

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 14, 2013

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
David Jones
Russ Lipari
Louis Starniri

Winnie Howey
Joan Lilly-Kemmerer
James McGowan
David Williams

ABSENT:

Ryan Woodring

Also present were: Mayor David S. Perruso, Solicitor Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Chief Michael Collins, Chief Steven Parkansky, Director of Public Works Greg Drake, Code Enforcement Officer Paul Corriere

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the December 27, 2012 Council Meeting was approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

1. Thomas and Sandy Pinkerton appeared before Council to continue the discussion concerning a tree on Borough property that had been partially knocked down by Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Feinberg informed the Pinkerton's that the Borough had found the original lease agreements from the 1950s for the properties along the railroad bed behind the 2400 block of Alder Street. The Pinkerton's property is 78 feet in length. The Borough now owns 95 feet from the center of the former railroad tracks. A portion of the property was leased for the sole purpose of gardening. Over the years, the neighbors have extended their yards further into the railroad right-of-way. Sandy Pinkerton stated that Harvey Ackerman had given her permission to put a swimming pool in her backyard on the railroad right-of-way. If the tree falls, it will fall on Borough property. Mr. Minotti reviewed the lease and it was never terminated and will continue to go on unless one of the parties terminates it. Mr. Drake stated that he could not remove the tree unless he got a crane. It would cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 to take the tree down. Thomas Pinkerton stated that he had gotten an estimate from Heck's to pull the tree down for \$100.00. Heck's would have to go on Borough property to pull the tree down. The tree would then have to be cut up and removed. A certificate of insurance would have to be provided to the Borough. Motion by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer to allow Heck's to pull the tree down using Borough property. Mr. Drake will be responsible to remove the tree. A certificate of insurance must be given to the Borough. Second by Mr. Lipari.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso commented that the Police Department has been busy. He received a nice compliment about the Department by email.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Borough had a certificate of deposit maturing on January 31, 2013. Motion by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer to authorize Ms. Lohrman to contact several local banks for rates. Mr. McGowan suggested the Borough invest in the highest rate for the longest term. Second by Mr. Starniri. Ms. Lohrman will present the rates at the next Council meeting for review.

2. Ms. Lohrman presented current rates the Health Inspector is charging. Mr. Veresink suggested raising the fee for new establishments/change for ownership from \$75.00 to \$100.00. Ms. Lohrman acknowledged that it often requires several meetings and/or visits to bring a new business up to code. The fees are comparable to other municipalities. Motion by Mr. Starniri to authorize Ms. Lohrman to draw up a Resolution fixing the proposed health license fees. Second by Mr. Jones.

3. Ms. Lohrman has received information on Northampton County Open Space Initiative. The

County has allocated \$132,601.14 for Wilson Borough. Eligible uses are: acquiring land for to provide parkland for outdoor recreation activities; acquired privately owned recreation land that is threatened by development or abandonment of use; develop recreation facilities of municipal land already owned; rehabilitate existing municipally owned park and recreation facilities that need improvement; or allow for security and safety systems to protect and maintain improvements. Funding rounds will occur in March, September and December. Funds must be used within five years from the date of approval. Municipalities are required to provide 50% of the project cost. In-kind services may be included in that 50% requirement. This program is a reimbursable grant. Several ideas were discussed including: developing land across the creek at Fisk Field, making additional parking on that land; additional funding for the camera at Fisk Field; improving land acquired on Lehigh Drive and Jeffery Field improvements. Matter deferred until the next Council meeting. Council members will check into what projects should be undertaken and Ms. Lohrman will get further information on the program.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer inquired about the status of the community center basement and the shed at Meuser Park. Mr. Drake responded that both of them had been cleaned out.

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins would like to add a Missed Appointment fee to the Setting Commercial and Residential Inspection Fees Resolution. He has had ongoing problems with people not showing up for their appointments. He usually waits 10 to 15 minutes. The cost of the Missed Appointment Fee would be the same as what was charged for the original fee. Mr. Corriere will inform the person paying for the inspection fee that there is now a Missed Appointment Fee. Anyone notifying Chief Collins before the inspection time that they will not be able to make the appointment, will not be charged the Missed Appointment Fee.

2. Chief Collins has received an email from the Fire Commissioner that the Borough had been approved for \$11,679.44 in order to purchase a thermal imaging camera. The amount received will pay for one camera.

POLICE:

1. Mr. Lipari stated that problems are moving west of 15th Street and have reached epidemic proportions. Most of the crimes seem to be drug related. Easton took the lead in the meth lab bust as the lab was originally in Easton and the perpetrators had just moved into Wilson. Easton has more investigators in their department than Wilson has officers. Chief Parkansky stated that the department is aggressively investigating crime and is using other agencies to assist the Borough. The department is also using saturation patrols where suspected activity is occurring. Part of the problem is that many landlords do not care what is happening on their properties. Mr. Lipari suggested raising fines when the landlords are not in compliance. Mr. Minotti responded that there are limitations as to what is fined. Many of the landlords own several rental properties in municipalities. An unidentified resident suggested that Borough be more proactive so the landlords that don't care what goes on in their properties do not wish to purchase property in Wilson. Mr. Feinberg responded that Wilson had the most restricted rental program in the area. Mayor Perruso stated that he gets calls all the time from people who want to buy property in Wilson and want to know about the area. Mayor Perruso felt that Chief Parkansky was doing a wonderful job working with what he has. Ms. Howey stated that there is a lack of interest in BlockWatch. Either people do not want to get involved or nothing is going on in their area and do not feel the need to be involved.

PUBLIC WORKS:

None

PARKS AND RECREATION:

1. Mr. Lipari informed Council that same gentleman that had the refreshment stand at the swimming pool last year would be running the stand again this year.

2. Mr. Lipari made a Motion to advertise at the end of February for the Assistant Manager position and Lifeguards for the swimming pool this year. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer questioned whether advertising at the end of the month would give the community enough time to interview the candidates and get them hired before the pool opens. Ms. Lohrman will instead advertise in the beginning of February for the Assistant Manager and Lifeguard positions. Second by Mr. Williams.

3. Mr. Drake will have the handicapped lift installed in the swimming pool prior to the pool opening.

ATTORNEY:

None

MECAB:

None

COG:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that there will be a COG meeting on January 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Bethlehem Township.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer questioned if it would be possible to make the bocce court area into a playground for the swimming pool patrons. The bleachers could be moved to Fisk Field. The boards at the bocce court are not in good shape and the courts have not been maintained. Mr. Drake stated that the courts never drained well, the boards have warped and the courts have not been used. Mayor Perruso added that the courts were not used since the Borough wanted insurance coverage for tournaments. Mr. Lipari thought that Borough should think about promoting the courts. The tennis and basketball courts are used regularly. Mr. McGowan felt that putting a playground in the pool area was asking for trouble. He did not feel that parents would properly supervise their children. Mr. Drake will make an assessment of the bocce courts and report back to Council. A gentleman in the audience suggested only requiring insurance covering the deductible instead of a larger policy. Mr. Minotti suggested discussing the insurance issue with the Borough's insurance company.

ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 1197 – Setting Commercial and Residential Inspection Fees. Motion by Mr. Starniri to approve the Resolution with the addition of a Missed Appointment Fee. The charge will be an additional inspection fee assessed . Second by Mr. Williams.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$81,753.93 were paid on a Motion by Mrs. Lilly-Kemmerer. Second by Mr. Starniri.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Second by Mr. Jones and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A.LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY