

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting October 1, 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, Kaitlyn Simmons, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Berard; Daryl Yount, Acting Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief. MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council member Orlando Toro was absent.

PennDOT Update

Ms. Mindy Foresman informed council that progress is being made. They feel that they are passed the areas that they thought may delay the work.

Mr. Ruane asked if the upper side of King Street Park will be paved before the parade. Ms. Foresman stated that the paving may not be done by then. However, stone 2a subbase will be in before the Halloween Parade. The curbs and curb ramps will be done and then the street will be paved. Mayor Berard stated that the area where stones put down are wide enough for any floats. Ms. Foresman added that the street was widened at the end of the park.

Ms. Clark asked if Westway would be cleaned up when they are finished. She noted that the dumpster behind the trailer is full of debris. Ms. Foresman stated that they will take care of it. Mr. Ruane noted that there is a big piece of concrete in the parking lot at the swimming pool. The contractor will remove it.

2018 Audit – Anthony Gagliardi (Klacik & Associates, P.C.)

Mr. Gagliardi provided the council with copies of the 2018 audit. He thanked the Borough staff for being helpful during the audit. He noted that there were no findings during the audit. Everything has been filed with DCED. Mr. Gagliardi informed council that they did not run into any issues. He briefly discussed sections of the audit and explained the difference between the Governmental Activities and Business-type Activities and the Proprietary Funds. The Liberty Pool and Sewer Funds are Proprietary Funds.

Payroll audits may be changed in the future and Mr. Gagliardi said that he will be sure to make council aware of them if this occurs. Mr. Gagliardi told council that he is available for any questions throughout the year.

Bid Opening – Liberty Hollow Trail

Two bids were received for the Liberty Hollow Trail project. Elijah Evans Excavating LLC bid \$117,000 and Sikora Brother's Paving, Inc. bid \$120,000. Both bids are higher than the grant amount that was received for the project. The topic was tabled. The project will be discussed with the engineer to see if the scope of work can be revised.

Public Comment

Mr. Dan Mahoney, a resident of Susquehanna Road, informed the council that he lives on Susquehanna Road adjacent to the Fifth Street extension. He stated that he would like to acquire the property and asked about the process. Mr. Ruane stated that he believes the driveway to the house is in the unopened street. Mr. Mahoney agreed. He noted that properties north of him have acquired the unopened street so there is nowhere for this unopened street to go.

Mr. Yount recommended that if council wishes to consider it, they should discuss the matter in Executive Session.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted 5-0-1 to approve the minutes of August 6 and September 3, 2019. Mr. Sees abstained.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

Mr. Ruane stated that they are in the process of selling 5,000 nitrogen credits to Ralpho Township for \$2.00 per credit. And they are planning to purchase 1,000 phosphate credits from University Area Sewer Authority in State College for \$3.00 per credit. This will give them a net profit of \$7,000 for selling and buying credits. Mr. Ruane explained that it is cheaper to purchase the credits than to buy the chemicals to treat the water.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard noted that for the month of September, the Police Department had 354 calls for service; 82 traffic citations; 6 non-traffic citations; 10 court appearances. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes, including tampering with records, access device fraud, theft by unlawful taking, and DUI. The police had 32 assist calls; 10 to Point Township, 14 to Sunbury, and 8 to other agencies. The police traveled 1,498 miles during the month.

Mr. Berard stated that if anyone is looking on Facebook on the Northumberland and Norry Streets pages, the biggest complaint is the intersection at Queen and Water Streets. People are crossing the street and turning left. The police are ticketing the vehicles that are not turning right at the intersection. Beginning tomorrow, all violators will be ticketed. People should follow the detour by going down Third Street to Duke Street, turning left on Water Street, and turning right on Queen Street.

Mr. Wetzel stated that someone on Facebook was telling people to stop cars and then call the police. He and Mayor Berard both said that this is not advisable and should not be done.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ms. MaryKay Clark reported that during September there were two building permits and three zoning permits issued. The total amount of permit fees was \$498. She received ten complaints, issued 12 code violations, one citation and one street cut permit. Backfilling fees totaled \$1,350.

Nineteen rental inspections were conducted. Inspection fees totaled \$950 and license fees totaled \$380. Forty-three miles were traveled during the month.

