

Borough of Northumberland

175 ORANGE STREET
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

Phone: (570) 473-3414
FAX: (570) 473-3986

E-Mail: office@northumberlandborough.com
www.northumberlandborough.com

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
September 7, 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 Denise Guilbault, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, and Orlando Toro. Others present were Mayor Berard; Melissa Kelso, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Vern Morgan, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council members Ann Boyer, Kaitlyn Simmons, and Frank Wetzal were absent.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None offered.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Toro, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve the August 3, 2021 council meeting minutes.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the Police Department for the month of August. The police issued 47 traffic citations, two non-traffic citations, and 121 parking tickets. They had 254 calls for service, 28 court appearances and 57 training hours. Several people were arrested for misdemeanor and felony crimes of unsworn falsification, recklessly endangering another person, contempt, causing or risking a catastrophe, obstructing emergency services, endangering the welfare of children, prohibited acts of drugs and paraphernalia, and DUI. The police responded to 29 assist calls; 13 to Point Township, nine to Sunbury, and seven to other agencies. 1,427.0 miles were traveled during the month.

The training commission for PA, known as MOPEC, has mandated that all police departments have tactical training. Resilite has donated two huge mats for the police to use during training. Mayor Berard thanked the company for the donation.

Mayor Berard noted that the Block Party on Sunday was a wonderful event and they had great success. He added that the committee is looking forward to having more of them. Mayor Berard thanked the people who attended. He also thanked council for approving the event.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

Mr. Ruane asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include payments to contractors, Derstine for \$17,822 and Lepley Electric for \$9,118.25. Mr. Deitrick explained that the payments are for the BFP Pump Replacement Upgrade, and the work is 95% complete. Mrs. Rees so moved. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruane explained that this is a new state law that all motions concerning payments be included in the meeting agenda.

Mrs. Rees moved to approve payment application #1 from Derstine in the amount of \$17,822 and payment application #1 from Lepley Electric for \$9,118.25. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane read the report from MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer. During August 2021, the code officer issued three building permits and one zoning permit with fees totaling \$298.50. She received seven complaints, filed five citations, and issued eight code violations. Applications were approved for two street cut permits, fees totaling \$790. Seven rental inspections and one reinspection were conducted, fees totaling \$370. Six Quality of Life notices and two Quality of Life tickets were issued along with two Certificates of Occupancy. 17.5 miles were traveled.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Vern Morgan reported that tomorrow is brush pickup for the month. The slide on the playground has been repaired. Another part has been damaged. The skidsteer is out to be repaired.

Committee Reports

Community Development – no report

Finance

Mrs. Rees reported that the Borough is doing well; we are paying our bills. At the last Finance Committee meeting, the departments presented their proposed budget for 2022. At the next meeting, the committee will discuss the income for 2022.

Mr. Ruane requested a motion to amend the agenda to include the sale of the 2017 Ford Explorer. Dr. Guilbault so moved. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Toro moved to approve the sale of the 2017 Ford Explorer for \$14,100. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. The vehicle was posted on Municibid, and the high bid was received from Rocco Lagana. Council approved unanimously.

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to pay off the balance of the loan for 2018 truck in the amount of \$4,346.82. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel - no report

Public Safety - no report

Rules - no report

Streets - no report

Old Business

1. PMRS Adoption Agreement Amendment

To reduce the police contribution from 5%, as in the PMRS agreement, to 1.5 %, as in the police contract, PMRS requires an amendment to the agreement. Dr. Guilbault moved to approve the PMRS Adoption Agreement Amendment. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

2. Resolution G-2021

At the last council meeting, council approved advertising an ordinance to reduce the police contribution to the retirement plan. Since then, PMRS agreed that a resolution, as had been done in the past, would suffice. This saves the expense of advertising an ordinance. Resolution G-2021 reduces the police contribution to the retirement plan from 5% to 1.5%. Mr. Toro moved and Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The resolution follows:

"BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND

RESOLUTION NO. G-2021

WHEREAS, Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County, by Ordinance No. 465, entered into an agreement, dated January 18, 2000, with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board to provide a police pension plan; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 11 of said Agreement allows for the Borough to annually waive or reduce the required employee contributions; and

WHEREAS, Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County now desires to reduce the required member contributions for calendar year 2020 from five percent (5%) to one and five-tenths percent (1.5%).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 7th day of September, 2021, that in accordance with Ordinance No. 465 and the Agreement, dated January 18, 2000, the Borough agrees to reduce the required member contributions to the police pension plan for calendar year 2020 from five percent (5%) to one and five-tenths percent (1.5%); and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be filed with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board to so indicate the Borough's intent.

DULY ADOPTED this 7th day of September, 2021, by Northumberland Borough,
Northumberland County.

TALLY OF VOTES – YEAS _____ NAYS _____

ATTEST:

Secretary

BY: _____
President

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Dr. Guilbault, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General

Fund total \$63,571.38; Parking Meter bills total \$1,567.68, Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$968.66, River Valley Training Center bills total \$177.93, and Sewer Department bills total \$176,542.37.

2. The Borough's current electricity supplier contract expires in January. Pricing has been received from Direct Energy Business LLC for a five-year contract for electricity at a rate of 5.892¢ per Kilowatt Hour. Dr. Guilbault moved to accept the five-year contract at the quoted rate; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. The council was presented with copies of the Borough's 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Worksheet. This is the amount the Borough will pay in 2022 for the retirement plans. The Borough receives state aid that helps to pay these costs.

Public Comment

Ms. Heidi Bilbay, owner of 246 Duke Street, informed council that there is a paving project on Church Avenue. Her family owns the properties on both sides of Church Avenue. Ms. Bilbay noted that when the state installed the curb along Duke Street, the curb stop is a width of twenty feet at the intersection with Church Avenue. The Borough intends to pave the 14-foot cartway. Ms. Bilbay requested that the Borough pave a triangular portion of the parking lot along her building at 246 Duke Street to extend the width of the paved area closer to the curb stop on Duke Street. She stated she has received a price of \$550 to have that triangular section paved. She noted that she cannot afford to pave this area and is concerned that the street will need to be patched in the future. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ruane stated that he would look at the area and decide if the Borough should undertake the extra paving.

Mr. Toro moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager