

WILSON BOROUGH  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
AUGUST 8, 2011

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	Edwinna Howey
David Jones	Joan Lilly-Kemmerer
Russ Lipari	James McGowan
Louis Starniri	David Williams

ABSENT:

Bob Reiss

Also present were: Mayor David S. Perruso, Attorney Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Assistant Superintendent Ron Behler, Chief Steven Parkansky, Chief Michael Collins, Code Officer Paul R. Corriere

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the July 25, 2011 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Michelle Geyer of 936 S. 24<sup>th</sup> Street appeared before Council to discuss the closure of her Furry Feet Rescue. Ms. Geyer informed Council that there has been an exaggeration of the issues concerning her rescue operation. The complaints are from one neighbor, Barry Willever. Most of those present at the meeting know what the truth about her organization. Ms. Geyer requested to see the written complaints on her operation. Mr. Corriere responded that Ms. Geyer had received a business license for a home based business. The license was conditionally issued as the business did not fit in a R1-R2 zone. Ms. Geyer was only going to house a few cats. Mr. Corriere felt that the Geyer's could handle that many felines. After receiving several complaints, Mr. Corriere visited Furry Feet along with the County and State Dog wardens and the Borough Animal Control Agent. The Geyer's had received a kennel license with the state without notifying or checking with the Borough on any restrictions on the site. The rescue has outgrown what was originally discussed. At Mr. Corriere's last visit, the rescue had over 30 cats, eight puppies and five other dogs. There was fecal matter present in the back yard and there was an odor present. Ms. Geyer contends that she no longer has dogs on the property, but cannot give up the kennel license as she needs it to have dogs in foster care. The next door neighbors stated that they do not have any smells or hear any noise. Mr. Feinberg suggested that the rescue apply for a zoning variance in order to stay open. Julie Kels of the Center for Animal Health & Welfare stated the Furry Feet does good work. Ms. Geyer had a petition of 55 signatures from residents who support the shelter. Ms. Geyer would like additional time to find another home better suited to the rescue. Mr. Lipari inquired about the time it takes for an animal to be placed in a permanent home. Ms. Geyer responded that it normally takes between two weeks and six months to place a dog. Foster parents are available. There was a question raised as to whether or not the kennel license was revoked. Mr. Starniri stated that a kennel was not an approved use in an R2 zone. A home business must not have any impact on the neighborhood. Mr. Minotti suggested that the Geyer's apply for a special exception to the Zoning Hearing Board and also go through the Planning Commission. Mr. Jones questioned how healthy it was to have so many cats in such a small space. Mr. Lipari questioned the ammonia levels present. Ms. Geyer responded that the litter boxes are cleaned constantly. The animals are left alone for four hours a day. Jeannine Burd of 2440 Birch Street stated that she was a volunteer at the shelter and Ms. Geyer does a lot for the community and other rescues. She takes in the animals, takes them to the vet and offers education to the community and inoculations. It would be detrimental to shut the rescue down. Ms. Geyer does not make any money from the rescue. All the funds go to the animals for veterinary care and food. The animals are happy. Mr. Feinberg responded that no one is questioning the good that Ms. Geyer is doing. Ms. Geyer has options. Danielle McFadden agreed with Mrs. Burd. She suggested that Council visit Feline Finishline or the Center for Animal Health & Welfare and see how well animals get along. Mr. Minotti explained that Borough Council is not the body to make a decision on whether Furry Feet stays open. A special exception or variance is not given by Council. It is given by the Zoning Hearing Board. Michael Burd responded that Council runs the Borough. Mr. Starniri stated that the Zoning Hearing Board is a separate entity from Borough Council. There is a process to be followed. Mr. Minotti added that Furry Feet would need to go before the Planning Commission first. Then on to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Borough Council could appeal a decision by the Zoning Hearing Board if it disagrees with a decision.

Bethany from Phillipsburg, NJ questioned by what authority could Mr. Corriere close Furry Feet. It is non-profit organization and not a business. Furry Feet is in violation of the Zoning Ordinance. Joseph Thompson of 2119 Forest Street was told that he had too many dogs. Mr. Thompson has 6 dogs. Mr. Thompson stands behind Furry Feet Rescue. Mr. Feinberg stated that at the last meeting the Borough was going to look into what may be an appropriate number of pets in a household. The Commonwealth of PA will not allow a Borough to limit the number of dogs or cats within a household. However the Borough could do something if there was a risk to public health or the animals were being a nuisance. Mr. Thompson understands that Mr. Corriere has a job to do, but he dislikes some of the things that he says. Linda Thompson of 2119 Forest Street stated that Mr. Corriere stood on her porch and said that she could only have 3 dogs in her house. Mr. Corriere stated that the Thompson's are running a business without a license. The Thompson's have been hurt by Mr. Corriere's remarks. Mr. Thompson was cited at the Magistrate for not having his dogs rabies inoculated. The Magistrate was kind enough to lower the fine.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Rosario Amato, Athletic Director for Wilson School District, requested permission to use the tennis courts at Meuser Park for home matches this year. There is a major issue with one of the courts and it is unable to be used at this time. The matches are scheduled on the following dates: August 29, 2011, August 31, 2011, September 1, 2011, September 8, 2011, September 14, 2011, September 19, 2011 and September 21, 2011. All but the September 21, 2011 match will begin at 4:00 p.m. The September 21, 2011 will begin at 3:45 p.m. Matches should be over by 6:30 p.m. at the latest. Motion by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer to allow the school district to use the courts for home tennis matches. Second by Mr. Starniri.

2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Borough Wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2011. The sale will start at 8:00 a.m. and set-up will be at 7:00 a.m. The sale will end in the early afternoon. Mrs. Beck and the Friends of the Library will have the refreshment stand open during the event.

3. Mayor Perruso received a letter today from Dale Eden regarding safety concerns at the Sunday evening concerts. Mr. Eden explains that many seniors park in the grass area facing the seated concert goers. Several people leave the concert early and back up, turn around and exit in front of everyone seated. Vehicles also enter from the Strausser Center area and drive on the macadam in front of the band shell where people are dancing and children are riding bicycles. Mr. Eden suggested eliminating all parking beyond the bathrooms and the middle of the wooden pavilion and not allow any traffic on the macadam beyond the same points. Mr. Jones responded that the matter was discussed last year. The only solution he sees is to put up caution tape to prevent people from driving all the way around the park. Mr. Behler was asked to check out the pot holes in the tennis court parking lot.

#### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that there was a Bike Rodeo at the Wilson High School parking lot last Saturday. The event was run by Ms. Howey, Officer Voorhees, Officer Lahovsky, Easton Police Department and Broken Spoke. A course was laid out in the parking lot and bicycle helmets were given out. Safety inspections were performed on each bike. Mayor Perruso thanked everyone that helped make the event a success. Mr. Feinberg has put pictures of the rodeo on the internet.

2. Chief Parkansky thanked Ms. Howey, Deanna Milositz and BlockWatch for sponsoring National Night Out.

#### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Mr. Feinberg had spoken to Eastern Consultants, Inc. regarding the purchase of a new generator. Eastern Consultants has provided a proposal of \$13,000.00 for basic design services including: preparing final design, bid documents and assistance during bidding. Additional services will be provided, if needed, at an hourly rate. Professional services are not required to be bid. Motion by Mr. Starniri to approve the proposal of Eastern Consultants, Inc. and proceed with the process to purchase a generator. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

2. Ms. Lohrman has received a request to hire Thomas Kemmerer as a part-time Crossing Guard. Motion to approve the request by Mr. Feinberg. Second by Mr. Lipari. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer abstained from voting.

3. Ms. Lohrman requested a Caucus on a personnel matter and a Caucus on a matter of potential litigation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

#### FIRE:

1. Chief Collins informed Council that the grant the Borough is receiving standardizing the hose is

coming in at \$2,400.00 under budget. The grant vendor is willing to upgrade other hose at a cost of \$3,000.00. Chief Collins proposed using funds in three line items to pay for the cost to have the additional hose standardized. FEMA still must approve the change. Motion to accept Chief Collins' proposal to have the additional hose standardized by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer. Mr. Starniri thanked Chief Collins for getting the project completed.

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri inquired about the status of the updates for the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Mr. Minotti responded that he had spoken to both Mr. Feinberg and Chief Parkansky regarding the matter and he will have the updates in the form of a resolution for the August 22, 2011 Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer inquired about the street sweeper. Mr. Behler responded that it was in very bad shape. The Public Works employees are in the process of spraying the gutters throughout the Borough now.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti had requested a Caucus on the matter of litigation which was discussed during the Ms. Lohrman's Caucus.

MECAB:

None

COG:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Mr. Drake had received a price of \$34.77 for the directional sign the Soul Winners Pentecostal Church, Inc. had requested. The church was willing to pay that price for the sign. The church's phone number was also included on the proposed sign. Motion by Mr. Starniri to approve the sign as long as the design was the same as the other ones the Borough has, without the phone number. Second by Mr. Williams.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Lipari stated that there were two dead trees on the southwest corner of Warrior Lane and Washington Blvd. Mr. Lipari asked if the Borough owned the trees. Mr. Feinberg responded that the school district owned the trees and they should have them removed.

2. Charles Latsch, Jr. of 944 S. 25<sup>th</sup> St. inquired as to whether Council made a decision concerning the escrow fire funds being held on the property next to him. Mr. Latsch cannot purchase the home until the matter is resolved. Mr. Minotti asked Mr. Latsch if he had any objection if any of the Borough Code Officials inspected the house to look at the progress on the home repairs. Mr. Latsch responded he did not have a problem if the Code Officials inspected the house. Mr. Minotti will contact Attorney Lewis regarding the fire escrow proposal.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$98,081.72 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Williams.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer made a Motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

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KAREN A LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY