

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

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Special Meeting
February 18, 2020

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:13 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, Orlando Toro, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Berard and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager.

Mr. Ruane announced that the council conducted an Executive Session this evening from 6:48 p.m. to 7:13 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

Public Comment

No one was present from the public.

Committee Reports

Personnel

Street Supervisor Position

Mr. Wetzel reported that the committee interviewed three candidates for the position. They are recommending that the council hire Vernon Morgan for the position. Mr. Morgan is retired from the Bureau of Prisons. Mr. Morgan has a vast knowledge base. He was the facilities manager at the Allenwood prison and managed over 50 people. He also managed a \$6 million budget. Mr. Morgan does not want benefits. The committee is recommending that Mr. Morgan be paid for 12 holidays per year that are listed in the Teamsters' contract. Mr. Morgan requested a pay rate of \$27.50 per hour. He is also requesting that he be able to take unpaid time off throughout the year to travel. Since Mr. Morgan does not need health insurance, the Borough will save a minimum of \$21,000 per year. Mr. Wetzel moved to hire Vernon Morgan at an hourly rate of \$27.50 and pay him for 12 holidays. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Community Development

Pineknott Park Pavilion Roof

Mrs. Simmons informed council that at the last meeting, the committee reviewed quotes to have the roof replaced with a metal roof. The low quote of \$5,144.89 was received from Fatz Custom Construction. Mrs. Simmons noted that a start and

completion date should be determined with the contractor. The other bid received was for \$7,200.00. Mrs. Simmons moved to hire Fatz Custom Construction to replace the roof on the Pineknott Park pavilion for \$5,144.89. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Ruane noted that the funds to pay for the roof will come from the insurance money that the Borough received several years ago when the area, including Fire Police building, was flooded.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard provided council with additional information regarding Pvt. Horace Middleton, the Northumberland native who was killed in WWII. He informed the council that there was a Congressional committee meeting about House Resolution 906 which is to award "Merrill's Marauders" a Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. No representative from Pennsylvania was supporting the resolution. Mayor Berard contacted Representative Fred Keller and Representative Keller is now co-sponsoring HR 906. Pvt. Middleton was one of "Merrill's Marauders". Mayor Berard informed council that Pvt. Middleton's funeral is planned for April 18th at Shaw's Funeral Home in Milton. Burial will be in the Harmony Cemetery. Mr. Ruane noted that the Legion will be there.

Committee Reports (con't.)

Rules Committee Meeting

Dr. Guilbault explained that the committee met yesterday and discussed the live streaming of the council meetings. The committee learned that council who have done live-streaming have developed quite extensive policies. The committee would like to create a policy prior to going forth with the live streaming. Mr. Wetzel stated that because these are public meetings, he doesn't know what the problem is. Mr. Ruane noted that a private citizen is live streaming the meetings and he may do so. The live stream is not posted on a Borough website or overseen by the Borough. Mayor Berard said that it may be prudent to go through the solicitor because if there is a way to have this come back and haunt us, it will. Mr. Wetzel said that he didn't understand what council could do because it is a public meeting and a member of the public would have a right to record it. Mr. Ruane said that council should have an answer by the next meeting. Dr. Guilbault suggested that council ask Nate if he would mind waiting for a month or so until council has more information regarding policies. The committee does not meet again until after the March council meeting. Mr. Wetzel suggested contacting Sunbury to see what they do. Dr. Guilbault noted that she plans to contact Sunbury to learn about their policies. She added that the committee would just like time to do that. Mrs. Rees questioned if the Borough runs the Norry Events and Announcements. Mayor Berard explained that Nate Boyer is the administrator of Norry Events and Announcements. The Borough Office has no administrative oversight of it. Mrs. Rees stated that the main issue might be whether the Borough has oversight of the recordings. The recording is not on the Borough's website or Facebook. Dr. Guilbault added that most councils that do this have it on their own

YouTube video that is included on their website. She has not seen any others on Facebook.

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to temporarily suspend live streaming so council could determine if a policy is needed. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Mr. Toro asked if something could be included about a disclosure at meetings. Dr. Guilbault agreed, noting that some of the policies that the committee reviewed included a script that was read prior to and at the end of meetings. She added that it is things like this that council didn't think about. Dr. Guilbault said that she thinks it is great that people want to see the meetings. Council voted 6-1 to temporarily suspend live-streaming council meetings. Mr. Wetzel voted no.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn; Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager