

Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
May 4, 2021

Borough Council President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mayor Dan Berard offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

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

Public Comment

Seven visitors introduced themselves. No comments were offered.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Dr. Guilbault, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of April 6, 2021.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the Police Department for the month of April. The police issued 26 traffic citations and 80 parking tickets during the month. They received 245 calls for service, had 16 court appearances, and 54.25 training hours. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes, including recklessly endangering another person, contempt for violation of order, aggravated cruelty to an animal, false identification to law enforcement, terroristic threats, simple assault, intimidation of a witness or victim, strangulation, and DUI. The department answered 26 assist calls; seven to Point Township, 13 to Sunbury, and nine to other agencies. 1,470 miles were traveled during the month.

Mayor Berard informed council that the police have taken possession of the 2021 Dodge Durango that was ordered last year. They are waiting on the parts for the upfitting which will be done by Keystone Communications.

Mayor Berard noted that Officer Vognetz built an armory in the police department. He received help from Officers Cope and Zarr.

The department recently ordered body-worn cameras for the officers. Mayor Berard added that he feels that police departments will be mandated to wear body cameras at all times. The cameras were made possible by funding from a local trust.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

- Mr. Jeremy Deitrick provided council with the information for the 2020 reconciliation for bulk customer Upper Augusta. The reconciliation determined that Upper Augusta is owed a credit of \$3,540.83. Mrs. Simmons moved, and Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion to approve the reconciliation credit of \$3,540.83 for Upper Augusta Township. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.
- Mr. Deitrick provided a proposal from RETTEW for an alarm modification for the retention gate at a cost of \$8,300. Mr. Toro moved to accept the proposal; Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Mr. Deitrick explained a situation that had occurred in 2020 and that the alarm is necessary to alert the employees. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Deitrick provided a proposal from RETTEW for GIS support for the electronic system for the sewer lines. The one-time fee cost is \$21,150 with annual licensing fees of \$1,150. Discussion ensued. Mr. Toro moved to approve the proposal; Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Ruane requested that council approve the proposal from RETTEW to provide bid documents, bidding services, and construction documents for the 2021 Inflow and Infiltration project. Areas where the pipes will be lined are Front Street from Orange Street to C Street, Duke Street from Water Street to the pump station, and Water Street from Orange Street to A Street, and Orange Street from Front Street to Priestley Avenue. Mrs. Simmons so moved; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Mr. Toro requested that the Street Department be made aware of the work to be done. Mr. Deitrick explained that the pipes will be slip-lined, and the streets will not be dug up. Council approved unanimously.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

No report

Street Supervisor's Report

No report

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Noelle Long, representing 17857.org, informed council that the volunteer group would like to take care of mulching at the King Street Park. The work will be done this month.
- Music in the Park is scheduled for 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., every Monday from June to August except for the week of Pineknotters' Days which has entertainment scheduled. Weekly sponsors for the Music in the Park include Villager Realty, ReMax, and Pineknott Brewing who is sponsoring two nights. Sponsorships for other nights are available.

- Ms. Long requested that the Borough Council grant permission for Pineknotter Brewing to bring their small beer cart to the park during this time. They have been in touch with their insurance provider, and this aligns with their liquor license. Upon motion by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Boyer, council voted unanimously to allow Pineknotter Brewery to sell beer in King Street Park during Music in the Park events. Mr. Charles Stroup questioned whether someone else could also sell drinks if they wished. Mr. Ruane responded that other businesses would have to approach the council for permission before the events. Mr. Toro added that they would also have to have insurance coverage. Pineknotter Brewery is the only brewery located in the Borough.
- Mrs. Long informed council that she has ordered the last batch of Hometown Hero banners. The thirteen banners will be put up in the downtown area. They anticipate having them up by Memorial Day.
- The Norry Block Party has resurfaced. The event was canceled last year due to the pandemic. The committee would like to hold the Block party on September 5th. Plans are to have live music all day. Food trucks, with priority for Norry businesses, and a craft show are also planned for the day. Pineknotter Brewery will sell beer and wine. The Fire Police are on board to help monitor. Plans are to block off Front Street from King to Queen and a section of Queen Street on both sides of Front Street. Mrs. Simmons moved to approve the Block Party for September 5, 2021. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mrs. Rees thanked Mrs. Long and 17857.org for their volunteer work.
- Mr. Ruane announced that the Memorial Day Parade will form at King Street Park at 10:00 a.m. and move at 10:30. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Riverview Cemetery.

Finance

Mrs. Rees informed council that the committee has reviewed the budget and the finances are in good shape.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety

Mrs. Boyer informed council that she attended the Emergency Services meeting last night. Next month the two fire companies are going to attend the meeting to discuss the budget. It was noted that volunteer firemen are needed. Mrs. Boyer asked that council be open to any help the fire companies may need.

Rules

Dr. Guilbault informed council that the committee is still in the process of reviewing the Borough Code Book.

Streets

- Mr. Ruane reported on the results of the paving bid. The low bidder was Meckley's Limestone Products with a bid of \$122,950.30. Other bids were

\$147,317.25 from HRI, \$162,598.60 from J. Fulkroad & Sons, \$221,105.00 from Sudol Paving, \$159,824.00 from Hawbaker, and \$134,044.35 from New Enterprise. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Toro, council voted unanimously to award the contract to Meckley's Limestone Products.

Mr. Ruane noted that the streets to be paved are Prince Street from 6th to 7th; C Street between Water and Front Streets, Toullman Avenue between B and C Streets, Church Avenue between Duke and Queen Streets, and Jefferson Street and Madison Avenue as directed.

Old Business - none

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mrs. Simmons, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$65,273.93, Parking Meter bills total \$900, Liberty Splashland bills total \$29.90, and Sewer Department bills total \$124,588.09.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane announced that the council meeting would be adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss a litigation issue and the council meeting would be reconvened. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Mr. Ruane reconvened the council meeting at 8:04 p.m. Mrs. Simmons made a motion to approve payment of \$954,837 to J. Fulkroad & Son, contingent upon securing a full settlement and release to discontinue the docket action CV-19-2088. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Richard Bell informed council that the lower fence at the Dog Park does not contain the dogs within the park. The bank along the stream is also eroding. He recommended that the street department stop spraying the weeds along the bank. Discussion continued. Mr. Bell stated that he is willing to volunteer time to make improvements at the park. Mr. Toro offered to meet with Mr. Bell at the park to discuss the issues at the property. They plan to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday at the Dog Park. The Street Supervisor will also be asked to be present.

Mr. Toro moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager