

# Borough of Northumberland

CODE DEPARTMENT  
175 ORANGE STREET  
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

Phone: (570) 473-3414  
Cell: (570) 452-0023

E-Mail: [codes@northumberlandborough.com](mailto:codes@northumberlandborough.com)  
[www.northumberlandborough.com](http://www.northumberlandborough.com)

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**March 5, 2019**

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 Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, and Orlando Toro. Others present were Mayor Berard; Ryan Tira, Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager.

## **Borough Council Appointments**

Three applications were received. They were from Frank Wetzel, Barbara Kistner, and Kaitlyn Wetzel. Two of the applicants were present.

Frank Wetzel, one of the applicants, stated that he has served on council before. He would like the council do things that would bring younger families into the Borough. He said that he has some ideas for the area along the river and at the Point. One idea is to install camping lots along the river on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River behind Pineknott Park. He feels that the area could be made more family friendly. Other activities such as October Fests are popular in other communities and he feels this type of activity would bring families to the Borough.

Kaitlyn Simmons, another applicant, stated that she has lived in Northumberland for her entire life. As a younger resident, she feels that she may have another perspective on council. She is interested in the revitalization of the downtown area. She feels that small businesses are very important to a community.

Mr. Ruane made a motion to nominate Frank Wetzel. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. No other nominations were offered for the first vacancy. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Toro made a motion to nominate Barbara Kistner. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Dr. Cianflone made a motion to nominate Kaitlyn Simmons. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Mrs. Rees voted for Ms. Simmons; Mr. Ruane voted for Ms. Simmons; Mr. Sees

voted for Ms. Kistner; Mr. Toro voted for Ms. Kistner; and Dr. Cianflone voted for Ms. Simmons. Ms. Simmons was appointed with a 3-2 vote.

Mr. Ruane noted that both terms end on December 31, 2019.

### **Oaths of Office**

Mayor Berard administered the Oaths of Office to Mr. Wetzel and Ms. Simmons.

### **Election – Council Vice President**

Mrs. Rees made a motion to elect Orlando Toro Council Vice President. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

### **PennDOT Update**

Mindy Foresman, Project Manager for the PennDOT project in the Borough, informed council that the work has resumed. They will be working six days a week; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and eight hours on Saturdays. The construction should be complete in about one year. The detour has been implemented. The signage has been erected. It is the same amount of signage in approximately the same places. The railroad underpass work is continuing and should be wrapped up by the middle of April. They may need to do some paving in May.

Mr. Walker stated that he sees trucks detouring on Queen Street instead of King Street. Ms. Foresman stated that the orange signs for the pedestrian detour are on Queen Street and she feels that some people are following those signs instead of the signs for vehicles. She said that they must post pedestrian detour signs. Additional signage will be erected. Mayor Berard stated that trucks should be turning onto Ridge Road. He spoke with a truck driver who explained that he didn't know where to go. Mayor Berard feels that the signs need to be clearer. He suggested that the signs before Ridge Road should say "All Trucks" detour on Ridge Road. Ms. Foresman noted that there are signs on both lanes of Route 80 and all the way south into the Borough. Mayor Berard said that we must keep trying to inform truckers that they are not to be in the Borough.

Dr. Cianflone questioned if the fines could be made higher. Chief Kriner stated that the fine is a floating fine. Judge Toomey had lowered the fine when he first came into office; but he has raised it. Chief Kriner stated that the Borough gets half of the fine.

Ms. Foresman stated that PennDOT could put another message board up on Route 147 between Route 405 and Ridge Road for trucks to turn onto Ridge Road. Nate Boyer said that truckers have told him that their GPS has them turn onto the old Ridge Road, so they pass the new road. Mr. Walker stated that he drove truck for many years. If PennDOT would put a large sign with an arrow pointing at Ridge Road right before the road, the truckers would know exactly where to turn. Mrs. Fran Bogovich suggested that an overhead light at the intersection with Ridge Road would make the intersection more easily noticed.

Ms. Clark noted that several people have questioned the timing of the traffic lights on Front Street. Ms. Foresman explained that the pedestrian light has a cycle, even if no one is there to cross the street. She added that she would look into the timing of the lights.

Mr. Ruane asked if the contractor at the underpass would clean everything up at the park where they are storing equipment and material. Ms. Foresman responded that they should have signed a property release and the property must be completely restored when they leave. She added that it should look just as good, if not better, when they are done.

Mrs. Rees questioned if the original plan for Water Street has changed. Ms. Foresman responded that the plan has changed. They lengthened the phase where the work is being done on Water Street from the underpass to King Street. That is all one phase, instead of two. There is concern about the utilities around King Street. There are all kinds of utilities there and they must determine what they all are. The amount of the work on Water Street has not changed.

Ms. Foresman stated that the public may access the construction information on PennDOT's website. She added that the hotline is always available.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Walker stated that the hole below Priestley Avenue is getting bigger. Mr. Ruane responded that the Borough is getting financing in order.

Mr. Nate Boyer informed the council that the volunteers at the Recycling Center had their annual meeting in February. They shipped out 359,628 pounds of material in 2018.

Mr. Boyer stated that he saw on Face Book that several parking meters are not working. Mayor Berard responded that the meters will be inspected and repaired, if needed.

Mrs. Rees thanked the volunteers at the Recycling Center for all their hard work.

Mr. Lance Engle, with Madison Settlement Services, requested a refund of realty transfer tax for his customer. He explained that she was related to the seller and they did not realize she should not have paid transfer tax on the transaction. The amount paid to the Borough was \$750. Tina Mertz, Northumberland County Register and Recorder, told him that once she pays the municipality, she does not issue refunds. Mr. Tira stated that he would examine the documents and Council would act upon the request at the next council meeting. Mr. Engle asked if he should attend the next meeting. Mr. Tira replied that if there are any questions, he will reach out to him.

Mrs. Fran Bogovich introduced a new resident in the Borough, Denise Guilbault.

#### **Council Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Toro, council approved the February 5, 2019 minutes by a vote of 5-0-2. Mr. Sees and Mr. Wetzel abstained.

## **Northumberland Borough Sewer Department – no report**

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Berard reported that for the month of February, the police had 245 calls for service, 20 traffic citations and two non-traffic citations. There were 16 court appearances. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes which include forgery, fraud, and drug offenses. The police had 30 assist calls for the month; 13 to Point Township, seven to Sunbury, and ten to other agencies. 1,709 miles were traveled for the month.

Mayor Berard reported that on February 19<sup>th</sup> he gave the Oath of Office to a new Fire Police, Charles Walter. Mayor Berard added that he congratulates him and welcomes him to the Fire Police.

### **Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Ms. MaryKay Clark reported that for the month of February five building permits and one zoning permit were issued. Total permit fees collected were \$369. Ms. Clark noted that there are several that have not been completed by NEIC so the number will increase. The code office received three complaints, issued five code violations and conducted four rental inspections. Twenty-eight miles were driven during the month.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Streets

Mr. Ruane stated that he misses Paul Boyer who was the head of the Street Committee. He added that they worked together to oversee the street paving. He reported that the committee is reviewing the paving schedule for this year. He added that streets being considered for paving are Permastone, Seventh Street between Queen and King Streets, Sixth Street from Duke to Westway, and Fourth Street between Duke and the abandoned railroad tracks. It was asked if Wheatley between Water and Front Streets is on the list. Mr. Ruane stated that before it can be paved, the storm drain may need to be replaced. Sheetz Avenue from Park to Front Street was also proposed. The committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. next Tuesday. Mr. Ruane stated that the public is welcomed to come. The Borough has approximately \$161,000 but the entire amount is not spent on paving.

Mrs. Bogovich questioned if PennDOT will repair the streets being used as the detour. It is believed that PennDOT videoed the streets before the work began. Nate Boyer noted that a subcontractor took pictures of the interiors and exteriors of buildings along Duke Street.

#### Community Development

Dr. Cianflone reported that the committee met last month and reviewed the master park plans for Liberty Hollow that were prepared by Brian Auman. He noted that the plan includes picnic areas, basketball courts, bike trails.

The committee is waiting on another estimate for installing heat in the gym and an estimate for installing the flooring in the gym.

Dr. Cianflone noted that the Bowl Slide is sold. The buyer has until June 1<sup>st</sup> to remove it. The Borough still has liability insurance on it. The buyer has also provided a certificate of insurance.

#### Finance

Mrs. Rees reported that the committee members agreed to change the meeting time from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. The meeting is held the fourth Tuesday of the month.

#### Personnel

Mrs. Rees reported that Brian Probst has passed the pesticide application test.

Mrs. Rees expressed that she wishes Jim (Troup) well with his move to Point Township.

Mrs. Rees stated that she wishes to say a few words about Paul Boyer. She expressed that she misses him terribly. He was one of the most decent men she has known in her entire life; he had a heart of gold and he loved the Borough and was committed to serving the Borough.

Mrs. Rees requested that council have an Executive Session for a personnel issue. Mr. Ruane asked if it could be at the end of the meeting and Mrs. Rees agreed.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

#### **New Council Committee Assignments**

Mr. Ruane noted that Frank Wetzal will be Chairman of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Public Safety and Sewer Department Committees. Kaitlin Simmons will be Chairperson of the Rules Committee and will be a member of the Public Safety and Sewer Department Committees. Mr. Toro will serve as Chairman of the Streets Committee.

Mr. Ruane invited Frank and Kaitlyn to tour the sewer plant.

#### **Old Business**

1. Mayor Berard informed council that the Hookies approached him about building a shed on their property. He said that he spoke to Orlando and he spoke to MaryKay. She said that they may build the shed.

#### **New Business**

1. Upon motion by Mr. Toro, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$71,787.83; Liberty Splashland bills total \$51.48; Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$126,800; and Sewer Department bills total \$103,432.15.


2. The committee that has obtained banners for the Hometown Heroes has planned a dedication for May 18, 2019, at the King Street Park. They are requesting that the King Street on the north side of the park be closed and no parking be permitted on the south side of the park. Discussion ensued. The time of the event will be announced. Mrs. Rees moved to approve the request; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. Mrs. Rees made a motion to approve a request from William Koble for a handicap sign at 72 Orange Street. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Ruane noted that he will not be permitted to park there until the detour is over because there is no parking on that side of the street during the road construction.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Ruane adjourned the council meeting for an Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. The meeting was reconvened at 8:07 p.m. Mrs. Rees stated that at the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee, she would like to make a motion to give Jan (Bowman) a \$4,000 raise. Mrs. Rees added that they had talked about the additional amount last year and now they have the money to give her the other \$4,000. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Mayor Berard asked what that brings the salary to. Mr. Toro noted that it is \$10,000 below other managers. Mayor Berard informed the new council members that she had been named Borough Manager last year. Mr. Ruane added that she oversees all departments in the Borough except the police. The increase brings her salary to \$62,009. Council voted 6-1 to approve with Mr. Sees voting no.

Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Manager