

Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council
February 1, 2022

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and council member Winston Ortiz offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Timothy Botts, Denise Guilbault, Winston Ortiz, Paul Ruane, Kaitlyn Simmons, Charles Stroup, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Berard; Melissa Kelso, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Vern Morgan, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Fire Chief Brian Ginck reported that in the month of January 2022, the Fire Department responded to 32 calls for service: 21 QRS, six fires, two car accidents, one gas leak, one furnace malfunction, and one good intent. 23 of the calls were in the Borough. The rest were mutual aid provided to Sunbury (5), Point Township (2), Upper Augusta Township (1), and Mahoning Township (1). The Fire Department received mutual aid from Point Township twice and accumulated 52 hours of training for the month.

Mr. Ginck thanked Ann August for her assistance in applying for grant funds for the Fire Department.

Council Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2021

Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Simmons, council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of December 7, 2021.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported that during January, the police issued five traffic citations, seven non-traffic citations and 42 parking tickets. They answered 220 calls for service and made 11 court appearances. Training hours totaled 16 hours. Several people were arrested for the misdemeanor crimes of resisting arrest, theft, bad checks, and unsworn falsification.

Mrs. Simmons moved to advertise the police department administrative assistant position. Mr. Botts seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Sewer Department Report

Mr. Jeremy Deitrick reported the first quarter bills will be out by the end of the week.

RETTEW has reviewed the contract documents for the I&I project and recommends that the council award the contract to Kenyon Pipeline Inspection in the amount of \$650,001.00. Dr. Guilbault so moved. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Street Department Report

Mr. Vern Morgan thanked residents for following the parking regulations during the snowstorms.

Mr. Morgan announced that Pineknoller Park is closed so the crew can use equipment to remove stumps and clear the area.

Mayor Berard asked if the street sweeper is running during the winter. Mr. Morgan responded that when the weather is warm enough during the winter, they do run it but when the temperature is too low, the water in the vacuum freezes. Without water in the machine, the streets do not get cleaned.

Fire Police

Captain Jon Apple provided a list of events for council's approval. Upon motion by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Ortiz, council voted unanimously to approve the events for the Fire Police for 2022. The events are all Northumberland, Sunbury, Selinsgrove, Milton, Danville, Watsonstown, and Union County events, the Lewisburg Triathlon, Freeburg Fireman's Parade, Riverside Pet Parade, Montandon Memorial Day Parade, Six County Parade, Lycoming County LLWS Parade, Duboisstown Candy Cane Lane, Middleburg Fireman's parade, Union County 4th of July Parade, Elysburg haunted house, Halloween Parades in Selinsgrove, Sunbury, Northumberland, Danville, and Catawissa, and the SVM Christmas Parade. Final event is to take the squad to the Fire Expo in Harrisburg in May.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mrs. Simmons reported that the committee is planning to purchase basketball hoops for the gym.
- They discussed the installation of the lift to make the gym handicap accessible. Mr. Ruane added that that he, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Stroup, and Mr. Morgan have looked at the lift to see what is involved in the installation.

Finance

Mr. Botts reported that the committee met to review the budget. They plan to set five short-term and five long-term goals.

Personnel

Mr. Ruane announced that the council meeting would be adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

Mr. Wetzel moved to reopen the Borough Manager position for two weeks and to advertise the position for five days in the Daily Item and on Indeed with

applications due by February 21. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council voted 6-1 to approve with Mr. Ruane voting no.

Public Safety

- Mr. Ortiz reported that the Public Safety committee meetings will be changed to 6:00 p.m. due to the fire chief's schedule with the training for the firemen at 7:00 p.m.
- The committee discussed the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Mr. Ortiz noted that the fire chief, fire department, and EMS are organized and have followed the guidelines and training through NIMS.
- The fire chief has requested a no parking sign across from the fire station on Fifth Street. The curb is painted red, but with the snow, the curb is covered.
- Mr. Ortiz informed council that he rode with one of the police officers and was impressed with his professionalism.

Rules

Dr. Guilbault reported that the committee has sent the revisions to the solicitor to help the committee organize the steps to enact the revisions. She requested that the council provide input on the special events ordinance. Since no one had any changes, Dr. Guilbault said that she will send the ordinance off to the solicitor. Another ordinance being reviewed is about food trucks. The ordinance was modeled from an ordinance from Sunbury. The one item in the ordinance requires the operator of the food truck to reach out to a permanent restaurant that within a certain distance of the location of the food truck. After some discussion, it was decided that this section will be removed from the ordinance and Dr. Guilbault will send the ordinance to the solicitor.

Streets

- Mr. Stroup reported that the committee discussed storm water projects.
- The stump removal at Pineknott Park will be done this winter.
- Mr. Stroup obtained an application from the Muncy Prison to become a participant in the Community Work Program during contract period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The program permits inmates to work on special projects in the community, accompanied by a work supervisor. Each special project would be submitted to the prison administration for approval. This initial application is required to be eligible to apply for assistance for the special projects throughout the contract year. Mr. Stroup made a motion to submit the application for the Community Work Program through the Muncy Prison. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Ruane explained that the Susquehanna Valley COG advertises the stone bids for its members. The committee recommends that council approve bids for 1,000 tons of 2a, 20 tons of 2a sub-base, and 50 tons of cold patch. Mrs. Simmons so moved. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Stroup stated that the departments have been very helpful in explaining their jobs and providing tours of their departments.

Old Business

1. 250th Birthday Bash

Ms. Hope Kopf asked if the committee would be permitted to use the borough property, and the area around King Street Park, blocking off the streets around the park for the 250th Birthday Bash.

Mr. Derek Fisher requested that the event be held in the downtown, historic area, rather than in Pineknoller Park because of the participation of local businesses.

Ms. Noelle Long explained that about four to five years ago, the committee began planning the event. She was told that the council at that time had preferred the Pineknoller Park location for the event. Numerous fundraisers were planned. However, the pandemic hampered meetings and fundraisers. The committee was still able to raise approximately \$25,000. The next committee meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. on February 21st at the Pineknoller Brewery. A cash BINGO fundraiser is scheduled for March 6th.

The Birthday Bash will take place on June 4th from noon to 10:00 p.m. and June 5th from noon to 8:00 p.m. Plans include activities for families and kids. Fireworks will be set off on Saturday at 9:15 p.m. at the Point. The fireworks company is from Maryland. However, three people who live in the area work for the company and are volunteering their time. In the event of rain, the fireworks will be postponed to Sunday evening.

The Northumberland National Bank is sponsoring the Grand Finale. A request will be going out to businesses in Northumberland and Point Township to ask for their support. Contributions may be dropped off at the Northumberland National Bank for the "Norry Birthday Bash". Mrs. Long added that the Pineknoller News will have more information.

Mr. Wetzel thanked the group for their hard work. He made a motion to allow the 250th Birthday Bash to be held downtown and around King Street Park on June 4th and 5th and to permit the alcohol in specific areas. Mr. Botts seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Simmons, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$75,122.48; and Sewer Department bills total \$121,947.79.

2. Coalition Against Bigger Trucks

Borough council members met with Josh Collins, regional director of Coalition Against Bigger Trucks and learned that two bills have been introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly that would allow heavier weights on trucks carrying various materials. The CABT opposes this legislation because these heavier trucks will be traveling in local communities creating safety concerns in addition to increased wear and tear on local roads and bridges. Mrs. Simmons

moved to send letters to Representative Lynda Culver and Senator John Gordon requesting that they oppose legislation that would increase the weight or length of tractor-trailer trucks. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

3. Mr. Wetzel made a motion to appoint the following residents to various committees:

Planning Commission – Richard Simpson, to December 31, 2025

Shade Tree Commission – Elizabeth Lockcuff, to December 31, 2024

Zoning Hearing Board – Thomas Gresh to December 31, 2024

Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Three openings currently exist for the Emergency Services Board.

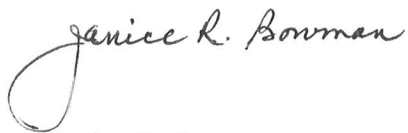
4. A representative of ServPro has offered to provide the council with an Emergency Ready Profile for all Borough buildings. His company does this free of charge for municipalities and non-profit organizations. A sample report was provided. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve the service from ServPro. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
5. Pastor John Rees requested a handicapped parking space for the First Regular Baptist Church at Second and Queen Streets across from the Number 1 Fire Company. Chief Kriner has measured the available space and informed council that the space is available, keeping with the legal distance from the stop sign. Mr. Wetzel moved to grant the request. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Public Comment

No comments were offered.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager