

# **Borough of Northumberland**

## **Council Minutes for**

### **March 5, 2024**

Council President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mayor Berard offered an Invocation.

#### **Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Paul Ruane, Dr. Denise Guilbault, Mr. Elijah Scretching, Mr. Frank Wetzel, Mr. Winston Ortiz and Mr. Charles Stroup. Others present were Mayor Daniel Berard; Ms. Melissa Kelso, Solicitor; Mr. Jeremy Deitrick, Wastewater Superintendent; Mr. C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; and Ms. Ann Zartman, Borough Manager.

No changes to the agenda required a vote.

No public comments on agenda items were made.

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Berard read the report on the activity of the Police Department for the month of February. The police responded to 235 calls for service, issued 48 traffic and 05 non-traffic citations, and 117 parking tickets. They made 4 court appearances and trained for 36 hours. Several people were arrested for the misdemeanor and felony crimes of Terroristic Threats, Simple Assault, Prohibited Acts, Unsworn Falsification, Theft by Unlawful Taking, Receiving Stolen Property, and Access Device Fraud.

The police responded to 25 assist calls for the month; 11 to Point Township, 9 to Sunbury (1 primary), and 4 to other agencies. Milage for the month was 1,270.

*The Mayor mentioned that the past week was very busy. He thanked Chief Kriner for his organizational skills and in keeping the officers focused. He also thanked the officers for their diligence which is a great asset to the borough.*

The Mayor mentioned that in February 2023 the new ticket machine was put in service at a cost of \$16,000, and here we are a year later and the revenue collected was \$28,000, so it has already paid for itself. He wanted Council to know that the investments made for the Police Department are not a waste of time and money. The Mayor thanked Council for their approval of the ticket machine.

#### **Sewer Department Report**

Mr. Stroup made a motion to approve Kenyon Pipelines Application for Payment #6 for \$171,826.76. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

#### **Street Department Report**

No report.

#### **NEIC Report**

President Ruane reported for the month of February. 3 zoning permits were issued and \$688 in zoning permit fees were collected; 1 council meeting was attended by Ms. Jackie Hart; 1 building permit was issued, and \$2,004.03 in building permit fees collected; 2 complaints and 3 code violations were lodged and reviewed; 3 Quality of Life tickets were issued, 3 Quality of Life

tickets for Snow on Sidewalks and \$25.00 in fees were collected; 2 rental properties were inspected and \$550 in inspection/license fees collected.

## **Committee Reports**

### *Community Development*

Mr. Scretching made a motion to approve the lease with the Central Susquehanna Riverboat Society lease contingent on the approval of the language by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Recreation. Mr. Stroup seconded. Mr. Wetzel questioned the number of years it was for. Ms. Zartman reported that it was 25 years, with the opportunity to renew for 25 years. Mayor Berard questioned that they want to build a storage shed/ticket booth. Ms. Kelso replied that part of the lease is the site plan. All approved, motion carried.

Mr. Scretching made a motion to approve the Central Susquehanna Riverboat Society site plan. Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion carried.

Mr. Scretching made a motion to approve the winning bid for the new Santa House of \$3,100 by Mr. Nelson Brubaker. Ms. Zartman noted that we paid \$4,700 for it. The Mayor mentioned that electrical work was completed on it, which made it more valuable. Dr. Guilbault asked how many bids we received. Ms. Zartman replied there was only one. A discussion ensued. Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion carried.

### *Finance*

Ms. Zartman reported the committee discussed the delinquent per capita collection agency. The committee voted to move to Keystone Collection group. Mr. Wetzel made a motion to appoint Keystone Collections Group as our delinquent per capita collection agency. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

### *Personnel*

No report.

### *Public Safety*

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to approve the Fire Police Events for 2024 as presented. The event list includes Northumberland Borough, Sunbury, Selinsgrove, Milton, Watsontown, Union County and Danville events, and specifically mentioned the Lewisburg Triathlon, Freeburg Fireman's parade, Riverside Pet parade, Montandon Memorial Day parade, Six County parade, Lycoming County Little League World Series Grand Slam parade, Duboistown Candy Cane Lane, Middleburg Fireman's parade, Union County 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, Elysburg Haunted House, Halloween parades at Selinsgrove, Sunbury, Northumberland and Danville, SVM Christmas parade, Bloomsburg Christmas parade, and to attend the Fire Expo in Harrisburg in May. Mr. Scretching seconded. All approved, motion carried. The volunteer hours for Fire Police in 2023 were 410.

Mr. Wetzel commented that we have received a proposal from Evangelical and when we receive Geisinger's Public Safety will review them.

### *Rules*

Dr. Guilbault requested a motion to advertise the change of time for the next Rules meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> to 4:00 pm. Mr. Wetzel made the motion, Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion carried.

Dr. Guilbault made the motion to approve 2024-A Off-Street Parking Ordinance. Mr. Ortiz seconded. All approved, motion carried.



### *Streets*

Mr. Ortiz reported storm drains are being cleaned, and that one employee was still off on Workman's Compensation.

Mr. Ortiz made a motion to have Livic Civil advertise the Queen Street Project is open for bids and that a special council meeting will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> to open the bids. Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Stroup mentioned he and Dr. Guilbault were able to be part of the coming out party for the Central Susquehanna Riverboat Society on February 18<sup>th</sup>, lots of people attended and information was provided, and the Capital Campaign was kicked off, Channel 16 came down a few days later and interviewed members of the society. The project has received a good response and is all aboard and full steam ahead.

### **Payment of Bills**

Mr. Wetzel made a motion for the payment of bills; Dr. Guilbault questioned the NEIC invoice for a \$5,000 inspection. Ms. Zartman stated that there were a number of inspections but Shumaker Industries project was a good portion of that amount. Dr. Guilbault questioned Paige Electrics invoice, was it for the lift. Ms. Zartman replied yes it was for the lift and that we need to now have the stairs installed before it can be approved for use. Dr. Guilbault questioned the invoice for No Dogs signs. Ms. Zartman replied that the signs were miniscule and fading. Mayor Berard reported that he doesn't think signs will keep dogs out, and that he was approached by someone willing to install a baggie station for dogs. Mr. Wetzel stated that no dogs are to be in there, and that if the ordinance is not enforced, then why have it. Ms. Zartman mentioned that just recently the ordinance was examined and the No Dogs Allowed in King Street Park is no longer in there. A discussion ensued. If we do not use the signs, they will be returned. Dr. Guilbault seconded. All approved, motion passed. Bills to be paid from the General Fund totaled \$89,605.61; and Sewer Department bills totaled \$119,229.03.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Wetzel thanked the local fire departments, all the fire companies, our police department and all the outside agencies for their response to the fire in Point Township and the Duke Street incident. Mr. Stroup agreed with Mr. Wetzel and for the rest of council.

An attendee questioned that with the sale of the Santa House the kids would not have a Santa House to visit. He was assured that the old Santa House is still available for use.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn; Mr. Stroup seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann Zartman  
Borough Secretary