Committee Reports

Streets – no report

Community Development

Gym Flooring Installation

Dr. Cianflone reported that a quote of \$6,400 has been received from the Carpetman in Milton to install the flooring in the gym. The pricing includes labor to prepare the floor, install the flooring, and weld the seams. The flooring was purchased through the Federal Surplus program. Dr. Cianflone moved to accept the quote. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Mrs. Rees asked if other quotes were obtained. Other installers were contacted but chose not to provide quotes. The quote is less than \$10,000 so other quotes are not necessary. Mr. Sees questioned if a warranty was made for the installation. A warranty was not requested. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Liberty Splashland

Dr. Cianflone stated that the contractor told him that the pipes that are at the pool will be removed next week. The Bowl Slide has been removed. The contractor also said that there are three rusted tables that he will get rid of if council wishes. Dr. Cianflone added that he hasn't seen them. It will be checked into to see if council wants him to take them.

Dr. Cianflone stated that the committee has discussed what should be done with the pool. Basketball courts, splashpad, community garden, playground, a pavilion that could possibly be rented. He asked if anyone had any suggestions. No additional ideas were presented.

The Borough has been awarded a \$50,000 grant for designing ways to reduce stormwater runoff. Brian Auman is an approved contractor and will be designing planter boxes for rainwater storage; advising homeowners about rain barrels; and mapping areas where additional trees should be planted.

Dr. Cianflone announced that the Police Department has received a grant for \$55,000 to purchase a training simulator. Additional funding is being sought to renovate the basement area under the Borough Office to house the simulator. Area police officers will have access to the area to train on the simulator.

Finance

Mr. Wetzel informed the council that the committee is in the process of determining the 2020 budget. He added that the committee is having the Borough Manager attend the next Housing Corporation meeting to request that they contribute more than the \$1,000 that they have contributed the past years. The committee will meet at 7:00 on Tuesday, October 22.

Personnel

Mrs. Rees noted that a personnel issue would be discussed in the Executive Session.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Old Business

1. Priestley Avenue stormwater project – Mr. Yount stated that there is no movement on the topic.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Dr. Cianflone, council unanimously approved the bid on Municibid of \$6,500 for the 2012 Dodge Charger.

New Business


1. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted unanimously to pay the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$154,265.63; Park and Recreation bills total \$1000; Liberty Splashland bills total \$31.20; General Contingency Account bills total \$152.24; and Parking Meter Fund bills total \$600.
2. PMRS has provided an amended adoption agreement for the police contribution to the Uniform Pension Plan. The contribution is reduced from 5% per the ordinance to 1.5% as the union contract stipulates. Mr. Sees questioned the funding of this year's MMO. He was informed that the state aid that was received this year covers the entire cost of the Borough's MMO. Mr. Sees asked if the MMO for 2020 will be covered with state funds. The response was that the amount of state aid is not known until in October. Mr. Sees said that if there is not enough money to cover the MMO, the police contract may be opened to increase the police contribution to the maximum amount allowable by law. He questioned if this would be possible if council approves this agreement. The agreement is for the year 2019, only. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve the amended adoption agreement; Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. PMRS has provided an ordinance to amend the Borough's Non-uniform Pension Plan, Ordinance 2019-2. It was explained that one change is to disallow portability. If the Borough would hire an employee who had worked at a different municipality, the employee could use those years of service as part of the equation to determine his retirement benefit. However, the money that he contributed to the other municipality's plan would not be transferred to the Borough's plan and would place additional cost to the Borough. The other change is to eliminate the three-month waiting period for an employee. In order to be vested, an employee must work for the Borough for eight years. Mrs. Rees moved, and Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion to advertise Ordinance 2019-2. Council approved unanimously.
4. PMRS has provided an ordinance to amend the Borough's Uniform Pension Plan, Ordinance 2019-3. The state does not permit portability for the Uniform Plan. The change for the Uniform plan is to eliminate the three-month waiting period. Vesting for the police is after 12 years of service. Police may retire at age 50. Mr. Sees moved, and Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion to advertise Ordinance 2019-3. Council approved unanimously.

5. Mr. Wetzel presented an idea to lease areas at Liberty Splashland and Pineknott Park for campers and trailers. He provided sketches of how the areas could be divided into spaces and estimated the amount of rent that could be realized. He suggested that the monthly rental fee could be set at \$20-\$25 and noted that they would be rented for six months. The amounts would range from \$1,200 to \$1,500 for the parking lot at the pool and an additional \$1,800 to \$2,250 if areas within the fence were rented. Spaces at Pineknott Park could bring in \$9,840 to \$12,300. Mr. Ruane suggested that council consider this program for next year.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane Council adjourned the council meeting for an Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss personnel issues and the Fifth Street extension property. He added that the council meeting would not be reconvened. The Executive Session ended at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,




Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager