

# Borough of Northumberland

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## Northumberland Borough Council

### Minutes for June 7, 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, Frank Wetzel, and Charles Stroup. Others present were Melissa Kelso, Borough Solicitor, Mayor Daniel Berard; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremby Deitrick, Wastewater Superintendent and Ann Zartman, Borough Manager.

#### Public Comment on Agenda Items - none

#### Brian Ginck – Fire Chief

Chief Ginck and Assistant Chief Stev Swineford spoke on the recent large fire the encompassed three double homes, and displaced 25 residents. Chief Ginck inquired if there were any questions on the fire. Two homes were immediately demolished; the county sponsored the demolition and will bill the insurance agency. Mr. Ruane thanked the Fire Department, and the mutual aid responders. Chief Ginck presented Mr. Frank Emiliano, a retired firefighter, to be appointed to the Emergency Services Board. Mr. Stroup made the motion to appoint Mr. Emiliano to the Emergency Services Board as long as he meets their requirement, Mr. Wetzel seconded. All approved, motion passed.

#### Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the Police Department for the month of May. The police issued 39 traffic citations. They responded to 234 calls for service, made 36 court appearances and trained for 29 hours. Several people were arrested for the misdemeanor and felony crimes of aggravated assault, simple assault, unsworn falsification, endangering the welfare of children, Uniform Criminal Extradition Act, criminal mischief, terroristic threats, and driving under the influence. The police responded to 31 assist calls for the month; 15 to Point Township, 12 to Sunbury, and 04 to other agencies. The police traveled a total of 1,347 miles in the month.

Mayor Berard declared June 2022 as LGBTQ month.

#### BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND

#### PROCLAMATION

#### 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, Borough of Northumberland





The Mayor also thanked everyone involved with the Birthday Bash. The event went off extremely well. The Mayor read the Proclamations presented to Northumberland at the Birthday Bash by Senator Gordner and Representative Culver. The Mayor presented the proclamation to Council President Ruane with the hopes they will be displayed.

**Sewer Department Report** – nothing to report.

**Street Department Report** – nothing to report.

**Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – nothing to report.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Community Development

Mr. Stroup made a motion to move forward with negotiations with the Central Susquehanna River Boat Society for their use of a portion of Pineknott Park as their dock. Dr. Guilbault seconded, All approved, motion passed.

#### Finance

Mr. Botts reported the committee met with two representatives of Pfeiffer Naginey to review our insurance policies. It was a very informative meeting.

#### Personnel

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to use Northeast Inspection Consultants as our Code Official, accepting the contract as presented. Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion passed.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to appoint Brian Hayhurst as the Street Supervisor at \$25.96 per hour, with a 180 day probation period. Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion passed.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to appoint Stacy Hommel as an Administrative Assistant for the Police Department at \$12.82 per hour. Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion passed.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to appoint Christen Zimmerman as a Part-time Clerk for the Borough Office at \$12.35 per hour, 16-20 hours per week. Mr. Ortiz seconded. All approved, motion passed.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to turn health inspections over to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion passed.

#### Public Safety

Mr. Ortiz reported an accident at the dog park, with no injuries. However, there will now be areas strictly cut with a weed wacker until such accommodations can be made for prevent future accidents.

#### Rules

Dr. Guilbault reported Chapters 44-46 were emailed to council members, and requested comments. No one had comments, so the chapters will be handed off to Solicitor Kelso.

#### Streets

Mr. Stroup commended Todd Snyder and Craig Harter for jobs well done, as we are still without a Streets Supervisor.

**Old Business** – none.

#### **New Business**

Mayor Berard thanked Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Stroup for installing flags at The Point and at the Little House.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion for the payment of bills; Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion passed. Bills to be paid from the General Fund totaled \$107,363.63; and Sewer Department bills totaled \$117,934.20.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Frank Emiliano questioned why there are no street lights on Madison, Lower Madison and Jefferson which are quite dark at night. Mr. Ruane responded that it was a private development, and street lights were not a requirement.

#### **Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned at a short-executive session to discuss personnel at 7:39 p.m. The regular meeting was resumed at 7:57 p.m.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn. Mr. Stroup seconded. Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann Zartman

Borough Manager