

Borough of Northumberland

CODE DEPARTMENT
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Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
March 2, 2021

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

Roll Call

Council members present were Ann Boyer, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Kaitlyn Simmons, Orlando Toro, and Frank Wetzel. Council member Denise Guilbault was present via teleconferencing. Others present were Melissa Kelso, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Vern Morgan, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Mayor Dan Berard was absent.

Public Comment

Four visitors were present. No comment was offered.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Boyer, council unanimously approved the council meeting minutes of February 2, 2021.

Mayor's Report

In the Mayor's absence, Mr. Ruane read the police report for the month of February. During February, the police issued fourteen traffic citations and one non-traffic citation, 183 parking tickets. They had 183 calls for service and had 29 court appearances. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes, some of which included sale and transfer of firearm, unsworn falsification, terroristic threats, simple assault, contempt, and DUI. The police answered 24 assist calls; nine to Point Township, five to Sunbury, and ten to other agencies. 1,368.9 miles were traveled for the month.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

Mr. Deitrick informed council that there is one action item for council's approval. Mr. Wetzel made a motion to accept the new sewer shut-off agreement with PA American Water. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Ms. Kelso explained that the agreement puts into place who does what part of the procedure to terminate water in a landlord owned, tenant occupied unit when the utility is in the landlord's name. This is required by the Utility Service Tenants' Rights Act and provides additional notices. Mr. Ruane noted that this agreement lists an additional \$320 in fees. Ms. Kelso noted that the agreement complies with the Act. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane read the Code Enforcement Officer's report for February. No building or zoning permits were issued. The office received three complaints, issued two code violations, fifteen Quality of Life notices and three Quality of Life tickets for \$75. She conducted seven rental

inspections for \$250 and one health inspection for \$75. Thirty miles were driven during the month.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Vern Morgan reported that a tree blew down at Pineknott park.

The street sweeper goes in for service on Thursday.

2,196 miles were driven while plowing during the snowstorms.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Ms. Simmons reported that the committee discussed the Recycling Center. Requested information has not been received yet from DEP, and there are recyclables remaining to be removed by the volunteers.

The Police Training Center received additional funding from the S. Luther Savidge Trust.

Finance

The balance in the Parking Meter fund is more than enough to pay off the loan for the 2019 Dodge Charger. The payoff amount as of March 3, 2021 is \$18,561.11. Over \$9,000 would remain in the account. Upon motion by Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Toro, council voted unanimously to approve the payment.

Personnel

Mr. Ruane reported that the police have approved the union contract. He requested a motion for council approval. Mr. Wetzel made the motion to approve the Police Officers' Union Contract, Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Mr. Wetzel noted his appreciation for the professionalism during the negotiations and added that he feels the Borough employs a good group of officers. Council voted unanimously to approve the contract.

Mr. Ruane informed council that the personnel committee interviewed three candidates for the Part-Time Receptionist/Administrative Assistant position. The committee is recommending that Rebekah Kline be hired at an hourly rate of \$12.25. The position is approximately 20 hours per week. Mr. Ruane added that Mrs. Kline had been the manager of the pool for several years. Mrs. Rees made the motion to hire Rebekah Kline. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Public Safety – no report

Rules

Dr. Guilbault reported that the committee is continuing its work reviewing the Code Book. The committee recommends that council approve the ordinance to amend the Quality of Life. Dr. Guilbault moved to approve Ordinance 2021-1. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Streets – no report

Old Business - none

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$74,3661.31; Liquid Fuels bills total \$1,316; Liberty Splashland bills total \$29.49; and Sewer Department bills total \$134,477.58.
2. Mr. Wetzel made a motion to approve Resolution C-2021. This resolution closes out the Community Conservation Partnerships Grant Project. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The resolution follows:

**"RESOLUTION NO. C-2021
A RESOLUTION CLOSING OUT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS
GRANT PROJECT (brc-tag-23-147)**

WHEREAS, the borough of Northumberland has prepared a Bicycle and pedestrian Plan for the Northumberland Borough and Point Township area;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan is to raise awareness about the importance of bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community design for encouraging active and health lifestyles. It is intended to help organize the community around bike/ped issues, identify impediments to safe walking and biking, and identify priority projects for implementation; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan was financed in part by a Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, under contract number **BRC-TAG-23-147**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Northumberland that:

- a. The project was completed in accordance with the Grant Agreement.
- b. All project expenditures have been made and were in accordance with the Grant Agreement.
- c. The Plan and related materials are acceptable to the Borough of Northumberland.
- d. The Plan and related materials will be used to guide future recreation and conservation decisions.

ADOPTED THIS SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 2021, by the

Borough Council, Borough of Northumberland

Paul J. Ruane, Council President

Attest:

Janice R. Bowman, Borough Secretary"

Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager