

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
AUGUST 22, 2011

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

ABSENT:

None

Also present were: Mayor David S. Perruso, Attorney Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Superintendent Greg Drake, Chief Steven Parkansky, Code Officer Paul R. Corriere

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the August 8, 2011 Council Meeting were approved by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Members of the Wilson Lions Club and their spouses appeared before Council to discuss the Wilson Lions Fair. Tony Verenna was the spokesman for the Lions. Mr. Verenna requested an explanation for the figures on the bill for Police coverage for the fair. The Lions were not complaining about the number of officers working. The officers took care of everything and there were no problems at the fair. Mr. Verenna was concerned about the 30% being charged over and above the wages. Mr. Feinberg explained that the fee was the cost of running the department. It costs the Borough \$71.12 per hour to put a man on the street. The 30% charge was added to the 2009 invoice, but not the 2010 invoice. Mr. Reiss stated that the cost of benefits should not be added to the part-time wages. The invoice did not include the cost for the Public Works Department. Mr. Starniri added that the school district is also charged the 30%. Mr. Lipari stated that the bill was padded by people that don't like the fair. Mr. Reiss made a Motion to accept the bill minus the 30% fee for the part-time officers. Second by Mr. Lipari. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Reiss, Ms. Howey and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Starniri. Motion was approved by a five to four vote. Mr. Reiss stated that the Borough previously had a contract with the Lions for the fair. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer stated that she had been on Council since 1997 and had never seen a contract. Mr. Feinberg stated that there had not been a contract in the last 10 years since he's been on Council. There had been problems with the carnival. An accident had occurred this year involving a third party, not hired by the Lions. Someone had called the Borough since the last meeting about a lawsuit. The call was forwarded to Mr. Corriere, who forwarded the call on to someone else. Mr. Verenna said the call was about having a booth at the fair. No arrests were made at the park. Chief Parkansky felt that there were several incidents that occurred outside the park involving people who had been at the fair. Mr. Verenna responded that you cannot control the kids. Mr. Verenna stated that he could not respond about the complaints about the garbage not being picked up. There is garbage in the Borough in particular at 18th and Butler Streets. Joe Werner, President of the Lions, stated that the Lions attempted to improve the fair by only having smaller rides for the kids. The Borough is not what it used to be. Mr. McGowan stated that he walked around the fairgrounds and did not know most of the people who attended the fair. The Lions were offended at the one line letter they received about finding another venue for the fair. They were not given an opportunity to respond to the reasons why they were asked to leave. The Lions use the fair as a fundraiser and give funds to many non-profit organizations. Mr. Feinberg stated that several years ago when he was a Lion, the group had discussed several ways to improve safety concerns at the fair including fencing in the area and charging an admission. None of the suggestions were ever implemented. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer stated the Lions rent out space including the pavilions to organizations and the fair people, but do not give any money to the Borough for the use of the park. A discussion ensued about the phone in the building at the park. Mr. Lipari replied that several good points were brought up and if the Borough is willing to continue to allow the Lions to use the park, they are willing to discuss changes to the fair. Mr. Jones suggested creating a committee to discuss the matter. If the problems had been discussed right after the fair, the matter could be rectified by now. Mr. Dominick Perruso reviewed several buildings the Lions donated to the Borough such as the swimming pool, pavilion and the community center. Mr. Perruso stated that Ms. Lohrman never sent a thank you

letter for those items. Ms. Lohrman responded that many of the things the Lions had done for the Borough occurred prior to her employment. Mr. Lipari would like Ms. Lohrman to draft a letter listing the Borough's concerns as Mr. Jones stated that there was not any discussion about why the Lions could not use the park any longer. Mr. Starniri felt a letter was not necessary as many of the Lions members were present tonight. Mr. Lipari made a Motion to allow the Lions to use the park for the fair in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and allow them to address Council's concerns. Mr. Starniri suggested allowing them to use the park in 2012. Mr. Lipari agreed to amend his Motion allow the Lions to use the park in 2012 and 2013 for the fair. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer questioned doing a contract before changes are agreed to. It was agreed that everyone should be at meetings for important issues. Matters should be placed on the agenda. Second by Mr. Reiss. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Jones, Mr. Lipari, Mr. Reiss, Ms. Howey, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams. Negative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer and Mr. McGowan. Motion carried by a six to three vote. Mr. Feinberg stated that the entire Council would be involved in discussions involving the fair. The next workshop on September 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. will be used to discuss the Lions Fair. Albie Perruso stated that stated that several years ago, Council had given the Lions an opened end use of Meuser Park. Council had virtually taken that away.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. New Eastwood Care and Rehabilitation Center requested permission to host a Fall Festival "Art in the Park" at Meuser Park on October 22, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Local schools and businesses will be asked to participate in the event along with their residents and stakeholders to bridge the generations through different forms of art. Motion by Mr. Starniri to allow the event provided that standard fees are paid and proper insurance provided. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

2. The City of Easton is in the process of preparing for a 2012 CDBG application. The City invited Wilson Borough's comments on the housing and community development needs of the City that may impact the Borough. Written comments are due by October 24, 2011. A Public Hearing will be held on September 14, 2011 and October 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.

3. An email was received from Rosario Amato regarding the tennis courts at Meuser Park. Mr. Amato thanked the Borough for the use of the courts for home matches. However, they will not be using the courts due to the cracks in the playing areas. Mr. Drake responded that the courts were redone three or four years ago. There are cracks in the courts, but not the playing area. No other complaints have been received regarding the disrepair of the courts. Mr. Drake will fill in the cracks prior to winter this year and get prices to repair the courts for next year's budget.

4. Ms. Lohrman has received an email from Jack Graham, a member of the Keystone Market Trust. The Borough has been unable to find the marker that had been in the 1600 block of Northampton Street. Mr. Graham stated that a replacement could be made for a cost of \$1,250.00. If Council did not wish to replace the marker, Mr. Graham would like to have to post so it could be used in another location. Motion by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer to allow Mr. Graham to remove the post at his expense and to repair the hole made by the post removal. Second by Mr. Starniri.

5. A letter was received from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church requesting permission to place a banner across Northampton Street to advertise their Fall Greek Food Festival on September 30, 2011, October 1, 2011 and October 2, 2011. The banner will be the same as previously used with only the dates changed. Motion to approve the request with the proper insurance by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso thanked Chief Parkansky for making arrangements for he, Officer Crisafulli and Officer Nunes to attend the memorial service for Officer Lasso.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman received an email from Angel Gillette regarding the Lehigh Valley, PA Hazard Mitigation Plan. The original plan was approve by FEMA in 2007 and must be updated every five years. Basic information was provided in the email. All municipalities within the Counties may formally participate in this process and continue to be eligible for federal pre-disaster mitigation funding and other benefits afforded under federal disaster recovery programs. Ms. Lohrman discussed the matter with Chief Collins. He and Joseph Sipel, Wilson Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, are willing to serve as the Points of Contact. Motion by Mr. Starniri to participate in the Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update project. Second by Mr. Williams.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

FIRE:

1. Mr. Starniri informed Council that Chief Collins was participating in a drill at Easton Auto Body.

POLICE:

None

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Drake requested a Caucus at the end of the meeting.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti reminded Council that they had received a letter from Attorney Lewis offering a compromise on the Latsch fire escrow funds. Mr. Minotti and several Council members disagree on the terms that the fire escrow funds are released. Council has been informed that the Salermon property is 75% completed and has been properly secured. Mr. Minotti would like to have the Borough Code people look at the property and see how much of the property has been improved. CodeMasters has been performing the code inspections. Different amounts were sent to the Borough for the escrow funds as different amounts of damage were done and the insurance companies used different laws to determine how much funds were needed to be escrowed. Mr. Corriere and/or Chief Collins were asked to check to see how much of the Salermon property has been repaired and report back to Council.

2. Mr. Minotti prepared a draft resolution for the changes to the Rules and Regulations of the Wilson Borough Civil Service Commission. The draft is for discussion only. Mr. Minotti is not sure if a veteran must be chosen if he or she is in the top three. Mr. Minotti needs to investigate the matter further. Mr. Starniri would like to have the completed document for the next Council meeting. Mr. Minotti stated that the document will have to go back to the Civil Service Commission for approval prior to coming to Council.

MECAB:

None

COG:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg thanked Ms. Lohrman and Ms. Guth for helping out at the Borough Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, August 20, 2011

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$116,693.33 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Reiss. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Jones made a Motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY