

Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
August 3, 2021

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, and Kaitlyn Simmons. Others present were Mayor Berard; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Vern Morgan, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council members Orlando Toro and Frank Wetzel were absent.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None offered

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the Police Department for the month of July. There were 26 traffic citations and 5 non-traffic citations, 76 parking tickets issued, 248 calls for service, and 16 court appearances for the month. Training was conducted for 41.5 hours.

Several people were arrested for misdemeanor and felony crimes of unsworn falsification, simple assault, theft, recklessly endangering another person, possessing instruments of crime, criminal trespass, contempt, operating a methamphetamine laboratory, causing, or risking a catastrophe, and DUI.

The police answered 34 assist calls for the month; 13 to Point Township, 9 to Sunbury, and 12 to other agencies. 1,292 miles were traveled during July.

Mayor Berard informed council that the police perform "business checks" every month. This entails checking the doors and windows at a business. A business card is left at the building so the owner knows an officer has been there. They have also checked the baseball fields.

Mayor Berard informed council that as Mayor, he is on the board of two trust funds. The one is the S. Luther Savidge Trust. When Dr. Savidge passed away, two trust funds were set up in his name; one in Sunbury at the BB&T Bank and the other in Northumberland at the Northumberland National Bank. The trust currently has around 1.5 million dollars. The board of trustees gives away about \$65,000 away annually. The police department has been able to move forward with technology and equipment due to funding through the S. Luther Savidge Trust. They have provided money for the River Valley Training Center, computer equipment for the patrol cars, dash cams for the patrol cars, body cams, and bullet proof vests. The latest acquisition will be a license plate reader that will be mounted in the police car and can read the plate to learn if the vehicle is registered.

Mayor Berard stated that he wanted the council to know what the funds have provided to the Borough for the police department and to thank the S. Luther Savidge Trust for their generosity.

Mayor Berard explained that John Sauerzopf, a student at Bloomsburg University who will graduate in May with a BA in Criminal Justice, has requested council's approval to serve an internship with the Police Department in the fall of 2021. Mrs. Boyer moved to approve the internship for John Sauerzopf and Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve the internship.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

- Sewer Superintendent Jeremy Deitrick requested that council authorize RETTEW to advertise for bids for the 2021 Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) project. Mrs. Simmons made a motion to authorize RETTEW to proceed with advertising the 2021 Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) project. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Detrick reported that the third quarter billing will be going out to customers within the next few weeks.
- The pump replacement will be underway this week and should be completed by the middle of the month.
- 2022 budget meetings for the department are set for August 30th, September 13th, and October 18th at 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Ruane noted that the department has a contract with CVC for the HVAC maintenance agreement.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane read the report for the activity of the Code Office in July 2021. For the month of August, two building permits were issued for a total of \$219; six complaints were received, and 8 citations issued. The code officer issued 2 street cut permits for \$790, inspected eight rental properties for \$400 and made three recheck inspections. Nine Quality of Life notices and two Quality of Life tickets for \$50 were issued. She had one court appearance and traveled 44 miles during the month.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Vern Morgan informed council that the crew would be spraying downtown and along the Old Danville highway this week. Brush pickup is next Wednesday, August 11th.

Committee Reports

Community Development – no report

Finance

Mrs. Rees informed council that the Borough has received \$188,770.92 from the state as funds provided from the federal government due to Covid-19. Discussions are to use these funds as a match for a grant to do work on Queen Street and Front Street, including storm sewer work, paving, and new street scape. Mrs. Rees moved to transfer the Covid-19 funds in the amount of \$188,770.92 from the General Fund to the General Contingency Fund. Mrs. Boyer seconded

the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mrs. Rees noted that the same amount will be coming next year.

Mrs. Rees noted that council has been given a letter with the schedule for 2021 budget meetings. Expenses will be discussed at the August budget meeting. The September meeting will be about income. Final committee meeting is in October where the budget will be approved by committee and the full council will vote at the November and December council meetings.

Mrs. Rees added that the budget numbers continue to look good.

PMRS Police Retirement

Each year, the council must adopt an ordinance to change the officers' contribution rate from 5% to 1.5% which is the amount in the police contract. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Dr. Guilbault, council voted unanimously to advertise the ordinance.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety – no report

Rules

Dr. Guilbault reported that the committee is meeting monthly and are up to Chapter 58 in the Borough Code Book.

Streets

Mr. Ruane stated that he hasn't heard the date when paving will begin. It's expected that it will begin in September.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Dr. Guilbault, council unanimously approved the council meeting minutes of July 14, 2021.

Old Business - none

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mrs. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Boyer, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. General Fund bills total \$63,406.03; Park and Recreation bills total \$1,030.21; Parking Meter bills total \$6,593.50; and Sewer Department bills total \$171,022.13.
2. The Keystone Communities Program Grant is available through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Council is requested to approve Resolution G-2021 – Keystone Communities Program Grant to authorize an application for \$500,000 for Downtown Reconstruction. The Borough would be able to match the funds with the money received from the Covid-19 funds totaling

\$377,541.84 and Liquid Fuels funds of approximately \$125,000. Dr. Guilbault moved to approve Resolution G-2021. Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The resolution follows:

**"BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND
RESOLUTION NO. G-2021**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northumberland desires to undertake the following project, *Downtown Reconstruction* and

WHEREAS, the Borough intends to use these funds as needed on Queen and Front Streets to reconstruct storm sewers; mill, repair base and repave the streets; repair or replace sidewalks; install required curbing and ADA curb ramps; purchase and install new decorative street lamps; remove aging trees and replace with appropriate landscaping; replace or install new signage; repaint pavement markings; and other amenities as required; and

Now be it RESOLVED, the Borough Council requests a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) from Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in the form of a grant from the Keystone Communities program,

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, the Borough Council has authorized Ann August, Grants/Projects/IT, to execute any and all necessary documents.

Duly adopted at a meeting held on the Third day of August, 2021.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Janice R. Bowman, Borough Secretary

Paul J. Ruane, Borough Council President"

3. The Borough has received a request for a handicap parking space from Gerard Dachille at 383 Water Street. He has provided a copy of his placard and a letter from his doctor. Mrs. Boyer made a motion to approve the request. Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Fire Chief Brian Ginck informed council that they are looking for people to join the Emergency Services Board, specifically for the administrative end of the business. The Board meets once a month. The volunteers may be from the Borough or Point Township.

A pre-application was submitted for a grant for trees at Pineknott park. If approved, a final application will be submitted in September. The award is based on a first come/first serve basis. If awarded, the trees would be here in November. Maximum number is 20 trees. No monetary match is required.

Mrs. Simmons made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager