

Borough of Northumberland

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Northumberland Borough Council Minutes for May 3, 2022

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mr. 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; Keaton Zarr, Patrolman, Matt Lauver, Patrolman, and Michael Vagnetz, Patrolman; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; and Ann Zartman, Borough Manager.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Emmanual Home – Verrol Soleyn from Emmanuel Homes introduced himself as the new Administrator.

NEIC Presentation of Services for Code Enforcement

Jackie Hart, spoke for NEIC, our current service provider for UCC inspections. NEIC would like to offer their services for all Code requirements. NEIC has two locations, Scranton, Child, and is opening a third in Danville. Two inspectors will be working out of the Danville office, allowing them to service 5 days of the week. Currently, they are in contract with Point Township. A packet of information was provided on their services, a rate schedule and a sample contract. Hourly rate, with a fees based on 15 minute increments. Their average 14-15 hours per week at Point Twp. They are not certified as Health inspectors.

250th Birthday Bash update by Noelle Long,, June 4th schedule is 12-10pm, the 5th 12 – 8 pm. It's coming up fast, information is on 17857.org website. Multiple locations will have events, including fireworks. Suquehanna Valley limosine service is providing shuttle services from Northumberland Christian School parking lot.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Dr. Guilbault, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council unanimously approved the council meeting for for April 5, 2022.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard issued Citations of Appreciation to Patrolman Michael Vognetz and Keaton Zarr, mutli-talented officers who have assisted the department beyond their normal duties. For which the Borough is very grateful, and is acknowledging their contributions.

Mayor Berard read the following Proclamations:

"EMS Week Proclamation

*To designate the Week of May 15 - 21, 2022, as Emergency Medical Services Week
WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and*

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, I Mayor Daniel Berard in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 2022, as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK.

With the EMS Strong theme, EMS WEEK: Rising to the Challenge, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. Given under my hand and the Seal of the Borough of Northumberland, on May 3, 2022.

Daniel J. Berard, Mayor"

"Pride Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, our nation was founded on the principle of equal rights for all people, but the fulfillment of this promise has been long in coming for many Americans. Some of the most inspiring moments in our history have arisen from the various civil rights movements that have brought one group after another from the margins to the mainstream of American society; and

WHEREAS, in the movement toward equal rights for people, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer, (LGBTQ+) a historic turning point occurred on June 28, 1969, in New York City, with the onset of the Stonewall Riots. During these riots, LGBTQ+ citizens rose up and fought against the discriminatory criminal laws that have since been declared unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ pride celebrations have taken place around the country every June to commemorate the beginning of the Stonewall Riots; and

WHEREAS, June is celebrated as LGBTQ+ Pride Month nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northumberland has a diverse LGBTQ+ community that includes people of all ethnicities, religions and professions; and

WHEREAS, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) citizens contribute to the cultural, civic and economic successes of the Borough of Northumberland; and

WHEREAS, everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence and hatred based race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Daniel J. Berard, being Mayor of the Borough of Northumberland, County of Northumberland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby

proclaim, June 2022 as Pride Month in the Borough of Northumberland, we urge all residents to respect and honor our diverse community, celebrate, and build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance.

Daniel J. Berard, Mayor"

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the Police Department for the month of April. The police issued 33 traffic citations and 167 parking tickets. They responded to 223 calls for service, made 38 court appearances and trained for 6 hours. Several people were arrested for the misdemeanor crimes of contempt for violation or agreement, simple assault, intimidation of victims, unsworn falsification, false identification to law enforcement, flight to avoid apprehension, and DUI. The police responded to 24 assist calls for the month; 11 to Point Township, 8 to Sunbury, and 5 to other agencies. The police traveled a total of 1,526 miles in the month.

Sewer Department Report

Mr. Jeremy Deitrick informed council the I & I project is 85-90% complete. This phase should be complete by end of summer. 2nd quarter bills are going out this week.

Street Department Report

Mr. Stroup stated that the street sweeper is expected back this week; 35 acres of grass was mowed, 20 PA1 Calls were responded to, Bill Eberhardt planted 50+ trees. PKP has been graded and looks good. Kudos to council members, staff and the Chief in helping to clean out the gym. Contract will be starting soon on gym.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

In April, two building permits and one zoning permit were issued. One zoning planning meeting was attended. Total permit fees collected were \$186.00. There were five complaints, six code violations issued, two citations issued, one street cut permit, one back filling fee, two quality of life notices and one ticket, thirteen rental inspections, and one re-inspection. Inspection fees charged \$650.00,

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mrs. Simmons requested everyone at the Suquehanna Riverboat Society will meet at the end of Pineknott Park for their

Monday, May 9th, the to utilize the upper

Finance

Mr. Botts notified council that all signatures. Joanne Rees will be signing the Local Tax Collection Law discussed in the

over to the new shortly to meet the

Mr. Stroup moved to accept the Northumberland County American Rescue Plan Grant award to the Borough and the Sewer Department, and to appoint Mr. Jeremy Dietrick and Ms. Ann Zartman as executors of all documents. Mr. Botts seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to appoint Ms. Ann Zartman as the Borough's Right-to-Know Officer. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to appoint Ms. Ann Zartman as Secretary and Treasurer; and to appoint Mrs. Rebekah Kline as Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. MaryKay Clark from her positions as Code Officer, Health Inspector and Zoning Officer. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to accept the resignation of Mrs. Tabitha Klopp from her position Administrative Assistant position for the Police Department.

Public Safety

Mr. Ortiz commented on the contingency plan for events by using borough trucks to block streets instead of water-filled barriers. He also reviewed the range at Pineknott Park, which will have berms on left and right, and a backstop.

Rules

Dr. Guilbault had nothing to report, other than Code Book Chapters 45-46 were reviewed. The committee will be continuing to work on a sign ordinance. Mayor Berard brought up Chapter 24, regarding the barking of dogs. He expressed concern that dogs cannot bark at all. , Currently, 30 minutes of barking triggers a nuisance, but it must be heard the a continuous 30 minutes. Dr. Guilbault stated that no changes had been made to that section of Chapter 24.

Streets

Mr. Stroup commented that cold patch has been ordered from Upper Augusta Township.

Old Business - none

New Business

Mr. Wetzel made a motion for the payment of bills; Mr. Stroup seconded. Council approved unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$52,550.50; and Sewer Department bills total \$131,683.79.

Discussion was held regarding a request to vacate 8th St at West Way. It was determined that additional information is required before action can be taken.

Public Comment

Mayor Berard introduced Ann Zartman as the new Borough Manager, and Rebekah Kline as the new full-time clerk.

Executive Session

An executive session was held re

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to k
then decrease it to \$19.00 per ho
Ruane and Mr. Stroup voted no; D
at \$21.18 for six weeks and
Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Botts, Mr.
voted yes. Motion failed.

*Executive is not
included, correct?*

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to keep Rebekah Kline's hourly wage at \$21.18 for six weeks and then decrease it to \$18.00 per hour. Mr. Ortiz seconded. Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Botts, Mr. Ruane Mrs. Simmons and Mr. Stroup voted yes; Dr. Guilbault voted no. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn. Mr. Ruane seconded. Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Zartman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" and last name "Zartman" clearly distinguishable.

Ann Zartman

Borough Manager