

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting October 5, 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; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Vern Morgan, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Solicitor Melissa Kelso was present via teleconference. Council members Orlando Toro and Frank Wetzel were absent.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments were offered.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Dr. Guilbault, council voted unanimously to accept the minutes of September 7, 2021.

Noelle Long – 17857.org

- Mrs. Long provided an update on the activities of 17857.org. The group held “Music in the Park” throughout the summer, into September. She noted that sponsors helped to pay for the groups and felt the program went well.
- This was the 15th year for Lemonade Day. Mrs. Long noted that the event was well attended. There were 26 lemonade stands and numerous activities throughout the day.
- The Community Yard Sale was held Labor Day weekend. Over 60 people participated.
- The Block Party was held downtown on September 5th. The rain during the morning was challenging for the “run”. She added that they estimated about 2,500 people attended. 1,000 wristbands were given to those who chose to purchase alcoholic beverages. Mr. Ruane noted that he went downtown the morning following the Block Party and the streets were cleaned. Mrs. Long stated that the volunteers cleaned up that evening, and that there was very little to clean. She said that there was a good mix of ages present. The Hometown Hero Banner dedication was held during the day. The group made close to \$9,000 toward funding for the 250 Birthday Bash next year. The funds were raised from sponsorships, donations from the vendors, and the sale of t-shirts. The group hopes to have a Block Party next year on the Sunday of Labor Day

weekend, with a rain date of Monday. Mrs. Long stated that Jon Apple and the Fire Police helped throughout the day and Pineknott Brewery was involved throughout the day.

- Trek for Treats is planned for October 8 to 22nd. The Treasure Maps are available and all businesses on the maps are opened on Saturdays.
- The Fall Festival is set for October 23rd.
- The Halloween Parade is planned for Wednesday, October 27th.
- Santa in the Park will happen on November 29th in King Street Park. The Sunbury City Band will play, and Santa will arrive by firetruck.
- To keep momentum going for the Birthday Bash, plans are to have a holiday-ish event downtown. They would like permission to close a section of Front Street from King Street to Wheatley Avenue on Saturday, December 4th from noon to later in the day.
- There is also a possibility of a band playing sometime this month to raise funds for the Birthday Bash. An evening concert that would end at 10:00 p.m. is being considered. Mrs. Long requested council's permission to close Front Street from Queen to King Street. The band would be at Queen and Front streets, vendors would be in the parking lot at the Masonic Lodge. Either October 23rd or November 6th. Pineknott Brewery would be allowed to sell alcohol.

Council thanked Noelle for the work she has been doing for the Borough.

Mrs. Long provided an update on the Birthday Bash. The dates are set for June 4th and 5th with festivities at Pineknott Park and the Point. Fireworks are planned for Saturday evening. Bands are scheduled to play throughout the festivities. Details are being finalized and information will be posted on Facebook.

Mr. Ruane asked for a motion to close Front Street from King Street to Wheatley Avenue on December 4th. Mrs. Boyer so moved. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to approve a special event on either October 23rd or November 6th during the evening and to close Front Street between Queen and King Streets. Additionally, alcohol will be permitted in open containers. Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard informed council that for the month of October, the police issued 55 traffic citations, four non-traffic citations, and 54 parking tickets. They received 248 calls for service and made 15 court appearances. The officers spent 59 hours training. Several people were arrested for misdemeanor and felony crimes of receiving stolen property, theft, prohibited acts of drugs and paraphernalia, and DUI. The police answered 28 assist calls for the month: 18 to Point Township, seven to Sunbury and three to other agencies. 1,541 miles were traveled for the month.

Mayor Berard noted that the simulator is scheduled to be installed in the River Valley Training Center on October 18th.

Approve Constable's Services

Ms. Kelso informed council that she has reviewed a contract that another municipality has for outsourcing the services to transport prisoners. Chief Kriner explained that since the prison is now in Coal Township, the police must transport a prisoner to Coal Township which takes a minimum of two hours. He is concerned that during the winter, the time could increase. Constable Sam Spigelmeyer has agreed to transport prisoners to Coal Township at a cost of \$50 per trip. Chief Kriner noted that this agreement will save the Borough money and allow the officers to remain in the Borough. Mrs. Boyer moved to approve Constable Sam Spigelmeyer's services to transport prisoners to Coal Township at \$50 per trip. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

- Mr. Ruane requested a motion to amend the agenda to include payment number 2 to Derstine Company in the amount of \$1,938. Mrs. Rees moved to amend the agenda to include the payment application. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mrs. Simmons moved to approve payment number 2 for \$1,938 to Derstine Company. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mrs. Simmons moved to accept Christopher Day's resignation. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mrs. Rees moved to advertise the laborer position at the Sewer Plant. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane read the report from MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer. For the month of September, seven building permits and two zoning permits were issued with fees totaling \$698.50. One Zoning meeting was held. The code officer received five complaints, issued eight code violations, nine Quality of Life notices, three Quality of Life tickets, and one street cut permit with a fee of \$350. There were 3 rental inspections and one reinspection with fees totaling 170. As health officer, Ms. Clark conducted two health inspections. Mileage on the car was 28 miles.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Vern Morgan reported that the final brush pickup is scheduled for next Wednesday. Work continues to grind stumps at Pineknott Park.

During a recent storm, a large limb fell on the roof of the garage. A quote of \$7,800 was obtained from General Construction Service to repair the roof. EMC insurance will cover the cost to repair the roof minus \$1,000 deductible. Dr. Guilbault moved to accept the bid of \$7,800 from General Construction Service to repair the garage roof. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Community Development – no report

Finance

Mrs. Rees reported that the committee met to discuss the income projected for next year's budget. At the next meeting, the committee will finalize the budget for 2022. The meeting is the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Personnel

Mr. Ruane informed council that Jan Bowman has submitted a retirement letter to the council with a retirement date of April 17, 2022. Mr. Ruane added that she is giving a six-month notice. Mrs. Boyer moved to accept Jan Bowman's retirement letter. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Public Safety

Mrs. Boyer informed council that the fire department is having recruitment issues. They are looking for younger people to join the firemen. She added that this is a way to become involved in the community. The Emergency Services Board will have an opening for a secretary. Mr. Brian Ginck noted that this is a board position and vacancies exist on the board.

Rules

Dr. Guilbault reported that the committee plans to finish the last chapter in the Code Book this month.

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. Several items have been posted for sale on Municibid. The high bidders are as follows:

Item	Amount	Buyer
Toastmaster Griddle	410.00	Heather Morgan
Deep Fryer	360.00	Global Real Estate
Dump Hoppers	7,100.00	Donald Deitrich, Valley View Landscaping
International Baler	25,800.00	Ezra Ellis
Selco Baler Paper/Cardboard	1,800.00	Mark DeWire
Bace Vertical Baler	9,100.00	Steve Etzler Recycling
Wildcat Compost Turner	2,539.00	Theresa Bettleyon
Recycling Trailer	1,375.00	Kris Worden

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to accept the bids. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

The money for the recycling items will be deposited in the General Contingency Fund until the Borough hears from DEP regarding the amount to be repaid per the grant documents.

New Business

1. One new bill was added to the list of bills for council's approval. The bill is from Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance Agency. The Borough's portion is for \$9,482.67 and the Sewer Department portion is \$3,696.53. This is the third installment of the

annual insurance bill. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Dr. Guilbault, council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$44,320.65; River Valley Training Center bills total \$6,653.44; Liquid Fuels bills total \$117,820.82; Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$36.54; Shade Tree Fund bills total \$57.19; and Sewer Department bills total \$168,671.66.

2. Star Mechanical has provided an estimate to replace the HVAC systems in the Borough Office and the Police Chief's office. The total to replace both units with new mini-split units will be less than \$5,000 total. Mr. Ruane added that this is a good price to replace the old units. Mrs. Boyer moved to approve the purchase; Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

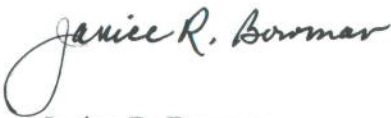
Public Comment

Fire Chief Brian Ginck reported that the Fire Department responded to 11 fire calls and 15 EMS calls for a total of 26 calls in the month of September. For the year, they responded to 131 fire calls and 177 EMS calls for a total of 308, so far this year. He noted that they average about one call a day. He was asked about the group size and how many firemen respond to each call on average. Mr. Ginck responded that the group size is in the mid-twenties, with about a dozen attending each call. The department is recruiting again for additional volunteers. Mr. Ruane questioned if they approach the high school. Mr. Ginck noted that with Fire Prevention week approaching he plans to contact the ROTC instructor to see if members of that group may be interested.

Mrs. Rees thanked Mr. Ginck for all he does, adding that the volunteers with the Fire Department are appreciated.

Mr. Ruane asked if an Executive Session was needed. Since no one had anything to discuss in Executive Session, Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager