

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
February 9, 2015

The First Meeting of February 2015 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	Pamela Taylor
Joan Lilly-Kemmerer	David Jones
James McGowan	
Matthew Larimer	
Louis Starniri	

ABSENT:

Russell Lipari
Winnie Howey

Also present were: Mayor David Perruso, Fire Chief Michael Collins, Director of Public Works Greg Drake and Sergeant Christian Meehan.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the January 12, 2015 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer. Council unanimously approved the Minutes of the January 12, 2015 Council meeting.

GUEST:

Engineering Firm T & M Associates, represented by Tim Edinger, made a presentation to Council to explain what they can offer the Borough. Also present were Russell Benner, Monica Wall and Jerry Jameson. T & M provides municipal engineering services and have an office located in Bethlehem. In addition, they have 3 dedicated Grant Specialists who will work for the Borough to capture all available grant opportunities.

Mr. Ronald Roscioli of Glendon Borough Council was present to request fire services from Wilson Borough for calendar year 2016 and forward. Glendon currently has a one year contract with Easton. Mr. Feinberg explained to Mr. Roscioli that the cost to cover Glendon's residents would be approximately \$73,000.00 for one year. At this price a property in Glendon will pay the same price as a Wilson Borough property. Mr. Roscioli presented a list of reasons to dispute the figures. Mr. Roscioli asked Council to reconsider the figures for 2016.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Ms. Garcia reminded Council the spring PSAB Conference is being held April 26-29, 2015 in Lancaster, for those who wish to attend.

Mr. Starniri explained the NC Repository sale request for a parcel of land on Northampton Street. Mr. Joseph Mercado has offered to purchase parcel L9SW2A 13 14A 0837. This tiny landlocked parcel lays along side his parents property and due to the slope, dirt continually washes onto his parents' property. They intend to care for the parcel so this no longer happens. Motion by Mr. Starniri to allow the sale of parcel L9SW2A 13 14A 0837 to Mr. Mercado to proceed. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed. Ms. Garcia will send letter to the Northampton County Repository informing them of Council's decision.

Mrs. Marybeth Okula principal of St. Jane Frances de Chantal School requested permission for the school to use the alley way between 19th and 20th streets for their 7th annual marathon. It will be held on April 17, 2015 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. There will also be a DJ. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer to allow use of the alley way and permission for a DJ. Seconded by Mr. McGowan. Council unanimously concurred.

Mr. Mark Cooke sent a letter requesting permission for the Wilson Borough Baseball Association to use Jeffrey and Fisk Fields for the upcoming baseball and softball seasons. This will run from the beginning of March until the end of October. Fisk Field will be unavailable when football begins. He also requested that all facilities be up and running at the beginning of March weather permitting and the portable fence be installed at Fisk Field. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer to allow the use of fields for baseball. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Council unanimously concurred.

Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer noted to Mr. Drake that locks still need to be installed at the field.

Discussion of the return of escrow funds for fire damaged properties at 1825 and 1827 Lehigh Streets was tabled. Ms. Garcia stated she was unsure if a c/o had been issued and Mr. Corriere was not present to confirm or deny.

Ms. Garcia told Council of Mr. Philip Bell's (Animal Control Officer) request for the Borough to build a kennel on Borough property. Council discussed building a kennel on Mr. Bell's property.

Ms. Garcia presented a request from Wilson Borough Basketball to use the pavilions at Meuser Park free of charge for the end of year party on Saturday April 11th. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer to allow. Seconded by Mr. Larimer. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia read a letter from Stellar Construction commending Wilson Borough's police, fire, public works and code employees for their assistance in bringing down the house at Freemansburg Avenue and Louis Street.

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR:

Mayor Perruso advised Council that Sgt. Meehan was present to make some requests of behalf of Chief Parkansky.

Sgt. Meehan requested permission to hire Alfred Behr as a new full-time officer. He is currently employed by Palmer Township. Motion by Mr. Starniri. Seconded by Mr. Larimer and Council concurred.

Sgt. Meehan requested permission to offer conditional employment to Corey McFadden. He will be an additional part-time officer. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer. Seconded by Mr. Starniri. Council unanimously agreed.

Lastly, Sgt. Meehan requested permission to hire three new crossing guards. They are Jessica Slack, Lakeish Pyles and Heather Deemer. Motion by Mr. Starniri. Seconded by Mr. Larimer. Council unanimously concurred.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Ms. Garcia explained to Council that a new Chief Administrative Officer for the Pension Plans needed to be appointed. After Ms. Lohrman's passing, this was not done. Motion by Mr. Starniri to appoint Ms. Garcia as CAO for the Pension Plans. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Garcia presented the new Community Center contract. Due to Solicitor Minotti's absence, the discussion was tabled.

Ms. Garcia advised Council that a CD for \$1,081,016.60 plus interest had matured on 1/31/15. She presented them with a list of available rates. The best rate was with ESSA for 24 months at .9%. This rate is more than double the other offers. Motion by Mr. Starniri to invest with ESSA for 24 months. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. Council unanimously concurred.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

None

POLICE:

None

FIRE:

Chief Collins advised Council of a grant he received for \$11,450.00. This will be used to replace four old AEDs and to purchase two new gas detectors.

Chief also told Council that the body on the fire utility truck is rusting and needs to be fixed or replaced. The truck is mechanically sound. To repair only what can be seen will cost \$4,700.00. He is currently working to obtain quotes for a new box.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Drake explained to Council that the LVPC has \$3.6 billion in grants to give over the next 20 years. He put together rough plans for a few projects for the Borough and presented them to the LVPC at a meeting on February 2, 2015. If awarded, the grants will help the Borough fix streets and traffic lights. Ms. Garcia attended also.

Mr. Larimer asked Mr. Drake about the use of bobcats and backhoes by Easton Hospital for snow removal. He is concerned about the damage being caused to the Borough's streets. Mr. Drake said he has spoken with them previously about this. They are not to be using their equipment on Borough streets and can be fined for this activity. He will go speak with the hospital again.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer listed items at Jeffrey Field that need to be tended to. The lights at the refreshment stand do not work, the flag pole is rusting, there is graffiti, the field is eroding on the left side of the fence, bathroom locks need to be placed and the handicap ramp should be repainted. She also asked if there could be some permanent barricade around the new light post. President of Baseball, Mark Cooke is trying to get parents to help with some of the clean up. Baseball is going to work on the existing shed. Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer also requested that the Borough donate labor to raise the 1st base dugout. Materials will be paid for by the Recreation Board. This dugout floods due to abuse of the drain.

ATTORNEY:

None

COG:

None

MECAB:

Mr. McGowan advised Council that MECAB's next meeting will be February 25, 2015 in Roseto.

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$35,439.57 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer. The bills were paid by a unanimous vote of Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Feinberg suggested Council consider hiring T & M Associates to replace Boucher and James as the Borough's engineers. They have a local office and do grant writing. Mayor Perruso advised that Boucher and James should be notified first. Motion by Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer to appoint T & M as Wilson's Borough engineers. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. Affirmative votes were cast by Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Lilly-Kemmerer, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Starniri, Mr. Larimer and Mr. Jones. Negative vote cast by Mr. McGowan. T & M Associates were appointed Wilson's Borough engineers by a six to one vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

ORDINANCES:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Starniri made a Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Second by Mr. Larimer and Council concurred.

JILL A GARCIA
BOROUGH MANAGER/SECRETARY