

Borough of Northumberland

175 ORANGE STREET
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

Phone: (570) 473-3414
FAX: (570) 473-3986

E-Mail: office@northumberlandborough.com
www.northumberlandborough.com

Northumberland Borough Council Minutes for October 4, 2022

Council President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mr. Winston Ortiz offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Mr. Paul Ruane, Mr. Timothy Botts, Dr. Denise Guilbault, Mr. Winston Ortiz, Mr. Frank Wetzel, Ms. Kaitlyn Simmons and Mr. Charles Stroup. Others present were Ms. Melissa Kelso, Borough Solicitor, Mayor Daniel Berard; Ms. Jackie Hart, NEIC, Mr. Brian Hayhurst, Streets Supervisor, Mr. C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; and Ms. Ann Zartman, Borough Manager.

Public Comment – none.

Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Charles Stroup made a motion to accept the August 2nd meeting minutes, Mr. Winston Ortiz seconded. Dr. Denise Guilbault abstained; she had not had time to review minutes. Motion passed.

Mr. Charles Stroup made a motion to accept the September 6th meeting minutes, Mr. Frank Wetzel seconded. Dr. Denise Guilbault abstained; she had not had time, motion passed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – none.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the Police Department for the month of September. The police issued 45 traffic and 3 non-traffic citations, and 111 parking tickets. They responded to 243 calls for service, made 26 court appearances and trained for 32 hours. Several people were arrested for the misdemeanor and felony crimes of Homicide by Vehicle, Involuntary Manslaughter, Stalking, Terroristic Threats, Criminal Trespass, Institutional Vandalism, Burglary. The police responded to 27 assist calls for the month; 8 to Point Township, 12 to Sunbury, and 7 to other agencies. The police traveled a total of 1,296 miles in the month.

Sewer Department Report

The contractor has completed lining operations and submitted the final report which is under review. Application for payment #2 from Kenyon Pipeline Inspection, LLC for the amount of \$209,375.48 has been received. Payment is recommended.

Mr. Charles Stroup made a motion to approve the recommended payment of \$209,375.48. Mr. Frank Wetzel seconded, all approved. Motion passed.

Street Department Report

Mr. Hayhurst reported they are keeping up with brush and PA1 Calls, and replaced some stop signs. The Mayor questioned speed sign on Route 11, by WL Subura, that is almost cut in half which is a PennDOT matter.

NEIC Report

Mr. Ruane read the report from NEIC: two (2) zoning permits issued, for total fees of \$100. Eight (8) building permits were issued for total fees of \$2,330.18. Six (6) code violations and six (6) complaints were addressed. Two (2) street cut permits were issued for a total of \$955.00 in fees. Two (2) rental inspections were performed, for total fees of \$100.00.

Committee Reports

Committee Assignments

Mr. Paul Ruane changed committee members for Personnel and Public Safety. Mr. Frank Wetzel will now chair Public Safety, and Mr. Winston Ortiz will now chair Personnel. Public Safety committee members are now Mr. Frank Wetzel, Mr. Chuck Stroup and Mrs. Kaitly Simmons. The Personnel committee members are now Mr. Winston Ortiz, Mr. Chuck Stroup and Mr. Paul Ruane.

Community Development

Mrs. Kaitlyn Simmons reported the committee met at Recycling center, and chatted a bit. The next meeting will be at the Kiwanis/Pool area.

Finance

Mr. Timothy Botts reported the 2023 pension plans Minimum Municipal Obligations are for municipal workers \$40,652, and for the Police \$68,559. Mr. Frank Wetzel made a motion to accept the obligation. Mrs. Kaitly Simmons seconded the motion, all approved.

Mr. Timothy Botts presented Resolution D-2022, to accept Northumberland National Bank's offer of a \$60,000 loan, for a four-year term at 3.875%. Mr. Charles Stroup made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Frank Wetzel seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Personnel

No report.

Public Safety

Mr. Winston Ortiz presented Resolution C-2022, which adopts the Northumberland County Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the Borough of Northumberland and directs the implementation of any strategies associated with the Borough. Mrs. Kaitly Simmons made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Frank Wetzel seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Rules

Dr. Guilbault requested motions to advertise on the following Code Book changes that are ready for advertisement. Ordinance 2022-A amends Chapter 61, Chapter 42 and Chapter 50 to clarify the location of fences and detached accessory structures, and to permit the issuance of Quality of Life violations for grass clippings on roadways and rubbish and garbage violations. Ordinance 2022-B amends in its entirety Chapter 34, Article II to establish and establishing regulation of Mobile Food Facilities penalties to be determined by Borough Council resolution.

To advertise Ordinance 2022-A amending Chapters 61, 42 & 50, the motion was made by Mr. Frank Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Kaitlyn Simmons. All approved, motion carried.

To advertise Ordinance 2022-B amending Chapter 34, Article II, the motion was made by Mr. Frank Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Timothy Botts. All approved, motion carried.

To advertise Ordinance 2022-C establishing Chapter 36 Special Events, the motion was made by Mrs. Kaitlyn Simmons, seconded by Mr. Frank Wetzel. All approved, motion carried.

Streets

Stormwater RFP, four Proposals came in for stormwater projectd from Livic Civil, KPI Technology, PennCore Consulting LLC, and Peters Consultants, Inc. Mr. Ruane and Mr Stroup reviewed the proposals, and determined that Livic Civil best met our requirements. Mr. Charles Stroup made a motion to appoint Livic Civil as the engineer of record for the upcoming stormwater and sewer projects. Mr. Frank Wetzel seconded the motion. All approve, motion carried.

Old Business

736 Water St (Geise Property), Solicitor Melissa Kelso reported the court approved the our request to demolish the home at 736 Water St. as it is unsafe for habitation. The demolition will exceed bid limits, and will be required to advertised. . Mr. Frank Wetzel made a motion to advertise to demolish the structure at 736 Water St. Mrs. Kaitlyn Simmons seconded. All approved, motion carried.

New Business

As requested, Real Estate Appraisal & Marketing Associates submitted a proposal for the professional valuation services of the Recycling Center property at 966 Water St. The cost of the appraisal will be \$2,900. Mr. Charles Stroup made a motion to accept the proposal, seconded by Mr. Winston Ortiz. All approved, motion carried.

The Shikellamy Little League Vice President Travis Stevens requested permission to install artificial turf on the Acorn Little League field on Hanover Street. The fields have been very wet in the last few years. The league would like to start in March, when the field is historically wet or snow covered. The application of artificial turf would allow for virtually year-round use. The league has looked into the installation on the infield and about 10' into outfield. No costs would be incurred by the Borough. The company maintains it for the life of turf, it does have an annual fee that the league will cover. The fee covers cleaning and repair of field, including flood events. Before they continue with idea, Mr. Travis Stevens requested permission to continue and have the turf installed.

Mr. Stroup asked if it would take care of current issue. Mr. Stevens replied that additional drainage would be put in infield and outfield. No promises would be made that the drainage issue would be resolved. Mr. Timothy Botts made a motion to permit the installation of artificial turf at the Acorn Little League field. Mrs. Kaitlyn Simmons seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Trick or Treat night – October 31st is a Monday. 6-8 pm

Payment of Bills

Mrs. Kaitlyn Simmons made a motion for the payment of bills; Mr. Charles Stroup seconded. All approved, motion passed. Bills to be paid from the General Fund totaled \$171,626.85; and Sewer Department bills totaled \$113,432.30.

Public Comment

Mr. Wetzel asked Mr. Stevens about the railroad ties at the Little League. Where they are at will put boating trailers out on the street. Mr. Stevens indicated that they wanted to prevent boats from being there, but he would check on it. Frank also mentioned that when Little League has a carnival they hold it off the street. Typically, Little League requests the closing from council. This year, the Mayor closed the Hanover boat dock on Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a heavy use day for the boat dock, and the boaters have been talking about it.

Mayor mentioned a couple of years ago rental spots for boat and trailer storage would be offered at Splashland and Pineknott Park. He's only seen one trailer at Splashland. Mr. Wetzel mentioned that there are usually more than that. Mrs. Zartman reported last winter had 4. Discussion on boat/trailer storage.

Executive Session for Litigation and Personnel 7:42, back in at 8:53.

Adjournment

Mr. Frank Wetzel moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kaitlyn Simmons seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann Zartman

Borough Manager