

Borough of Northumberland

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**Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
September 5, 2017**

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Paul Boyer, Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Groninger asked council for the privilege of running the Halloween Parade again this year. He said that he has concerns over traffic and detours. He questioned the route of the parade, depending on whether there is a detour for Duke Street noting that if there is any detour, it would be unsafe for the participants. Mr. Boyer asked if there is an alternate route. Mr. Groninger noted that the problem with an alternate route is that you still have people running the detour in other places and it would be necessary to retain people who are used to the route. Mr. Sees asked the PennDOT representatives how to detour traffic on Ridge Road and around for one day. Ms. Mindy Foresman replied that council could put in a permit request to the safety department. Mr. Sees recommended putting in a permit to detour traffic for that event from late afternoon until the parade ends. Other options for the parade route were discussed. Mr. Groninger stated that if Duke Street is not opened, he does not feel comfortable holding the Halloween Parade with vehicles traveling the alleys to avoid the detour. Mrs. Rees voiced her concern for the safety of the children.

Mr. Bob Rowe informed the council that the lights at Pineknott Park are not lit. He stated that this is his fourth time at council. The lights are not PPL lights. Mr. Rowe asked when the contractor will be contacted. Brian Probst stated that he asked the office to contact the contractor. MaryKay Clark stated that Ann (August) did email the contractor. Mr. Rowe stated that the Christmas lights that were hung on the light posts were lit; it is the light itself that is not. Mr. Boyer requested that Mr. Probst check tomorrow.

Ms. Audrey Seebold voiced a complaint about the sewer bills being based on water bills. She stated that the water that is used to fill pools, wash houses, etc. does not go down the sewer. Mr. Ruane stated that this is the way the billing system is set. Mr. Brian Book, engineer with RETTEW, explained that he completed the rate study that set the sewer rates. Billing was previously based on an E.D.U. based system. Several years ago, the council decided to base the sewer rates on the water usage going through the house. He noted that there is no good way to meter water going into the sewer system. The only way to meter on flow is to use the water usage. She stated that in her case, she has a pool. Mr. Book stated that the council could go back

to the E.D.U. system but this is not fair to households with fewer people. Mr. Book stated that within Pennsylvania, there are municipalities that base the sewer bill on E.D.U.'s and municipalities that base the sewer bill on water usage. Mr. Troup stated that when the bills were based on E.D.U.'s, a single person paid as much as families with eight people. Ms. Seebold stated that she doesn't want to pay for something she isn't using. Mr. Rowe stated that he prefers the billing the way it is now. Mr. Troup stated that there is no perfect solution.

PennDOT Project

Mr. Ruane asked if anyone has questions for PennDOT. Ms. Seebold stated that she lives at the corner of Fifth and Queen Streets. She provided pictures of her corner where trucks have driven up over the sidewalk. She said that she thinks the police are ticketing trucks as they come down Queen Street. Mayor Zboray stated that over 360 tickets have been written. The drivers' excuse is that they are following their G.P.S.

Mr. Wynn asked if the fines are posted on the signs. Ms. Foresman stated that the fine amount is not posted. Mr. Wynn noted that if the truck is overweight, there could be another fine. He added that the Borough used to have scales, but doesn't know if they still have them. Mr. Wynn asked who is going to repair the streets and the curb damage that is done by the trucks. PennDOT was to take pictures of the condition of the streets before the project began and repair damage that was done at the completion of the project.

Mr. Wynn stated that he has seen Furman's trucks going up Strawbridge Road at 5:00 a.m. The car detour will be lifted on November 1st. Truck traffic will still be detoured for the duration of the project. Mr. Troup stated that once the detour is lifted, trucks will come down Duke Street.

Mr. Wynn stated that when the detour is lifted, the Borough police will not be able to handle it. He added that other municipalities request state police coverage.

Ms. Foresman stated that they have run into more utility issues than they had encountered before the last meeting. They are now waiting for additional utility poles and lines to be installed. PPL, Verizon, Comcast, Service Electric, etc. The project is currently about a month behind schedule. The contract completion date is still June 2, 2020. The work scheduled for 2020 was originally minor paving, signal testing. More work may be required in 2020 to meet the completion date. The utilities will be working ahead of PennDOT during the winter to get their work done so they don't have these issues next year.

Northumberland Sewer Department

Mr. Mark Bottin, Hazen and Sawyer, stated that there are no payouts to be approved. Mr. Tira stated that there are litigation issues to be discussed in Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. for an Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at 7:44 p.m. No action was taken.

PennDOT Project

Mr. Tira explained that PennDOT has provided an agreement to reimburse the Borough 100% of the engineering costs for the Duke Street project. The dollar amount will be 100% of the Borough's actual costs which will be determined at the end of the project.

Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve PennDOT agreement number 034018. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The Borough will be reimbursed 100% of the actual costs of the project, including the engineering costs.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray stated that the 12th Annual Day of Remembrance at the Riverview Cemetery held on August 26th was a big success. Over 100 people attended and over 400 balloons were released.
- See you in September was held in King Street Park on September 3rd. Memory Lane provided entertainment.
- On Monday, September 11, the 9-11 ceremony will take place in King Street Park beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be speakers and the St. Louis de Monfort Academy band from Herndon will perform.
- The Northumberland police received a defibrillator for one of the cruisers through a grant from the Firehouse Safety Foundation.
- The mayor gave a proclamation to the Shikellamy Key Club on August 14th. They won first place in the non-traditional scrapbook contest in the national convention in San Antonio, Texas. They were also recognized as the oldest Key Club in Pennsylvania. The mayor noted that he was a member of the original Shikellamy Key Club. Mr. Boyer added that he was also a member. Mayor Zboray showed them the photo from the Reading Eagle, who had published an article about the merger of the Shikellamy District. Mayor Zboray also noted that the club has placed in the national convention in four of the last five years.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ms. MaryKay Clark reported that there was one building permit and three zoning permits issued for a total of \$643 in fees. Five complaints were received. There were seven code violations and one citation issued; two street cut permits with \$700 in backfilling fees; 13 rental inspections with \$555 inspection and license fees and one re-inspection with a \$15 fee. Mileage on the car for the month of August was 343 miles.

Ms. Clark also informed council that she has passed the Building Code Official (BCO) certification test.

Street Supervisor's Report

No report

Committee Reports

Community Development

Dog Park fence – the Borough's insurance agent has contacted the homeowner's insurance company. It was recommended that the homeowner be notified to trim the trees that are hanging over the dog park fence and to clean up the tree limbs that have fallen onto the Dog Park.

Finance

Mr. Ruane stated that the committee discussed transferring funds from one line item to another in the street department budget due to the expenses for truck and equipment maintenance being over budget. Mr. Wynn made a motion to move \$10,000 to the line items for truck and equipment maintenance from the part-time pay line item and \$2,500 from the vehicle fuel line item. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved 6-0-1 to approve. Mr. Sees abstained.

Mrs. Rees asked if council should vote on the pay increase for MaryKay Clark since she has passed the Building Code Official exam that was approved when she was hired. Mr. Tira stated that since the pay increase after passing the exam was included in the motion to hire her, it would not be necessary.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

Planning Commission

A Sub-division Plan for Dean and Joyce Boyer at 217 Point Township Drive was presented for council's approval. The County and Borough Planning Commissions have approved the plan. Mr. Boyer moved to approve the plan; Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Old Business

1. The Borough Secretary reported that Chip Groce from DEP has returned a call about the failing pipe below Priestley Avenue. DEP would prefer that the pipe be removed and the trench be left opened, if possible, depending on how the pipe is tied into the culvert going under the railroad. It's been discovered that the property owners on either side of the pipe own to the middle of it. The Borough does not have ownership or a right-of-way. It is unknown who installed the pipe or when it was installed. The current property owners did not own the property when it was installed. Mayor Zboray stated that he thinks the owner of the slaughter house may have installed the pipe years ago. Mr. Tira stated that it is a private storm water facility and would be the homeowners' responsibility. He asked what the Borough has done at the property. Mr. Brian Probst stated that the Borough has put dirt in the holes that opened around the pipe. Mr. Ruane stated that an end wall may be required where the creek goes under the railroad tracks. He noted that the pipe goes from a five-foot pipe down to a 24-inch pipe. Mr. Wynn asked if there are wing walls. Mr. Probst said that you can't tell, but the trench is opened below the railroad tracks. He estimated the area with the pipe to be over 100 feet long. Mr. Tira advised that DEP should be contacted and informed that the pipe is on private property. Mr. Ruane requested that Mr. Tira send the correspondence to the property owners.

New Business

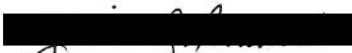
1. Mr. Wynn made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Mr. Troup asked what is in the pool account to pay the bills. He was informed


that the pool account is about \$50,000 short. Mr. Troup asked how long the pool was opened. The pool closed on August 20th because there were not enough lifeguards to keep it open later in the summer. Too many of them left for school. An income/expense report of the pool account will be provided at the Community Development Committee meeting on Monday night. Council voted 5-2 to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Sees and Mr. Troup voted no. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$67,885.76; Liberty Splashland bills total \$70,592.28; Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$423.50; and Sewer Department bills total \$101,706.83.

2. Mr. Troup explained that the edge of his property runs along the unopened Fifth Street. There is a pipe at the top end of Fifth Street above Elliott drive that discharges storm water onto his property. The ground at the rear of his property is being eroded into the creek. Mr. Ruane asked if Brian Probst has looked at it. Mr. Troup stated that he just spoke to him about it tonight. It was questioned if this pipe was included in the storm water study that was done by Hazen and Sawyer a few years ago.

Mr. Boyer made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,




Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

