

Borough of Northumberland
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
February 1, 2011

Borough Council President Gregory Carl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Gregory Carl, Judith Groninger, Robert Long, Stephen Reed, and Jonathan Rees. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Timothy Fink; Police Chief; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members James Orner and Frank Wetzel were absent.

Public Comment

Mr. Steve Cimino asked why no one was present from the newspaper, if they were contacted about the meetings. The council stated that the meeting dates were advertised in the Daily Item.

Mr. Adam Klock requested that the website be updated.

Mr. Troup asked if the tax increase would be announced in the paper. Council thought that a reporter had been present at the January 4, 2011 council meeting when the ordinance that sets millage rates was adopted.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mrs. Groninger, the minutes of the December 21, 2010 council meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mrs. Groninger, the minutes of the January 4, 2011 council meeting were approved with Mr. Long and Mr. Rees abstaining because they were not present for the meeting.

Mayor's Report

Chief Fink stated that the police report had been sent to the Daily Item. Mayor Brosius noted that the police are in the process of updating their training. Mr. Reed asked if the NRAD equipment had been purchased. Chief Fink stated that it had not. Mr. Rees noted that money is in the budget toward that purchase, but the purchase wouldn't occur until after March when payments are received for the real estate taxes.

Street Supervisor's Report – No report

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the activity of the Code Enforcement Office for the past month.

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report

Mr. Adam Klock stated that at the January meeting, he was appointed President, Jim Orner was appointed Treasurer, and Michele Cope was appointed Secretary. Michele was also appointed as the Right-to-Know Officer. Brinjac was appointed as the Authority's engineer and Gene Brosius was reappointed as solicitor.

Mr. Carl asked if the Sewer Authority has to do any major renovation in the near future. Mr. Klock responded that there is a capital project expected, with approval due in the Spring. Mr. Klock asked if it would be possible to post the Authority's meeting minutes on the Borough website. Council was in agreement that the minutes could be posted. Mr. Klock stated that he would take his request to the Sewer Authority for their approval.

Emergency Services Board Report

Mr. Cimino stated that the Board would meet on Monday. Mrs. Groninger asked about a letter that Mr. Klock had presented to the council requesting the council's opinion on a letter that would be sent to people who have used the fire department's services requesting payment to replenish the supplies that had been used. Mr. Klock stated that he had asked the council to table the request until the Emergency Services Board discusses it further.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Jim Troup provided the report of the department's activity for January.

Committee Reports

Rules

Outdoor Burner Ordinance – Mr. Tira commented on the proposed ordinance to control the use of outdoor wood-fired boilers. He questioned if the council wishes to limit the use. Mr. Long responded that the committee had discussed prohibiting any new outdoor wood-fired furnaces. Any existing furnaces could be grandfathered. Mr. Tira will review another ordinance that the committee has obtained and incorporate the two.

Executive Session

Mr. Carl stated that the council met in an Executive Session on January 25th to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Rees, the council voted unanimously to adjourn for an Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues. The meeting was reconvened at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Carl announced that no action would be taken.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Carl obtained three quotes for an exhaust fan at Liberty Splashland. Two companies provided quotes on the materials. One company included a quote for the installation. The quotes for materials were from Olympic Restaurant Equipment for \$6,500; Central Restaurant Equipment for \$4,800. Superior Metal Works, a company

based in Carlisle, provided a quote for materials and installation for \$6,951. This company was recommended by the Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company. Mr. Tira advised that quotes be obtained from other providers to include installation. Mr. Carl noted that Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company would install fire suppression at a cost of \$2,600. Mr. Carl stated that he would like the council to award the project at the March council meeting because of the time required to have the equipment fabricated and installed before the opening of the pool. Mr. Cimino asked how the pool would pay for the fan. Mr. Carl replied that he had budgeted \$5,000; the pool had a surplus of \$9,000 in 2010. He also stated that he would probably not move forward with some of the other smaller projects that were considered for 2011. Mr. Carl said that the concession stand sells more fried foods than anything else.

Finance

Mr. Rees stated that the committee would meet in April.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety – no report

Streets

Mr. Reed reported on the amount of salt that has been purchased for the roads this season.

Old Business

1. Mr. Reed asked about the status of the Verizon Wireless cell tower. Construction is expected to begin this summer.
2. At a prior meeting, a question was asked about the exterior lights being turned on at the 2nd Street building. The reason the lights are on during the night is for safety purposes.

New Business

1. Mrs. Groninger moved and Mr. Long seconded the motion to approve the payment of the bills. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote to approve payment was unanimous. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$37,242.19; Liquid Fuels bills total \$1,449.37; Liberty Splashland bills total \$56.92; Parking Meter Fund bills total \$549.80; and 2nd Street Community & Municipal Center bills total \$2,380.55.
2. Upon a motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Long, the council unanimously approved payment of the bills included in the budget that are due before the March 1, 2011 council meeting.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Long, the council voted unanimously to transfer \$200 to the Debit Card account from the General Fund.
4. A proxy was received from the Employers Mutual Casualty Company (EMC) to elect four board members. No action was taken.

5. Preservation Assistance Grant applications are due on May 3, 2011. Eligible applicants include local governments. The Borough could obtain up to \$6,000 in funding for preserving and caring for historical documents. Funding may also be used to obtain a professional to complete the work. The name of the professional is required for the application. The council's consensus was to apply for the grant. Mr. Tira advised that the completed grant application be submitted to the council for approval. No match is required for this grant.
6. Mr. Klock asked about guidelines for the Appeals Board. The information will be provided.

Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Reed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Mr. Carl moved and Mr. Long seconded a motion to reconvene the meeting. The meeting was reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

An estimate for flooring for the Savidge Room and kitchen in the 2nd Street Community Center was obtained and must be bid. Mr. Long moved and Mrs. Groninger seconded a motion to advertise for the bids with the deadline set for 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2011. Roll call vote to approve was unanimous.

Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Rees, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary