

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting November 4, 2019

Council President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Council Member Ellie Rees offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Kaitlyn Simmons, and Orlando Toro. Others present were Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council members Ty Sees and Frank Wetzel, and Mayor Dan Berard were absent.

PennDOT Update

Mr. Ted Deptula informed the council that by the end of the week, traffic coming north on Route 11 would be on the right side of the road, in the northbound lane. The contractor will be reconstructing the southbound lane. The goal is to open the road up by Thanksgiving. Upcoming work is the paving, construction of an inlet, curbs, handicap ramps, installing traffic signals, and pavement markings. Plans include spreading topsoil, seeding, and planting trees within the next two weeks. After Thanksgiving, traffic will be restored; the detours will be removed, the new traffic signals will be turned on and the temporary signals will be turned off.

Next spring, the final wearing course will be completed and there will be several weeks of work plantings, seedings, and final clean-up work. There shouldn't be any detour; most of the time it will be flagging when paving takes place. The work should be completed in a couple of weeks which may be spread over a period of time.

Ms. Weirick questioned what will be done at Front and Orange Streets. Mr. Deptula replied that next year, when the final wearing course is done, they will pave sections of Orange Street to tie into Front Street.

Public Comment

- Xan Howard Lawrence informed council that the cannon has been refurbished and is back in King Street Park. He added that the area around the cannon will be mulched. Mr. Ruane thanked him for doing this work for his Eagle Scout project and noted that the Boy Scouts have done a good job.
- Jon Apple, Captain of the Fire Police, informed council that 45 fire police helped with the Halloween Parade. He added that it was a successful parade.
- Ms. Margaret Weirick informed council that five trees will be planted in the downtown area, three in King Street Park, and three along Second Street by the playground.
- Ms. Denise Guilbault urged residents to vote tomorrow.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

- Mr. Ruane informed council that the 2020 budget for the Sewer Department is \$1,684,487.02. He noted that there is an increase from the 2019 budget due to medical insurance costs and new union contract costs. He added that rates will not be increased.
- Mr. Ruane explained that the committee plans to apply for a Small Water and Sewer Grant for Liberty Hollow. There is a pipe that comes down through the hollow that needs relined. He requested a motion to have the grant application completed by RETTEW at a cost of \$2,700. Mr. Jeremy Deitrick added that as part of the application, RETTEW will be identifying the scope of the project which will define the project for when it is let out for bid. Mrs. Rees made the motion and Mrs. Simmons seconded it. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Ruane requested a motion to approve selling 3,977 nitrogen credits to the Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township at a cost of \$2.00 each for a total of \$7,954. Mrs. Simmons so moved; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Ruane requested a motion to approve the purchase of 850 phosphate credits from the University Area Joint Sewer Authority in State College at a cost of \$3.00 per credit for a total of \$2,550. Mr. Toro so moved; Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Ruane noted that with the sale and purchase of the credits, the Sewer Department's net gain is \$5,404. He added that by buying the phosphate credits is cheaper than buying the chemicals which would run around \$20,000.

Mayor's Report

In the Mayor's absence, Mr. Ruane read the police report for the month of October.

There were 334 calls for service, 44 court appearances, and 88 traffic citations and 1 non-traffic citation were issued. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes which included strangulation, endangering the welfare of children, simple assault, and DUI. The department had 28 calls for assist; 12 to Point Township, five to Sunbury, and eleven to other agencies. 1,511.5 miles were traveled for the month.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Probst stated that leaf pickup was started today. He requested that the council hire another full-time employee for the street department. Mr. Ruane replied that council would take it under consideration. Mr. Ruane asked if the street sweeper is inside. Mr. Probst responded that it is.

Committee Reports

Streets

- Council was provided with a proposal of \$1,800 from Larson Design Group to inspect the Queen Street Bridge. It had been inspected by PennDOT in 2012 and listed in "fair" condition. Upon motion by Dr. Cianflone, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council unanimously approved hiring Larson Design Group to inspect the bridge.
- Mr. Ruane noted that Ann (August) is working on an application to PennDOT for funding for paving and new equipment. The Borough's share would be 30% which would be eligible for Liquid Fuels funding.

Community Development

- Dr. Cianflone informed council that the Christmas trees for King Street Park will be arriving November 21 and will be decorated by volunteers. Santa arrives on December 2.

- Dr. Cianflone noted that the Borough has received a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife. Brian Auman will be hired to design stormwater prevention swales, bio-retention basins. There is no match for the Borough.
- The Borough has received \$5,000 from the Joseph J. Anselmo Sr. Community Trust and would like to install another playground apparatus. The new piece will be located where the duck and chipmunk were removed. The cost of the new piece is \$5,597. Upon motion by Dr. Cianflone, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council unanimously approved the purchase.
- Dr. Cianflone informed the council that the grant funding for the Liberty Hollow trail will be returned to DCNR because the bids were more than the funding and additional funding is not available.
- Dr. Cianflone informed the council that the Borough will not be able to install the trail on top of the riprap along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River because Norfolk Southern Railroad will not issue a permit to extend the trail under the railroad bridge. The grant funding will be forfeited.
- The flooring in the gym is being installed by the Carpetman, Milton. The HVAC system is being installed.

Finance

1st Reading – 2020 Budget

Mr. Ruane noted that there is no tax increase for 2020. Mrs. Rees moved to approve the 2020 budget. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. Priestley Avenue stormwater project

Mr. Ruane stated that the property owners on one side of the culvert have signed the agreement for the temporary easement; the other property owners have the document to sign and have notarized. The bank and the contractor will be contacted to learn if the loan rate and bid price can be honored.

2. PMRS – Ordinance 2019-2 (Amends Non-uniform Pension Plan)

The changes to the plan are to eliminate the 3-month waiting period before an employee may contribute to the plan and to prohibit portability of pension retirement from another municipality. Upon motion by Dr. Cianflone, seconded by Mr. Toro, council unanimously approved Ordinance 2019-2.

3. PMRS – Ordinance 2019-3 (Amends Uniform Pension Plan)

The change to this plan is to eliminate the 3-month waiting period before an employee may contribute to the plan. The state does not permit portability for uniform plans. Upon motion by Mr. Toro, seconded by Mrs. Simmons, council unanimously approved Ordinance 2019-3.

4. Mrs. Rees requested that council approve advertising for a sewer department laborer. This position is to replace a worker who retired. Mrs. Rees made the motion to advertise the position. Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council approved by a vote of 4-1 with Dr. Cianflone voted no.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Toro, council voted 4-1 to pay the bills. Mr. Toro voted no. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$63,492.73; 2nd Street Community and Municipal Center bills total \$650; Liberty Splashland account bills total \$30.08; Liquid Fuels fund bills total \$99,701.24; Parks and Recreation Fund bills total \$134; Sewer Department bills for October total \$82,993.76; and Sewer Department bills for November total \$102,014.54.
2. Resolution E- 2019 (Bank Account for River Valley Training Center)
Due to the grant funding for the River Valley Training Center, it is necessary to open a separate bank account for those funds. Mr. Ruane explained that the grant will be used to purchase a shooting simulator for training. Our officers and officers from surrounding municipalities will utilize the simulator. The amount for the grant is \$55,000. Additional funding is being sought to renovate the room in the basement to house the simulator. The signers on the account will be Paul Ruane, Orlando Toro, Ann August, and Janice Bowman. Mrs. Rees made a motion to open the bank account at the Northumberland National Bank with the above-named signers. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. Resolution F-2019 (Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application)
Mr. Ruane explained that this is a grant through PennDOT. The total amount being applied for is \$300,000. The Borough's match is 30% and would come from Liquid Fuel funds. The request is for money to pave Queen Street from Fourth Street to Seventh Street; Sawmill Avenue from Duke Street to Queen Street and from Wheatley Avenue to King Street; and for a piece of apparatus for the Street Department. Upon motion by Dr. Cianflone, seconded by Mrs. Simmons, council unanimously approved Resolution F-2019.
4. Mr. Toro made a motion to hire Melissa Kelso of Kelso Law as the Borough Solicitor. Mr. Toro noted that Ms. Kelso has been handling the Borough's personnel issues and is well-versed in municipal law and real estate law and is a solicitor for several other municipalities. Mr. Toro added that she will continue to work with another attorney until the sewer lawsuits are resolved and then she will be the sole solicitor. Ms. Kelso's rate is \$150 per hour and \$75 per hour for travel time. Mrs. Simmons seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved hiring Ms. Kelso. Mrs. Rees noted that one applicant's rate was lower, but he did not have any back-up. Mr. Ruane added that he has too much work for one person.

Mr. Toro moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager