

Borough of Northumberland

CODE DEPARTMENT
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**Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
July 10, 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 Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, Kaitlyn Simmons, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Berard; Melissa Kelso, Labor Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager.

PennDOT Update

Mr. Ted Deptula informed council that the construction was shut down for Pineknotters' Days and they are now back to work. Next weekend, the railroad will be replacing the crossing from Friday noon to Monday noon. The road will be closed completely during this time. Work is currently being done on King Street from the Priestley Bridge to Priestley Avenue. This phase is anticipated to be completed by September, roughly by Labor Day. The next phase will be from Priestley Avenue to Front Street. The plan is to finish everything except for the final wearing course and some touch-ups by Thanksgiving. Mayor Berard complimented PennDOT on the work that has been completed at the underpass and Duke Street. Mrs. Rees added her compliments on the completed streets.

Public Comment

- Ms. Barbara Kistner reported that there have been break-ins in vehicles parked in her driveway. Ms. Kistner stated that there is a bush on the property at Front and Hanover Streets that block the view of traffic coming south on Front Street. Her brother-in-law has spoken with the property owner and offered to trim it. MaryKay Clark noted that she has sent a letter to the property owner. Mr. Sees noted that his daughter's and his car were both broken into, so it is prevalent throughout town.
- Mr. Gerard asked about the Borough's Facebook page. He is new to town and would like the information that is posted. Several pages provide information about the Borough: Reuben Haines, Norry Bulletin Board, and Northumberland Streets. Mr.

Gerard stated that he has purchased a property in the Borough and is looking forward to moving to the Borough.

- Xan Howard Lawrence, a candidate for Eagle Scout and a member of Boy Scout Troop 342, has provided a proposal to the council to refurbish the cannon in King Street Park. The troop meets at the Methodist Church near the park. He has spoken with Dick Simpson from the American Legion and has obtained information regarding the refurbishment. He would also install stone around the cannon in place of the mulch, will clean the plaque and plant plants. Work includes sandblasting and painting the cannon. The work will be done this year.

Mr. Sees moved and Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion to permit Xan Lawrence to restore the cannon in King Street Park. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Ruane will be the point person. Mr. Ruane added that if Xan knows of anyone else who needs a project, there is a cannon at the Legion that could be restored.

- Mr. Rowe stated that the Daily Item had reported that the council meeting was last night. He said that people in his neighborhood are not moving their vehicles from the streets during the times posted as “no parking”. There are cars parked in the area that shouldn’t be there and there is also a pop-up trailer at King and Priestley. The code officer is aware of these vehicles.
- Mr. Bill Gross presented a check to Mr. Jon Apple, captain of the Fire Police, from the Northumberland Lions’ Club.

Council Meeting Minutes of April 8, and May 7, 2019

Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mrs. Simmons, council voted 4-0-1 to approve the minutes of April 8, 2019 and May 7, 2019. Mr. Sees abstained because he was absent from one of the meetings.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department – no report

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Berard reported that for the month of June, the police department answered 284 calls for service; issued 30 traffic citations and 21 non-traffic citations; and had 34 court appearances. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes, including unsworn falsification, rape, aggravated and indecent assault, DUI, theft, and simple assault. Assist calls for the month were 43: 9 to Point Township, 15 to Sunbury, and 19 to other agencies. The police logged 1,261.2 miles during the month.

Code Enforcement Officer’s Report

Ms. MaryKay Clark provided her report for June: Seven building permits and two zoning permits were issued with permit fees totaling \$4,053.50. She received 6 complaints, issued 8 code violations and 4 citations, and made one court appearance. She completed 12 rental inspections and one recheck with inspection fees totaling \$615. Miles traveled during the months was 55 miles.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Brian Probst provided a written report to council listing work that was accomplished by the department during June and July to date.

Mayor Berard asked what is causing the sink holes that are mentioned in the report as being repaired. Mr. Probst responded that one was due to a sewer pipe that was broken when the gas company installed a new line several years ago. The department repaired one today on Priestley Avenue and they do not know what causes that one.

Ms. Simmons questioned when the curbs and crosswalks would be painted. Mr. Probst replied that one employee has had a non-work-related injury and as soon as he returns to work, painting will resume.

Committee Reports

Streets – no report

Community Development

Mrs. Rees noted that smoking is not permitted on any municipal property. It has been suggested that a “no smoking or vaping” signs be posted on the 2nd Street Playground. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Rees made a motion to erect signs on the playground that state “No Smoking or Vaping”. Ms. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously

Finance – no report

Personnel

Mrs. Rees stated that there is a personnel issue to be discussed in Executive Session.

Mrs. Rees made a motion to hire a casual employee through WorkForce to work with the Street Department while the Street Department employee is off work due to his injury. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved with a vote of 4-0-1. Mr. Sees abstained.

Public Safety

Mr. Sees noted that Mr. Rumberger from A.R.E.A. Services and Mr. Hare from the Americus were present. He noted that a document has been received from Mr. Rumberger with bullet points. He invited them to attend the committee meeting next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wetzel noted that the other organizations should also be invited to the meeting. They are Evangelical Hospital and UPMC.

Mr. Wetzel stated that he would like to be transparent. He has provided a list of items that he feels is a starting point for council to determine the extent of services required for the ambulance provider in the Borough. Mr. Wetzel stated that he feels the council should determine what criteria is required for the ambulance service in the Borough, provide this list to the various entities, and have those interested

respond with a proposed contract to the Borough. He does not feel a meeting with all four entities is required. He has also provided council with a list containing brief descriptions of acronyms that are used in the emergency field since some of the council was not familiar with these items.

Mr. Sees stated that he also wants to be transparent. He thinks it would benefit the community to give each individual service the opportunity to tell the council what they have to offer, rather than limit because Frank's criteria rules out A.R.E.A. Mr. Wetzel stated that he rules out a lot of them. Mr. Sees thinks everyone should have the opportunity to present their case. Mr. Wetzel stated that the Borough didn't open this up; but he thinks that if this gives the Borough the opportunity to obtain the best service possible, that is what any community would do. He wants the best service for the residents of the Borough. Mayor Berard noted that A.R.E.A. is already here and everyone else is a contender. Mr. Wetzel agreed that at the end of this, council may decide to do nothing. But he feels it would be better to make this process shorter, not longer. Mr. Sees agreed. Mr. Ruane noted that A.R.E.A. has been putting money into the building that they rent from the Borough.

Mr. Wetzel read the requirements that he has developed for the council's review:

- MICU 24/7/365
- Will be used as an Emergency 911 MICU only
- Will not be pulled to do routines
- Will be at large group gatherings when requested, such as Pineknotters Days.
- Will not contract with a nursing facility to be their primary transport unit
- Will have a backup unit so when the primary truck is out for routine service or breaks down the Borough won't be left without a MICU in the Borough
- The Borough is doing this without any monetary commitment; but will be negotiating a lease for the building owned by the Borough
- A minimum of a 5-year lease

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. The Walkers contacted the Borough Manager today and said that they spoke with Dave McGinley who has agreed with them to proceed with the Priestley Avenue stormwater project as planned. She has emailed the solicitor with this information so he can finalize with the agreement with the property owners.
2. The bids for the Liberty Hollow Trail were higher than anticipated. Since Brian Auman has looked at the area, it's been recommended that engineering changes be made to the upper end of the trail. Bill Roll has also been consulted and he has agreed to give the Borough a right-of-way on a portion of his property to eliminate an area on Borough property where it would be more difficult to establish the trail. Mr. Sees

asked about the bid and was told that the bid was higher than the amount that the Borough had been awarded for the grant. The grant expires at the end of the year.

Upon motion by Mr. Sees and Ms. Simmons, council unanimously approved rebidding the Liberty Hollow Trail.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$61,713.60; Liberty Splashland bills total \$36.94; Liquid Fuels bills total \$44,486.90; Donation Fund bills total \$5.69; 2nd Street Community Center bills total \$14,575; Park & Recreation Fund bills total \$6,525.28, and Sewer Department bills total \$85,822.03.
2. The Roy H. Moyer Jr. and Carol J. Moyer Community Trust Fund has awarded the Borough \$1,000 to replace trees in the downtown area that have been removed. The decision on what to replace them with has not been made. Additional funding may be available in December.
3. Mrs. Rees questioned if the bowl slide was paid for and if it is still up. She was told that the Borough has received payment and the slide is still at the pool. Mrs. Rees said that she would like to propose and make a motion that the Borough send the buyer a letter that says that he has whatever we want to make it, five or seven days, to remove the bowl slide or we are going to start charging what it costs us. It was noted that the purchaser had not been able to remove the slide because the ground was too wet to bring his equipment in and set it up. The person who purchased the Bowl Slide will be contacted about getting it removed as soon as possible.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane adjourned the council meeting at 7:55 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. He announced that the council meeting would be reconvened.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

Mrs. Rees moved to hire Matthew Clark as Assistant Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a rate of \$21.00 per hour. The rate will be increased by \$.50 when he has completed the California State Sacramento Home Study for Wastewater Course 1; another \$.50 increase when he has completed the California State Sacramento Home Study for Wastewater Course 2; and a \$1.00 increase when he passes the Wastewater and Sludge testing for licensure. The two licensures would need to be completed within two years of being hired. Mr. Clark will be entitled to the same paid holidays as provided the laborers under their collective bargaining agreement with incremental paid leave based on his years of employment. His starting date would be July 29, 2019. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote was 4-1 with Mr. Sees voting no. Mr. Sees based his vote on the fact that he heard there were better qualified applicants; they just wanted more money.

Mrs. Rees asked if council should discuss the letter from Charles Stroup regarding a tree in the cul-de-sac. She was told that the Borough Manager spoke with Mr. Stroup and she has had Brian Probst, MaryKay Clark, and Margaret Weirick look at the tree. Several quotes have been received to remove the tree. We are waiting on two more quotes. One is anticipated tomorrow. Discussion ensued. Mr. Sees made a motion to approve removing the tree in the cul-de-sac on Susquehanna Road at a cap of \$800. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice R. Bowman".

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager