

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
December 4, 2012

President James Troup 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 Gregory Carl, Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, Ty Sees, James Troup, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Councilman Jonathan Rees was absent.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Sees, seconded by Mr. Reed, the council meeting minutes of November 20, 2012, were approved by a vote of 4-0-2. Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Carl abstained.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Zboray reported that the police department will receive taser training next week. Point Township Chief of Police, Josh VanKirk, will be conducting the training. Mayor Zboray also reported that the police have been participating in the Click it or Ticket program and they have been using the ENRADD system. Nine speeders were cited on Friday evening and five were cited last evening. They are trying to keep the speed down on Duke Street.

Mayor Zboray will meet with Lynda Schlegel-Culver and PennDOT on December 10th regarding traffic coming through the Borough when there is an accident on the Veteran's Bridge. Mayor Zboray noted that this is his second meeting with PennDOT and that they are discussing the use of electronic IT signs in Shamokin Dam to re-route traffic to Route 15 instead of coming through the Borough.

Mayor Zboray announced that WNEP has done a story about the new LED lights and decorations in the King Street Park. He thanked everyone who helped to decorate for the holiday season and the S. Luther Savidge Trust for providing the funding.

Mayor Zboray is planning to meet with Lou Colon from DCED to discuss funding for the gymnasium. The office staff is putting an estimate together of the costs for the renovations.

Three tree covers for the parking meters were stolen; one has been returned. Bags have been placed over the meters that are missing covers.

The Mayor announced that he is a proud grandfather. He has a new granddaughter, Kendall Rae, born on December 1st.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report – no report

Street Department Report

Tom Slodysko, Street Supervisor, reported that the crew is preparing the trucks for plowing snow. They are checking the manholes so the plow does not hit them.

Leaf pick-up has ended. Mr. Slodysko said that all leaves that were put out along the curbline by the deadline were picked up. Mr. Troup asked if the crew could continue to collect leaves since there are additional piles along the street. Mr. Slodysko stated that leaf pick-up had always ended the week after Thanksgiving, but they could shovel the leaves; the leaf vacuum has been prepared for the winter.

Mr. Slodysko said that he measured the electricity usage of the lights in the park. He said that all of the LED lights are pulling just two amps; the other lights on the original snowflakes are pulling twenty-two amps. Plans are to change out those light with LED lights.

Mr. Slodysko said that halogen lamps have been installed in the light in front of the post office and along Route 11 at Pineknoller Park. He noted that the transformers for the mercury vapor lights will not be available next year.

Mayor Zboray requested pricing to change the lights on the snowflakes to LED lights in order to apply for funding.

Mr. Slodysko noted an expense on the bills for the 2004 truck. He said that new brakes and rotors were installed.

Emergency Services Board Report – no report

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report

Adam Klock stated that the authority has not met since the last meeting. The deed transfer for the property has been recorded.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Carl stated that the committee will meet on December 11, 2013.
- The office received a request to purchase 2013 pool passes in 2012 for gifts. The rates for 2013 season passes have not been determined. Mr. Carl moved to offer Liberty Splashland Season Passes for 2013 at the rates of \$150 for a family pass of up to six people and \$25 for additional family members; and a single pass for \$80

until the end of the year (2012). The season pass includes access to all features at Liberty Splashland. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve. The financial information for the pool will be available at the committee meeting on December 11th.

- Windows for Fire Police Building
Mr. Carl moved, and Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion, to purchase six windows for the Fire Police Building at a cost of \$1,944 from Window World. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.
- Mr. Klock stated that he spoke with Central Builders who recommended using bagged concrete for the posts for the fence at the dog park at Jolly Hollow. The work party scheduled for December 1st was cancelled; it will be rescheduled in the Spring. Council discussed a name for the dog park. Mr. Klock's suggestion was Pineknotted Bark. No decision was made. Mr. Reed stated that he has obtained rules from other communities with dog parks.

Finance

2013 Budget – 1st reading

The 2013 budget was presented for a first reading. A few items have been updated since the Finance meeting. The income and expense numbers have been received for the Sewer Department. The Sanitation-Sewer charges, line item 364.100, is set at \$1,013,595. The Sanitation Expenses, line item 429.000 total \$1,013,595; \$853,773 for Wastewater Collection & Treatment and \$159,822 for the Capital Fund. The expenses for the 2nd Street Community Center building have been moved from the 463.000 account numbers to the 409.000 account numbers now that the Borough no longer owns the former Borough Building. The tax increase is 1 mil. In 2011, the average assessed value for the properties in the Borough was 15,666. The increase in the taxes for this year for the average assessed property is approximately \$16.

Mr. Klock moved to reduce the funding for the recycling center by \$2,625. This amount is to be moved from the 426.361 line item (electricity) to the contingency line item 489.000. The electricity expense is to be paid by the recycling center volunteer groups. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council vote was 4-2 to approve the motion with Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Carl voted no.

A question was raised about the \$14,000 sewer authority donation. Mr. Klock explained that this is not really a donation, but reimbursement to the Borough for the engineering study and legal fees associated with transferring the property and permits to the Borough.

Council member Jonathan Rees arrived at 7:46 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted 6-1 to approve the 2013 budget as amended. Mr. Troup cast the dissenting vote.

Personnel

Mr. Troup stated that personnel issues would be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Reed stated that he does not feel it is necessary for Mr. Tira's colleague to attend council meetings when Mr. Tira is not available.

Public Safety – no report

Rules

Mr. Sees announced that the committee would meet Monday, December 11th, at 6:00 p.m. He added that the committee could look at dog park rules.

Sewer

- Mr. Klock explained that with the capital project fees that the Borough will be incurring in the next few years, Hazen & Sawyer and the solicitor will be working together to develop an adequate and fair plan to bill the bulk customers, Point Township and Upper Augusta Township
- In regards to the status of the DEP consent order agreement, DEP has agreed to modify the consent order agreement. Mr. Klock has signed the permit application for the permit to transfer to the borough. This will be sent to DEP. Hazen and Sawyer will be calculating the rate increases for the other bulk rate customers, such as the bakery.
- Correspondences have been sent to customers regarding grease trap maintenance. Thus far, none have submitted the required annual report so the sewer department will be following up to obtain the information.
- Mt. Carmel Sewer Authority has contacted the sewer office with an offer for nutrient credits at \$2 to \$3. Follow up with a written offer will be explored.
- Mr. Book provided the engineer's report which is included as an addendum to the council meeting minutes.

Streets

Mr. Reed stated that he met with Bill Gross and looked at the fence at the Recycling Center. He asked who is responsible for the fence and said that there is no security at the center. Mr. Slodysko said that the property is owned by the Borough but that nothing has been done to the fence in years. He said that he reported to the police that two batteries were missing, one from the composter and the leaf picker battery. There is no barbed wire on the fence. Mr. Slodysko said that fill was brought in and the fence is now lower and has been knocked over at various locations. The Borough Secretary requested that the fence be measured to determine the cost of replacement and she would check on the possibly of grants for the new fencing.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$44,178.96; Liberty Splashland bills total \$47.85; and bills to be paid from the Parking Meter fund total 684.19.

2. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted unanimously to transfer \$1,605.55 (PHEAA) and \$7,269.18 (Degenstein grant) from the General Fund to Liberty Splashland for payroll reimbursement.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted unanimously to transfer \$9,001.41 (budgeted amount) from the General Fund to the General Contingency Fund.
4. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted unanimously to approve Resolution N-2012 which designates James Troup and Janice Bowman as the signers for Fire Escrow Account for the Kalcich's at the Northumberland National Bank. A portion of the insurance money is placed in this account and once the property is repaired, the money is returned to the property owners.
5. Mr. Klock asked if Puff's Tobacco business has been given a permit to do business. He stated that they have not yet contacted the sewer department regarding the tap-in fees. The Borough Secretary stated that she did not know if a permit had been issued. Jim Soos, the commercial inspector, would work with the code office to permit commercial properties. The code officer will be consulted. Mr. Klock asked if a permit could be held if the sewer fees were not paid. Mr. Tira responded that the sewer fees are probably not on his checklist.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup announced that the council meeting would be adjourned for an Executive session to discuss personnel and litigation issues and that the meeting may be reconvened.

Mr. Klock moved and Mr. Rees seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. for the Executive Session and was not reconvened.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary