

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
MARCH 26, 2012

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	Winnie Howey
Joan Lilly-Kemmerer	Russ Lipari
Louis Starniri	David Williams

ABSENT:

David Jones, James McGowan

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 12, 2012 Council Meeting were approved by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer. Second by Mr. Starniri.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Attorney Daniel Cohen appeared before Council on behalf of James Garofalo, owner of the property located at 1700 Northampton Street. Mr. Garofalo has owned property in Wilson since 1946 and has been a good property owner. The Borough recently removed 2 parking spaces in front of his property which is causing a hardship to his employees. Between parking on the property and parking on the street, there are only 14 spaces, but 19 people are employed in the building. There are three vacancies in the building, in part, because of the lack of parking. There is not any additional parking on 17th Street and parking across the street on Northampton is not practical. Attorney Cohen feels the additional no parking will encourage people to park in the yellow zone. Attorney Cohen recognizes that it's difficult to see when proceeding through the intersection, but the situation would be better if the police enforced the speed limit. Currently they are not doing so. Attorney Cohen suggested limiting parking to only 15 minutes instead of the additional no parking area and asking PennDot to make the intersection right turn only. Attorney Cohen requested Council to put off making a decision on the matter for 30 to 60 days so they can consider other options. Mayor Perruso agreed that he has not seen parking available on 17th Street, but he has seen parking available on Northampton Street. Mr. Starniri did not think that the additional no parking solved the problem. Mr. Drake responded that one has to go half way into the intersection in order to see the traffic approach the intersection. The additional no parking does make a difference. Motion to call a vote on Ordinance 759 out of order by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Williams. Affirmative votes were cast by: Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Howey, Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer, Mr. Lipari and Mr. Williams. A Negative vote was cast by Mr. Starniri. Ordinance 759 was enacted by a five to one vote.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter of interest in the vacant Council seat was received from Ryan Woodring of 2058 Ferry Street.

2. A letter of interest in the vacant Council seat was received from Becka Bossons of 2220 Northampton Street.

3. A letter of interest in the vacant Council seat was received from Michelle Templeton of 2010 Lehigh Street.

Ms. Lohrman called each of the three candidate's name. Mr. Feinberg, Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer, Mr. Starniri and Mr. Williams voted for Ryan Woodring. No Council members voted for Becka Bossons. Ms. Howey and Mr. Lipari voted for Michelle Templeton. Mr. Starniri made a Motion for Ms. Lohrman to prepare the appropriate resolution in order to appoint Mr. Woodring to fill the vacant Council seat held by Bob Reiss.

4. A thank you card for the flowers was received from Barb Reiss and family.

5. A letter was received from Mark Nace, President of the Wilson Midget Football Association, requesting permission to use the community center without charge on June 9, 2012 to hold a fundraiser for the football association. The funds will be used to purchase equipment. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer stated that the funds for the association is down and the association could really use the money. Motion to approve the request for the football association to use the community center by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer. Second by Mr. Starniri.

6. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer forwarded Ms. Lohrman a letter from Robin Van Buskirk requesting to be

considered for an open seat on the Wilson Recreation Board. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer has informed Ms. Lohrman that two candidates were interviewed for the position and the board was recommending Ms. Van Buskirk to be appointed to the seat. Motion by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer to appoint Robin Van Buskirk to the Wilson Recreation Board. Second by Mr. Lipari.

7. Ms. Lohrman has received an email from Rosie Amato requesting permission to use Fisk Field for a Girls Soccer game on Tuesday, May 8, 2012. It will be the last game for the season and will be Senior Night. The field in Williams Township is unavailable since it is in use for baseball. The school district Maintenance Crew would line off the field and set up the goals. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer informed Council that whenever the midget football association had to use the high school field, they were charged for the use. If the high school team was not using the field that week, they were also charge for lining the field. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer felt that if the high school wanted to use Fisk Field, they should have to pay for it. Mr. Lipari responded that this is a once and done event. The girl's soccer season is being moved to the fall. A concern was expressed that the football field overlaps the baseball field. Baseball would like a fence put up. There should not be a problem with lines. Motion by Mr. Starniri to allow the high school to use Fisk Field for the soccer game on May 8, 2012 at no charge. The field must be left in the same condition as it was found. Second by Mr. Lipari.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received a request from St. Jane's School requesting permission to close the alley behind the school for a run on April 27, 2012. Motion to approve the request by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer. Second by Mr. Williams.

2. Mayor Perruso informed Council that Chief Parkansky is at the range and was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received a proposal from Donovan Associates for professional mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering services for the Fisk Field concession stand. The services through BSEG, LLC would cost \$1,600.00. The cost for services for Donovan would be an additional \$210.00. Ms. Lohrman was attempting to get a clarification as BSEG stated in their proposal that their work would be completed by September 30, 2012 and the Borough needed the concession stand open for football season. Motion to approve the proposal if the work could be completed for the season by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer. Second by Mr. Lipari.

2. Ms. Lohrman reported to Council that the bids were open today for the generator project. The bids were as follows:

ACE Electric	\$177,476.00
Diefenderfer Electric	\$183,250.00
Thomas Hoffman, Inc.	\$266,590.00
Wind Gap Electric	\$188,088.00

Mr. Feinberg stated that the bids included prevailing wages and the Borough has the funds to pay for the project. The engineer has reviewed the specs and ACE Electric is the lowest responsible bidder. Motion by Mr. Starniri to award the bid to ACE Electric. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer informed Council that Rec Board has agreed to purchase the sound system and the scoreboard for Fisk Field. The conduit is already in for the scoreboard. Mr. Drake is able to pull the wire, but is unable to make the necessary connections. Additional electrical work will be needed to be done in the concession stand for the cooking equipment to be used. Mr. Drake was granted permission to have an electrician perform the necessary work.

FIRE:

None

POLICE:

1. Mr. Starniri informed Council that the committee has received a letter from the Police Association regarding negotiations. Mr. Starniri would like to have the committee stay after the meeting to discuss possible dates to meet with the association.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer stated that the committee had met with the Public Works Committee and the department was wondering why they were the only department that had to punch in. Mr. Feinberg responded that the Police Officers and Fire Fighters are considered salaried and they do not have to punch in. Ms. Lohrman added that the Police Officer's time is kept manually.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Lipari informed Council that the committee had met on March 12, 2012. The committee has reviewed all the applications and have three people who they would like to hire so far. All the names of the people the committee would like to hire will be presented to Council. They committee has not made any decisions about the refreshment stand. Since the winter was not hard, the Public Works Department will only have to do the basics. Mr. Drake is looking into purchasing a slide for the pool. The funds are in the budget. The slide would have to be at the deep end of the pool. One of the dives would have to be removed. Mr. Drake will have to discuss the matter with the insurance company prior to purchasing the slide. Mr. Lipari's only concern is that he does not want the slide to hinder the swim team. Mr. Drake is willing to do CPR training for the pool employees at no cost to the Borough.

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Feinberg has been attending the Police Committee meetings in place of Mr. Reiss. Mr. Starniri felt that it would be better if Mr. Feinberg stayed on the committee in the place of the new Council member. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer questioned whether the President of Council could be a member of a committee. The President of Council can sit on any committee.

MECAB:

1. Mayor Perruso informed Council that MECAB would be having a reorganization meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Freemansburg. Mr. Starniri may attend the meeting.

COG:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lohrman has spoken to Mr. Kase from New Eastwood Care and Rehabilitation Center concerning the proposed "Art in the Park". Mr. Kase has agreed to the conditions set forth by Council at the last Council meeting. Motion by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer to approve the request as long as the conditions are met. Second by Mr. Williams.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Feinberg informed Council that the Borough has been approached by Alicia Miller Karner, County of Northampton, Department of Community & Economic Development regarding putting the Dixie building in a Keystone Opportunity Zone. Information on the program was in Council packets. The program has been around for years. The Council must apply for designation by June 1, 2012. Taxes on the property would be waived for 10 years and all three taxing bodies have to agree to proceed. One problem exists. The property must be 10 acres or more and the Dixie warehouse is only 6.6 acres. Ms. Karner is in Harrisburg today trying to get the Commonwealth to make exceptions on properties in Easton and Wilson due to space limitations. The TIF was extended, but other funding that was to be used for the Dixie Lofts project has gone away. The KOZ could be used for any allowable zoning use. Mr. Feinberg is concerned that the property owner may eventually request a reassessment and the Borough would lose tax revenue regardless. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer expressed her concern over the loss of revenue for 10 years. Mr. Feinberg responded that although there were no guarantees over the 10 years, even if the environmental issues were corrected, it would be worth it. It was estimated that it would cost \$3,500,000.00 to fix those issues. Motion to approve the resolution on the KOZ by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer. Second by Mr. Starniri. Ms. Lohrman will prepare the appropriate resolution to be ratified at the next Council meeting.

2. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer confirmed that Senator Mensch, Mr. Fisk and Amy Montgomery will be attending the dedication ceremony at Fisk Field on April 14, 2012.

3. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer requested an update on Mr. Corriere's hearing on the Miga matter. Mr. Minotti responded the citation was thrown out on a technicality, but Mr. Miga was now complying with the number of residents allowed in the facility. Mr. Minotti will be in court regarding a Miga matter on April 4, 2012. Mr. Minotti and Mr. Walter are not sure if Mr. Miga is fully in compliance with the proposed agreement. The court will make a ruling.

ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 759 was approved earlier in the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$185,450.53 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer made a Motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Second by Mr. Starniri and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A.LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY