

# Borough of Northumberland

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NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

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## **Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting April 6, 2021**

Borough Council President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mayor Dan Berard offered an Invocation.

### **Roll Call**

Council members present were Ann Boyer, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Kaitlyn Simmons, and Orlando Toro. Council member Denise Guilbault was present via teleconference. Others present were Mayor Berard; Melissa Kelso, Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Vern Morgan, Street Supervisor; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council member Frank Wetzel was absent.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. John Bailor, a logger, stated that he does not agree with cutting all the trees down at Pineknotter Park. Mr. Ruane stated that the Borough had gotten quotes to have the trees removed at a price of \$3,000 for one. The trees were removed for liability reasons. Many were dead or diseased. Mr. Bailor stated that if the Borough removed the ash trees, he could understand. Mr. Bailor said that the Borough should receive payment for the trees that are being cut down. He also asked who is liable if someone goes into the park to cut firewood and is injured. He added that there should be a release of liability and the logger should have signed a contract releasing the Borough of liability. Mr. Ruane responded that the Borough had permitted people access to cut firewood from downed trees for at least twenty years.

Mrs. Fran Bogovich stated that in the November minutes, the council had discussed the recycling center. She asked the progress of the center and if the Borough would be accepting recyclables. The response was that the Borough is considering it but is waiting for information from DEP regarding the equipment that is at the center and what is to be done with equipment that will not be used. Because of Covid, DEP employees are not permitted in the Harrisburg office to check paperwork that is there. Until the Borough hears from DEP, everything is on hold. Mrs. Bogovich noted that the brush pickup should begin in April and the newsletter article reported that it would begin in May. She was told that brush pick-up would begin in April and end in October. The article in the newsletter was incorrect.

Mr. David Naugle asked if the Borough has an arborist. He noted that PPL strung lines through trees on properties. Contractors do not want to trim trees with wires running through them. A neighbor has a dead tree and when a limb falls, he must pay the deductible for his insurance.

Mr. Naugle informed council that he had not received a response to his Right-to-Know request. Chief Kriner responded that the police clerk had been to his house several times to give him the information and he was not home. The information will be provided.

Fire Chief Brian Ginck informed the council that in the first 3 months of the year, the Fire Department dispatched 103 calls. 69 were rescue calls; nine were good intent, 7 vehicle accidents, and 9 hazardous conditions, and 12 fire calls. An average of four volunteers responded per trip.

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Boyer, the council meeting minutes of March 2, 2021, were approved by unanimous vote.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the police department for the month of March. 67 traffic citations, 5 non-traffic citations, and 121 parking tickets were issued. The police answered 248 calls for service and made 40 court appearances. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes, some of which included terroristic threats, simple assault, DUI, and theft of services. The police responded to 25 assist calls; nine to Point Township, four to Sunbury and twelve to other agencies. 1,523.9 miles were traveled during the month.

**Northumberland Borough Sewer Department** - no report

### **Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Ms. MaryKay Clark reported on the Code Enforcement Office activity for the month of March. Three building permits and two zoning permits were issued with fees totaling \$3,820.38. Eight complaints were received, and six code violations were issued. She conducted six rental inspections and two re-inspections with fees totaling \$340. Four Quality of Life notices and 2 tickets were issued. 25 miles were traveled.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Vern Morgan reported that the street sweeper is being serviced in Philadelphia. Tomorrow the crew will be clearing storm drains at the intersection of Hanover Street and Priestley Avenue. They will be filling potholes.

### **Committee Reports**

Community Development – no meeting

Finance

Mrs. Rees reported that the real estate taxes are coming in. She added that the Borough was able to continue to pay bills without borrowing funds from other accounts until the taxes started coming in from the March billing. In past years, it was necessary to borrow money temporarily from another fund during the first few months of the year.

Personnel – no report



Public Safety – no report

#### Rules

Dr. Guilbault reported that the Rules Committee is continuing its work reviewing the Code Book. She noted that an article updating the TNR program was published in the Pineknott News. Mr. Ruane stated that he reviewed the Stormwater Chapter in the Code Book and it is okay as is.

#### Streets

Mr. Ruane reported on the paving projects for this year. He noted that the bid is in today's paper. The streets on the Borough's list to be paved are Prince Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets; DeGouchy Avenue between Water and Front Streets, Toullman Avenue between B and C Streets; C Street between Water and Front Streets; Jefferson Street at Strawbridge Road, Madison Avenue, areas as directed; and Church Avenue between Duke and Queen Streets.

#### Old Business - none

#### New Business

1. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Toro, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$65,542.97; Parking Meter bills total \$511.70; Liberty Splashland bills total \$29.26; River Valley Training Center bills total \$400; and Sewer Department bills total \$295,856.10.
2. Mr. Toro made a motion to approve the PMRS Adoption Agreement Amendment to Police Pension Plan. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. The agreement reduces the officers' annual contribution from 5% to 1.5% of their gross pay toward their retirement. Council approved unanimously.
3. Mrs. Rees moved to approve Resolution D-2021, regarding the loan for the police vehicle. Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The resolution is as follows:

*"Resolution No. D-2021*

*BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND*

*NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA*

*WHEREAS, the Borough Council ("Borough Council") of the Borough of Northumberland (the "Borough") has determined that it is necessary to replace a current police vehicle; and*

*WHEREAS, the Borough Council has approved the purchase of a new police vehicle through a state approved contract; and*

*WHEREAS, the Borough needs financing for the purchase of the new vehicle; and*

*WHEREAS, the Northumberland National Bank (the "Bank") has offered to loan up to Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) at a fixed interest rate of 2.47% per annum over a three (3) year term with repayment due through annual principal and interest payments; and*

*Now Be it RESOLVED, Borough Council has approved the acceptance of the Bank's offer for financing for the police vehicle; and*

*Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, the Borough Council has authorized the President of Council and the Borough Manager to execute any and all necessary documents to carry out the financing.*

ADOPTED as a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Northumberland, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, this 6th day of April, 2021.

ATTEST:  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Bowman, Borough Manager  
[BOROUGH SEAL]

BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Ruane, President  
  
APPROVED this 6th day of April, 2021.  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Berard, Mayor"

4. Mr. Toro moved to approve up to \$2,600 for repairs to Pineknott Park ballfield dugouts and building behind backstop. Application will be sent to the Anselmo trust for funding. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
5. Mrs. Simmons moved to adopt Resolution E-2021. This resolution sets the fee schedule for sewer collections and is an amendment to Resolution B-2021, Schedule of Fees & Penalties. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The resolution follows:

"Resolution E-2021  
Borough of Northumberland  
Northumberland County, Pennsylvania  
Amendment to Resolution B-2021, Schedule of Fees and Penalties, establishing the Borough of  
Northumberland's Schedule of Fees and Penalties, effective February 2, 2021.  
Now, be it resolved, that the following Fees be added to the Schedule of Fees and Penalties, **General Fees**  
established by Borough Council:

**Sewer Collections**

Door posting.....	\$20.00
Municipal Lien	
Filing fee.....	actual costs
Attorneys' fees (filing of lien) .....	\$150.00
Attorneys' fees (beyond filing) .....	actual costs
Preparation of demand letter.....	\$15.00
Title review fee.....	\$25.00
Attorneys' fees for collections.....	actual costs
Preparation of proof of claim.....	\$20.00
Preparation of Magistrate complaint.....	\$30.00
Returned check fee.....	actual costs incurred
Termination/Restoration fees (Northumberland Sewer) .....	\$50.00
Termination/Restoration fees charged by PA American Water.....	actual charges

RESOLVED as a Resolution of the Borough of Northumberland, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, this 6th day of April, 2021.

BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Council President

SEAL

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at the meeting of the Borough of Northumberland held on this 6th day of April, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Manager"

### **Executive Session**

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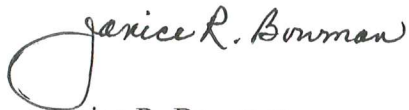
Mr. Ruane announced that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and the meeting may be reconvened. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Mr. Ruane reconvened the council meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Mrs. Simmons moved that beginning May 1, 2021, any Borough employee who is exposed to the Covid-19 virus during the course of employment will be paid leave by the Borough for any necessary quarantine period in addition to any other regular paid leave. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice R. Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Manager