

**Borough of Northumberland  
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857  
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
September 1, 2020**

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 Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Berard; Melissa Kelso, Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Vern Morgan, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council member Orlando Toro was absent.

**Public Comment**

Fire Chief Brian Ginck informed council that he is representing the Emergency Services Board. The group has been raising funds for the fire department. They are interested in purchasing insurance policies for the ESB and are requesting that council approve paying \$697 toward the purchase of the insurance. The quote is from Pfeiffer-Naginey with Keystone Insurance. Another, higher quote was obtained from another insurance broker. Mrs. Rees moved, and Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion to pay the \$697 for the insurance from money that is budgeted for the fire department. Council approved unanimously.

Meghan Beck was present to answer any questions council members may have about the proposed community college. Mr. Ruane asked who would pay the \$1.14 per household per month. Meghan Beck stated that the four counties would allocate the funds which could be in addition to the other taxes or could be used from other line items in the county's budget. The average amount would be the \$1.14 per household per month. She noted that counties with community colleges experience less social service costs due to the return on investment for a community college. The community also receives state money toward the community college. The return on investment continues to grow. Cambria county's return on investment is now up to fifty times. There is a 10-year commitment.

Mr. Ruane asked if anyone had questions or would like to make a motion. Dr. Guilbault requested that the topic be tabled so she would have more time to review the material.

Ms. Beck informed council that there would be a Presentation through Zoom on Thursday. Mr. Ruane tabled the topic.

Mr. Jon Apple asked council if they are in favor of holding a Halloween Parade and Trick or Treating. Mr. Ruane noted Sunbury's parade is canceled. Mr. Apple added that Danville's parade is also canceled. Mr. Ruane noted that with other towns canceling parades, businesses and groups may not make the floats and bands may not be able to

attend. Dr. Guilbault noted that everyone she has talked to is not in favor of having the parade because it would be difficult to control social distancing. Mr. Ruane asked if anyone would like to make a motion to hold the parade. No motion was offered.

Mr. Wetzel moved to not have the Halloween Parade. Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wetzel moved to have Trick-or-Treating, noting that it is up to the residents to decide if they want to open their doors. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. The date and time would be October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00. Council approved unanimously.

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion by Dr. Guilbault, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of August 4, 2020.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Berard reported that the police department had 28 traffic citations for the month, one non-traffic citation and issued 160 parking tickets. The department had 284 calls for service, 17 court appearances, and 23.5 training hours. Several people were arrested for misdemeanor crimes, including contempt, retail theft, simple assault, strangulation, drug law violations, loitering and prowling, indecent exposure, open lewdness, and DUI. The department answered 30 assist calls for the month; 14 to Point Township, 7 to Sunbury and 9 to other agencies. 1,651.9 miles were traveled for the month.

Mayor Berard informed council that an intern request has been received from Matthew O'Donnell. He has graduated from Bloomsburg University, is an Eagle Scout, and was captain of his high school swim team. Mayor Berard requested that council approve his internship, adding that this would be a virtual internship. Mr. O'Donnell would work with Officer Kelly Roth, the Borough's accreditation manager. Mr. Wetzel made a motion to approve the internship for Matthew O'Donnell. Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

### **Northumberland Borough Sewer Department**

Mr. Jeremy Deitrick informed council that the information he has is for the Executive Session.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m. for the Executive Session, noting that topics to be discussed are a mediation hearing and litigation. The meeting was reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Mr. Ruane requested a motion to accept change order #3 for Fulkroad at no cost. Mrs. Simmons made the motion; Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruane requested a motion to pay Fulkroad \$389,000 to settle their claim, contingent upon the county and engineers signing off on the changes. Mr. Wetzel so moved; Mrs. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

### **Code Enforcement Officer's Report – no report**

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Vern Morgan reported that the street department completed the storm drain at Priestley and Queen Streets.

### **Committee Reports**

Community Development – no report

Finance

Mrs. Rees reported that the committee met to start work on the 2021 budget.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

### **Old Business**

1. Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project - Letter of support for a regional college – tabled earlier in the meeting.
2. Police Training Center  
The Borough is receiving quotes from the various contractors required to complete the training center. Because the amounts are under the threshold for bidding, quotes are being obtained. Council was requested to approve awarding the quotes for the renovation project to the lowest responsible contractors for the various jobs. Mrs. Simmons so moved; Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Boyer, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$48,061.71; Liberty Splashland bills total \$28.69; and Sewer Department bills total \$9,211.04.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Manager