. McGowan.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Mark Bahnick, Engineer from Van Cleef Engineering Associates, informed Council that the Dixie Lofts project was moving forward and they were looking to secure financing to purchase the building. Changes have been made to various access points on S. 24<sup>th</sup> Street. As part of the design changes, the number of residential units will increase from 289 to 302. The primary access will be on the S. 25<sup>th</sup> Street side of the building directly across from the entrance to Easton Area High School at the traffic signal. A convenience store will be added on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the building. Settlement has been scheduled for the end of the month. Mr. Bahnick requested Council to direct our attorney to increase the number of units in the letter he had written in October. After the site is cleared, construction will begin this year into 2008. The project is expected to open in the middle of 2009. Motion by Mr. Schug to request the Borough Solicitor to update the number of units in the approval letter. Second by Mr. Reiss. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly, Mr. Williams, Mr. Reiss, Mr. Schug and Mr. Starniri. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a six to one vote.

2. Fred Trach of 2300 Forest Street informed Council that he had been cooking out on a wood fire and a Police officer had stopped him. He was told by the officer that he needed to have a chimnea. Mr. Trach had later talked to Chief Collins and he was told what he was doing was alright. Chief Nace explained that someone must have called 911 about an open flame for the officer to have come to the house. Council did not have a problem with Mr. Trach cooking in the yard if Chief Collins said it was alright.

Mr. Trach suggested to Council that they should consider painting lines on the street for parking spaces. His son lives in VA and they do it there. It seems to keep additional parking spaces on the street.

3. Jody Brumstetter of the 1500 block of Lehigh Street appeared before Council to inform them about a recent break into her home when she and her 3 children there. The backdoor was broken in. Her car was also broken into several weeks ago. Ms. Brumstetter sees no patrols in the alley. She also believes that there is drug dealing going on. Chief Nace replied that Easton Police had picked up an individual they had suspected that had broken into the house. Ms. Brumstetter would like increased patrolling. Chief Nace has only two Police officers on each shift. Mr. McGowan sympathized with Ms. Brumstetter as his house had recently been broken into while he and his wife were home. He does not think having additional police officers is the answer. There could be an officer at each corner and crime would continue. Someone suggested have cameras installed in the Borough. In most cities, the cameras are placed in commercial areas not in residential areas. Mayor Perruso suggested having Block Watch start up again. The Borough had one at one time, but it stopped when no one came to the meetings anymore. Mr. Drake was willing to put up the Block Watch signs again if the group became active again. Someone complained that some of the street lights were out. They were instructed to call Met-Ed with the pole number and the light would be repaired. A Block Watch meeting was set-up for Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Officer Potope will be asked to attend.

4. Another woman informed Council that someone had exposed himself on 18<sup>th</sup> Street and it took 25 minutes for an officer to respond. She also had complaints about the officer's physical condition and his unpreparedness.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A request has been received from the Avona Volunteer Fire Company to use both pavilions and the band shell for their annual Pig Roast on July 21, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Motion to approve request if the appropriate insurance is received by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. McGowan.
2. A request has been received from Heather Flank of 2147 Hay Street for permission to close off the 2100 block of Hay Street on June 20, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a Block Party. Motion to approve request by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. McGowan.
3. A letter was received from the Borough of Nazareth thanking Wilson for allowing members of our Police Department to assist at and participate in the funeral of Nazareth Police Chief Bruce Ruch.
4. An email was received from Bob Milositz, Vice-President of WBBA, requesting permission to use the hose spigots to fill the dunk tank at the end of the year picnic/pool party on July 1, 2007. Mr. Drake did not have a problem with the baseball association using the spigot. Motion to approve request Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.
5. A letter was received from Greater Shiloh Church requesting permission to hold a Gospelfest at Meuser Park on Saturday, August 25, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event will be a community picnic and also will obtain donations of food, beverages, and personal hygiene products for the homeless in Northampton County. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that one of the pavilions is already rented on August 25, 2007. She was instructed to contact the church and explain the situation to them.
6. A letter was received from Wilson Midget Football Association for the use of Meuser Park on June 25, 2007 to June 28, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., July 9, 2007 through September 7, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and August 6, 2007 and August 7, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cheerleading practice was allowed in the past. Motion to approve request by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly.
7. A request was received by the 1800 Block Association to close the 1800 Block of Fairview Avenue on July 4, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Block Party. Motion to approve request by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Williams. A gentleman from the audience lives on S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street and stated that he cannot have company on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July because there is no parking on the street because the people from the 1800 block of Fairview Avenue are parked in front of his house. It was suggested that alternate parking be arranged such as the old CVS lot or the high school lot. A shuttle would be needed to get people to the block party. Mr. McGowan will take the parking complaint under consideration.

## COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received a Handicapped Parking Sign Application for Barbara Dolan at 128 S. 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Chief Nace has approved the request. Motion to approve the application by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Starniri.
2. Mayor Perruso reported that the total fines collected by Judge Koury were \$6,752.41.
3. Mayor Perruso has received information that Amber Paulson will be representing the State of PA in the American Homecoming Queen competition. Advertising for the event is between \$25.00 and \$300.00. Anyone interested in donating towards an ad should see Mayor Perruso.
4. Mayor Perruso has seen an increase in problems with the quantities of garbage left out when tenants move out of rental units. Waste Management has a limit and often does not take all the garbage put out for collection. A discussion was held on the quality of work done by Waste Management.

## COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman reported that the mold remediation project has been completed. Water continues to come into the building. Public Works has checked the pans on the roof units and everything was fine. Ms. Lohrman was requested to have Che Mechanical check the air conditioning system prior to replacing the ceiling tiles. The roof is not under warranty. Painting and/or wall papering can proceed in Council Chambers.
2. Ms. Lohrman has received the proposed bike path layout. Ms. Montgomery has submitted the HOP for the bike path and received one comment back. She has updated to HOP application to reflect the change. When Ms. Montgomery receives the HOP, she will finish the bid specs and forward the checklist to the DCNR. The portion of the bike path that will be completed is the northern leg that runs between S. 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Wood Avenue. Victor Balata has completed as much as can be completed along their property.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

## FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri has received a request from Chief Collins to hire Michael Smith and Kyle Garis as part-time firefighters. Both have completed the necessary training and must service a test period. Mr. Starniri made a Motion to hire Mr. Smith and Mr. Garis. Mr. Reiss questioned if the candidates were

interviewed by the committee. Mr. Reiss stated that if the candidates for positions as part-time police had to be interviewed, then the candidates for positions as part-time firefighters should be interviewed also. No Second to Mr. Starniri's Motion was received. Motion by Mr. Williams to interview Mr. Smith and Mr. Garis. Second by Mr. McGowan. All part-time and full-time candidates should be interviewed.

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri requested a Caucus on a Police, personnel matter.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. Drake reported that the work on the roads has been completed.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Drake informed Council that the leak was found and repaired in the Olympic pool. The work to repair the leak in the large pool will take place in the fall.

SOLICITOR:

1. Mr. DeEsch requested a Caucus on litigation matters.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the annual MECAB tour took place last week. Approximately 20 people attended the tour including 5 people from PSAB. Time was spent in Macungie where they are celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. MECAB meetings will start up again in September.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. After a Caucus, Mr. Reiss made a Motion to hire the top five candidates as part-time police officers. Second by Mr. Schug. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Reiss and Mr. Schug. Negative votes were cast by: Ms. Lilly, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Starniri. Motion carried by a four to three vote.

2. Motion by Mr. Reiss to approve the lower assessment on the Mehra property. Second by Ms. Lilly.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Approving the Final Activities and the Use of Funds for FFY 2007 CDBG Program. Motion to approve by Ms. Lilly. Second by Mr. Starniri.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$60,774.33 were paid and bills paid on May 29, 2007 in the amount of \$98,038.06 were ratified on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Williams.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Lilly made a Motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Transcribed from a tape.

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KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY