

Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
May 1, 2018

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Ruane informed the public that the council was in Executive Session from 6:04 p.m. until 6:53 p.m. to discuss personnel, litigation, and a grievance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mayor Dan Berard offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Paul Boyer, Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Berard; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Orlando Toro was absent.

Penn DOT Update

Mr. Ted Deptula reported that PennDOT has been working on Duke Street. They have plans, material is coming in, and they got manholes in today. Tomorrow he expects to get the zero grid for the subbase. Subcontractors will be coming in tomorrow and next week. At least one subcontractor will be working on Saturdays and hope to be back on track with two sections of Duke Street completed before Pineknotters' Days. Mr. Boyer asked if they would be working 24 hours. Mr. Deptula responded that there is not much advantage to working 24 hours. There may be times when they will be working at night, depending on the work that needs to be done.

They ran into an issue on Front Street. They have a plan; but must make sure of how it will impact the project. He expects that work should begin within two weeks.

The bid has been let for the railroad underpass section of the construction. Construction will begin late June of this year at the earliest. Bids are due next Tuesday. There will be a one-way detour during this time. Traffic will be permitted heading south. Mrs. Rees questioned if the one-way detour will affect Pineknotters' Days. Mr. Deptula responded that they will not set anything up for one lane of traffic until after Pineknotters' Days. The initial work involves a pipe and inlet off the roadway. There will be two lanes of traffic before and during Pineknotters' Days.

Mr. Ruane asked if work was done on WestWay. Mr. Deptula replied that the contractor added some stone on WestWay today. They plan to scatterfly, roll it, and treat it to keep the dust is down.

Ms. Mindy Foresman stated that PennDOT put blacktop down last year. Mr. Joe Latora stated that blacktop was put down last year in front of his driveway. There is now a three by four-foot pothole in the center of the lane. Ms. Foresman said that they would look at it.

Mr. Jack Bogner questioned what residents on Packer Island are to do to get out of the side streets when northbound traffic into the Borough must come through Sunbury and across the island. Mr. Deptula stated that it is a good point and he would look into it. Mr. Sees noted that Central Builders is also located on the island and will need to get out onto the main road.

Mrs. Moore asked when the red light at King and Front Streets would be operational. Mr. Deptula stated that it will be activated for the next phase of work on Duke Street, sometime in June. The southbound detour will go down King Street to Water Street. The traffic signal on Orange Street will probably not be in effect until after Pineknotters' Days.

Mayor Berard noted that under the current detour, southbound traffic is to use Queen Street and northbound traffic is to use King Street. However, the majority of drivers do not follow this detour. He thinks that more cars are using Queen Street instead of going to King. Dr. Cianflone added that a lot of people are travelling north on Duke Street to Third Street instead of turning onto Second Street and are taking Queen Street instead of King Street. Ms. Foresman stated that people follow the GPS which takes them onto Queen Street because it is the shortest route.

Mr. Troup asked if Queen and King Streets could be made one way. Mr. Deptula explained that this option had been discussed. However, the decision was not to change the streets because the detours change. Mr. Troup stated that it is not working, and something needs to be changed.

Mr. Moore stated that he thinks a lot of Queen Street residents would prefer the one-way street system temporarily. Mr. Deptula explained that the detour on Queen Street will be in effect until sometime in June. He noted that if they changed the street to one-way, there would be less congestion. With less congestion, traffic speed will increase. Mr. Moore stated that the only time traffic is backed up is when the trucks take the detour and cannot easily turn onto the side streets. Mr. Deptula stated that traffic is now congested. Mr. Troup stated that parking could then be permitted on both sides of the street. Mr. Deptula questioned what would happen if someone went the wrong way on the street. Someone noted that traffic goes around the barricade.

Mr. Latora stated that he has seen Butch (Chief Kriner) ticket quite a few drivers for running stop signs on WestWay. Many drivers still do not stop. Mr. Pat McPherson stated that people have learned that WestWay is the easy way. He said that WestWay is bad, but by filling in the potholes, traffic is going to go faster. He added that the street crew have had to put up stop signs that have been knocked down several times.

Mr. Moore asked how many trucks have been ticketed since March 5th; how much revenue has come into the Borough; and is this money being used for the police?

Mr. Ruane reported that the Borough has received about \$20,000 so far this year for fines, some of which were issued last year. Mr. Berard informed him that 217 traffic violations have been issued by May 1st. Mr. Ruane stated that the money received from the fines goes into the general fund for this year's budget. Mayor Berard stated that currently a fine is \$150 plus court costs. The magistrate sets the fine.

Mr. Shawn Mowery, a resident of King Street, asked council at the last meeting about relaxing the parking restriction on King Street during the evening from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. He stated that there is not much traffic at night. Mr. Deptula stated that he would check into it.

Public Comment

Twenty-two residents were present.

- Mr. Walker informed the council that they are not responsible for the story on Channel 16 about the problem with the pipe below Priestley Avenue. Mr. Ruane replied that the engineer is working on it.
- Mrs. Moore said that a stop sign on King Street at Third Street as you travel north on King Street, is very faded.
- Mrs. Moore stated that there is no grate on the drain across from her house. Mr. Probst stated that the drain is part of the curb and there is no way to put a grate on it.
- Ms. Fran Bogovich complimented the council on how nice the playground looks.

Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Boyer, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council unanimously approved the March 6, 2018 council meeting minutes.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

Mr. Jeremy Deitrick requested that council approve advertising the resolution establishing billing practices. Mr. Ruane asked for a motion to advertise the resolution which also sets guidelines by which the Northumberland Borough Sewer Department will utilize water shut off procedures against delinquent sewer service customers. Mr. Troup so moved. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mr. Sees questioned how they would deal with residents who have wells. Mr. Tira responded that they couldn't be shut off. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Berard reported that the Luther Savidge Trust has awarded \$6,500 for a camera in the Police interview room.
- Brandon Walter, a resident of Shamokin Dam and former veteran, has applied for an internship with the police department. Mr. Toro has his background check. Dr. Cianflone moved to approve the internship for Brandon Walter with the police department providing he has all clearances. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Mr. Sees stated that he has a question on liability, adding that he does not have a problem with him doing the internship. Mr. Tira stated they have procedures in place which they go over with the intern. The intern also signs a waiver. Council approved unanimously.
- Mayor Berard reported that by law, he must disclose any payment he receives as Mayor. He informed council that he performed a wedding last month and received \$50 in payment.
- Mr. Ruane thanked Mayor Berard for painting the police interview room.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ms. MaryKay Clark reported on the activity of the Code Enforcement Office for the month of April. Two building permits and two zoning permits were issued for permit fees of \$656.68; six complaints were received; eight code violations and three citations were issued. Three street

cut permits were issued with \$1,200 in backfilling fees. 13 rental inspections and two re-inspections were conducted with fees totaling \$485. The car mileage was 321 miles for April.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Brian Probst reported that the Street Department fixed the fence at the dog park, repaired a storm drain, cut up a tree that fell at the Point and hauled it away, started running the street sweeper, filled pot holes, and met with engineers about the pipe below Priestley Avenue. Today, they cut up another tree that fell on Orange Street and they took the plows and salt spreaders off the trucks.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Dr. Cianflone reported that the committee held a community meeting with the landscape architect, Brian Auman to discuss future options for the pool and Liberty Hollow. Twenty-three people were present. Dr. Cianflone noted that people at the meeting mentioned that the pool was built at a poor spot because of the springs in the area. Another meeting will be held once the study is completed.

The Eighth Grade semi-formal will be here on Friday.

Finance

The Finance Committee met last month. Mrs. Rees stated that there is nothing to report.

Personnel

Mrs. Rees stated that there is nothing to report other than what council discussed in Executive Session.

Public Safety – no report

Rules - no report

Streets

Mr. Boyer reported that the paving bids that were received. New Enterprise was the low bidder with a bid of \$122,148.95. Other bids were \$128,481.30 from Meckley's Limestone, \$157,651.90 from HRI, and \$171,875.07 from Jay Fulkroad. Mr. Boyer made a motion to award the contract to New Enterprise for \$122,148.95. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. The streets to be paved are Second Street from King Street to Queen Street, Vista Avenue from Horizon Avenue to the cemetery, Hanover Street from Permastone to Second Street, Church Avenue from Orange Street to Sheetz Avenue, Wheatley Avenue from Church Avenue to Second Street, Wheatley Avenue from Second Street to Park Avenue, Ropewalk Avenue from King Street to Queen Street, and Birkenbine Avenue between Water Street and Toulman Avenue. Mr. Boyer explained that they went with Barry Garverick from PennDOT who helped determine which streets should be paved. He added that they are trying to stay away from the

construction areas. He also explained that the alleys are down close to the bricks and there may not be any topping on the alleys if a snowplow hits it. PermaStone may also be paved if the estimate is within 10% of the bid. He said that council thought the school district had said that they would pave PermaStone because of the damage being done to the street by the construction vehicles, but they apparently aren't going to and nothing was in writing. Council unanimously approved the motion.

Old Business

1. Priestley Avenue Pipe

Mr. Ruane stated that the engineer was at the site. Mr. Tira stated that we are still looking into what was discussed on site with DEP and the engineer.

Mr. Tira advised that at this point, if council is inclined, to direct him to work with the property owners for a written agreement concerning this area, that would be the next step in this process. Mr. Boyer made a motion to authorize the solicitor to work with the property owners to obtain a written agreement. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

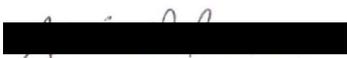
New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Troup, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$58,127.95; Parks and Recreation Fund bills total \$194.06; Parking Meter Fund bills total \$97.17; Liberty Splashland bills total \$112.96; and Sewer Department bills total \$91,315.19.
2. EMC has developed a new program which provides an EMC OnCall Nurse Hotline. This is a 24-hour hotline that an injured employee or supervisor may call to speak to a nurse who assesses the injury and recommends the best course of action. A new physicians panel was also provided to the council. The information will be provided to the employees for their input. Mr. Sees stated that he had no problem with the first six physicians on the list but the eye care is in Tyrone. The two after that say multiple locations and he would like to know where they are located. The Borough Secretary stated that she would check into it.

Mr. Sees requested council adjourn for an Executive Session for a personnel issue and noted that council would not need to reconvene for a vote.

Mr. Ruane adjourned the council meeting for the Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary