

Borough of Northumberland

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Northumberland Borough Council Council Minutes for November 1, 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; Ms. Jackie Hart, NEIC; and Ms. Ann Zartman, Borough Manager.

Public Comment

A constituent questioned the Ordinance advertised, could not find on website. We are only required to have it at the Borough Office. The constituent also questioned the Budget. The Budget was not complete for this meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Ruane read the Police Report for the Mayor for the month of October. The police issued 34 traffic and 218 non-traffic citations, and 104 parking tickets. They responded to 218 calls for service, made 17 court appearances and trained for 8 hours. The police responded to 41 assist calls for the month; 8 to Point Township, 25 to Sunbury, and 8 to other agencies.

Sewer Department Report

Mr. Deitrick reported the need for two action items which will require a change in the Agenda.

Mr. Stroup made a motion to amend the agenda to include the sale of nitrogen credits and the purchase of phosphorus credits. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion, all approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Frank Wetzel made a motion to sell 1,015 nitrogen credits to the Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township at \$2 per credit. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion, all approved, and the motion carried.

Mr. Stroup made a motion to purchase 625 phosphorus credits from University Area Joint Authority at \$5 per credit. Ms. Simmons seconded the motion, all approved. Motion

Total cost will be \$1,075.00.

Street Department Report

Mr. Ruane reported the leaf vacuum is ready to go, and will probably start next week. They have been using the street sweeper. Mr. Stroup questioned changing the Recycling Day because it falls on Thanksgiving. Discussion, recycling date is changed to Tuesday.

Page Electric has been called to fix the downtown lights outage.

NEIC Report

Mr. Ruange reported one zoning permit issued, for \$50.00 in fees. No council or zoning/planning meetings were attended. Four (4) building permits were issued, for \$1,864.00 in fees. There were six (6) code violations cited, and two (2) Quality of Life tickets issued. Five (5) complaints were addressed, three (3) street cut permits issued for \$2,730.00 in fees, and two (2) rental inspections for \$100.00 in fees.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Ms. Simmons reported the committee met at the pool. This month will be at the gym.

Finance

Personnel

Mr. Ortiz reported in interviewing a laborer for the wastewater plant we found a qualified Street Supervisor to replace Mr. Hayhurst. Additionally, he will be implementing performance evaluations to aid in further personnel matters, and work orders to facilitate street crew management.

Mr. Stroup requested to be allowed to make a personal statement regarding Brian Hayhurst, "Brian was a good manager, and had excellent supervisory skills, had good ideas to move the borough forward. He was loyal to the borough and will be missed." Dr. Guilbault agreed with Mr. Stroups comment.

Mr. Otiz made a motion to terminate Brian Hayhurst, Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion carried.

Mr. Otiz made a motion to hire David Johnston as Street Supervisor, Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion carried. Mr. Ruane commented that Mr. Johnston has 10 years with the railroad, was a foreman and has good qualifications.

No action was taken for a new Wastewater plant laborer.

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel reported the fire department has a video coming, recently recorded out at training center, in order to attract more volunteers. Eleven companies joined together to do radio advertisements to bring the cost of a campaign down. The Fire Department Night the Light was last night for Halloween, they gave out flashlights and candy. They do a great job and it is appreciated. Mr. Stroup loved being in the Halloween parade and encourages people to volunteer.

Rules

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-A amending Chapters 61, 42 & 50, and that clarifies location of fences; detached accessory structures; and permit the issuance of Quality of Life violations for grass clippings on roadways; and rubbish and garbage violations. Mr. Botts seconded the motion, all approved, motion carried.

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-B amending Chapter 34, Article II to establish and establishing regulation of mobile food facilities and penalties to be established by borough council resolution. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion, all approved, motion carried.

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-C establishing Chapter 36 Special Events, which establishes the process for permits and establishing penalties to be determined by Borough Council resolution. Mr. Stroup seconded, all approved, motion carried.

Mr. Wetzel thanked Denise and her committee for all their hard work on the ordinances, a difficult task.

Streets

Ms. Zartman will be setting up a meeting with Livic on our stormwater project which encompasses multiple locations and will cost approximately 1.3 million dollars.

Finance

Discussion ensued regarding having an additional work session for the budget and to have a Special Meeting to advertise the Budget. The work session will be November 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Botts made a motion to advertise a Special Council Meeting on November 14th at 7:00 p.m. for the Budget. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion, all approved, motion carried.

Old Business

Ms. Angela Troutman, Vice President of the Susquehanna River Boat Society informed council that the original boat was sold to someone else. A different boat was found and a contingent would be going to look at the Lauren Christy, in Long Island, on November 2nd. It's was operational until today. They are working on finalizing big donors.

Mr. Botts presented Small Business Saturday on November 26th. Derrick of Pineknoller Brewing requested permission to close ½ block from Wheatley to King on Front, to have vendors, live music, to sell alcohol on the 200 block of Front St for the event, street closure from 8 am to 8 pm, and local fire police to provide signs, and a borough vehicle to block street at Front & King Street. Mr. Ruane commented they need to come to Public Safety meetings instead of directly to council. Mr. Stroup commented on the need to allow all alcohol. Mr. Stroup has a concern about pushing alcohol, a discussion ensued. Mr. Wetzel does not want to cancel event and will meet with Noelle regarding future events.

Mr. Botts made a motion to allow the Small Business Saturday event and to allow alcohol. Mr. Wetzel seconded, Mr. Stroup voted no, all others voted yes. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Mr. Wetzel made a motion for the payment of bills; Mr. Ortiz seconded. All approved, motion passed. Bills to be paid from the General Fund totaled \$56,189.10; and Sewer Department bills totaled \$325,428.48. Discussion was held on PPL bills, the bills are now reflecting distribution charges from months ago.

Public Comment

Mr. Stroup would like to acknowledge the veteran's and their families and the sacrifices they make, and of those serving. American Legion Post 44, annual Veteran's Day Service, will be Nov 13th, at Riverview Cemetery at 1 pm.

Mr. Ruane brought up the Wastewater Budget, the 2023 balanced budget is 1,746,091.36. Jeremy did an excellent job, thank you.

Mr. Stroup would like to bring up a discussion point: prohibit the practice of contract or non-contract employees carrying of legal or illegal firearms or weapons while on borough property. Council directed Melissa to investigate the issue. Mr. Wetzel and Dr. Guilbualt are in full favor of a policy.

Executive Session for Pesonnel at 7:46, returned at 8:07 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn. Ms. Simmons seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann Zartman
Borough Manager