

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
June 24, 2014

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 Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Ty Sees was absent.

Public Comment

The eight visitors present introduced themselves.

Ms. Wendy Wiest was present to discuss the Playground/Lunch Program. She stated that the four playgrounds in Sunbury are offering bagged lunches to any child who is at the playground. She said that the Degenstein Foundation will donate \$5,000 to pay the playground staff. There is a grant for the food. The current playground supervisor, Jamie Simpson, is willing to work over the lunch hour so the program may be offered. The meals are preordered so all that is required is a count for the number of children who will participate. Ms. Wiest said that the library may be willing to feed children who are at the library. The start date would be June 30th and would run until August 15th. Ron Marshall, director at the Milton YMCA, is in charge of the program. Ms. Wiest asked if the council would be willing to accept the grant monies and establish the program.

Mr. Klock made a motion to accept the grants for the playground staffing and the lunches for the summer playground program. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to accept the council meeting minutes of May 19, 2014.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

Mr. Klock asked Mr. Deitrick if the sewer department has obtained prices for the nutrient credits for nitrogen for 2014. Mr. Deitrick stated that he is working on obtaining prices but that there is a large buyer out there.

Mr. Klock informed the council that the rough draft of the SMA interconnection study may be available by the end of the week.

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to review the plans for the administration building.

Mr. Klock stated that the rate study is on hold. The release has been received from the PUC, but the sewer department has not received the meter readings from the Pennsylvania American Water Company.

Mr. Brian Book, the engineer from Hazen and Sawyer, suggested hiring a specialty contractor to remove the hazardous materials in the 1950 building at the sewer plant. He stated that there is no asbestos in the building; however, there is lead paint.

Mr. Book informed council that Penn Vest meets on July 12, 2014. The Glace rate study must be received before that date. Penn Vest has used the audit from 2012. If approved, at the loan closing, the list of items to be covered under the loan should be finalized. The proposals for the construction contract will be out by Friday with the bid opening set for August 15th.

Mr. Deitrick stated that the new truck from Sunbury Motors should arrive within six weeks.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that part-time patrol officer Rachel Shear started working shifts by herself on June 16th and is doing very well. Patrol officers Samantha Ortona and Scott Kerstetter will start patrolling by themselves in the coming weeks.
- Gabe DeMarco began part-time employment yesterday as the new parking enforcement/crime prevention and police clerk. The mayor swore him in yesterday and added that he will be an asset to the police department.
- Pineknott Days begins Sunday, June 24th and runs through Friday, July 4th. The proceeds from the event benefits community service projects.
- The Fire Police are having a meat raffle drawing on August 16th.
- The 9th Annual Day of Remembrance will be held on August 23rd at the Riverview Cemetery beginning at 11:00 a.m.
- Memory Lane will perform on August 31st from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the King Street Park. There is a possibility of holding a cruise-in at the same time and several vendors will be there with food. The Christ United Methodist Church will permit the use of their restrooms for the event.

Street Supervisor's Report - No report

Code Enforcement Officer's Report – No report

Mr. Ruane asked if the code enforcement officer has passed the test to be the Borough's building code official. Mr. Wynn stated that Mr. McCollum told him that he missed the test. He thinks that the next test is in October. Mr. Troup stated that council would discuss the topic in Personnel.

Emergency Services Board Report – No report

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Reed said that the committee is waiting for bids the gymnasium for electrical and heat. Several contractors are working on them.
- Mr. Reed has met with Barb Lewis to discuss the improvements at the Girl Scout House.
- Mr. Reed asked Dick Simpson if the trash at Pineknottter Park has been removed. Mr. Simpson said that it has been taken care of. Mr. Simpson informed the council that the home plate has Pineknottter Park had a hole in it. He said that Bryan Luden has donated the new plate which is worth approximately \$130. Mr. Simpson said that it will be installed this week.
- Mr. Reed stated that Travis has contacted him because an individual wants to bring his dogs in the pool. He asked if council had decided that dogs would not be allowed at the pool. Consensus was that dogs are not permitted in the pool. Mr. Klock stated that a fund raiser for the dog park had been held two years ago when dogs were permitted in the pool. It was not held last year. Mr. Reed stated that this individual has said that he may no longer volunteer if his dogs are not permitted at the pool.
- Mr. Reed told council that a representative from Fox 56 News has approached him about advertising on their local discovery summertime 2014, highlighting “our town”. They are looking for advertisements from businesses for a three minute segment.
- The advertisement has been sent to the Daily Item to purchase pipe for the Liberty Hollow creek. The quotes for the pipe were higher than the maximum permitted for obtaining quotes, so the bid advertisement is necessary.
- Mr. Klock asked where the Pineknottter Mudder is being held. The Mudder will take place at Pineknottter Park with obstacles being set up around the perimeter of the ballfield and in the woods behind the ballfield. Volunteers, including the Shikellamy Junior ROTC, will be helping during the event. Mrs. Fran Bogovich asked who is covering the liability for the event. She was informed that as a Borough function, the Borough insurance covers the liability. The Borough also has a policy that covers volunteers. Additionally, the participants will be signing waivers.

Finance – no report

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

Public Safety

- Mrs. Rees stated that the committee met. Mr. Ruane contacted the company that will install the generator at the King and Water Street intersection.
- Mr. Ruane is obtaining prices for street signs. Money is budgeted to purchase the signs.

- Mr. Wynn asked if the Chief has completed the traffic study for the stop sign at Prince and Strawbridge. Mayor Zboray stated that the chief has been working on it and still needs to finalize it. Mayor Zboray added that council had also talked about increasing the speed limit on Strawbridge Road. Mr. Wynn stated that he wouldn't advise increasing the speed limit on Strawbridge Road. Mayor Zboray stated that the police are patrolling the road. Mr. Wynn noted that trailers from the bakery are being parked on Prince Street. Mr. Wynn said that he thought the signs in the Borough state, "No trucks except local delivery." Mayor Zboray stated that he would discuss the problem with Chief Kriner.

Rules – no report

Streets

- Mr. Wynn stated that the street sweeper was delivered on Wednesday. He said that he said something to Steve Carr about running the street sweeper because Bill Gross hasn't gotten his CDL yet and Steve told him that he didn't want anything to do with it. He then asked Todd Snyder about running the street sweeper and Todd told him that he didn't want anything to do with it. Mr. Wynn said that it should be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Reed asked if anyone is trained on the sweeper. Mr. Wynn said that the only one trained on the street sweeper is Bill Gross. The other guys preferred not to be around and Ted left when the company representative was going through the operation of the machine. Mr. Wynn said that he asked if the company representatives would return to train the other employees and was told that they would do that when they come back for the fifty hour service call. Mr. Wynn said that the machine is not that difficult to run and that Ted said that he would run it. Mr. Wynn said that Ted is keeping the crew busy.
- Mr. Wynn said that the Borough Secretary is getting the advertising out for the pipe at Liberty Hollow.
- Mr. Wynn said that the street repairs scheduled for this year are Third Street from Orange to Prince and King Street from Fourth to Fifth. Mr. Wynn has asked PennDOT to install a catch basin on Front Street, above Prince Street, where the water runs out onto the road and freezes during the winter. There are springs in this area.

Old Business

1. Volunteers are needed to run the BINGO stand during Pineknotters' Days. The schedule was discussed. Mayor Zboray requested a copy of the schedule and said that he would try to get some volunteers. The street crew will take the tent, tables and chairs to the park.
2. Ms. Bogovich asked if the winning bidders of the vehicles took them away. Mr. Wynn stated that everything was taken away; the van and street sweeper were both hauled.
3. Mr. Klock asked where the new street sweeper is being stored. Mr. Wynn said that it is parked in the same location as the last one behind the garage. Mayor Zboray

asked if new decals would be purchased for the vehicle. A company in Selinsgrove has supplied the decals and can be contacted for new ones.

4. Mr. Ruane requested that he be added to the negotiation committee for the police contract. Mrs. Rees requested that she be appointed to the committee. Mr. Troup stated that Mr. Wynn and Mr. Sees are already appointed to the committee and that only three council members may be on the committee. Mr. Ruane stated that there may be a conflict with Mr. Sees. Mrs. Rees stated that according to the minutes Mr. Sees stated that he would do it if no one else wanted to. Mr. Troup said that he would find out what Mr. Sees wants to do. Mr. Klock said that he thinks he is pretty adamant about being on there and Mr. Troup agreed. Mr. Klock noted that he would love to have him on there. He feels that Mr. Sees would be a very valuable asset to have in that position and he does not see a conflict and he said that Ryan (Tira) does not see a conflict. It is different unions. If a conflict arises during negotiations, Mr. Klock stated that council could address it then. Mr. Wynn stated that it is two different organizations and two different unions. He said that he doesn't think it would be a conflict as far as Mr. Sees in negotiations and he thinks he knows the laws in and out. If anyone would file a grievance on Mr. Sees being there, he doesn't see anything wrong with him being on the committee. Mr. Klock asked if any dates are scheduled and was told that there are not. Mr. Klock asked if we've heard anything back from either union on the two health insurance plans. Nothing has been received. Mrs. Rees said that she would be willing and would like to serve on the committee. Mr. Troup said that if Ty would not do it, they would accept her offer. He said that in his opinion, we need some very strong-willed people in those meetings, adding that it is tough negotiating. Mr. Klock said something about the Teamster contract negotiation that wasn't clear on the tape. Mr. Troup noted that Mr. Ruane is familiar with bargaining union employees having worked at PPL and Mr. Wynn being a union member. Mrs. Rees said that it depends what is meant by strong-willed because sometimes being really strong in negotiations may move things more toward arbitration rather than settling outside of arbitration and there are different ways to be strong – she said that she doesn't know exactly what Mr. Troup means by “strong-willed”. Mr. Wynn said that you must be strong and hold firm on what you are offering and not being talked into giving up something that they want that is a personal issue to their organization. He said that a lot of times they can come back and tell you that they can do this or that, but right now there are issues being done that should not be happening that were negotiated and were just let go by the wayside. They don't really enforce it. Mrs. Rees asked what he is referring to and Mr. Wynn said that he can't say that here. Mrs. Rees stated that she thinks council must be wise stewards of the money that they have to work with and that sometimes people are willing to trade one thing for another. She added that she has heard from others that the police are really well paid here. Mr. Wynn stated that is public knowledge and they are well-paid. Mr. Wynn added that there are things that have happened that shouldn't have happened that have to be negotiated out of the contract. Mr. Troup said that for now, it is Harry, Ty, and Paul. Mrs. Rees said, except that Ty said that he would do it if nobody else would do it. Mr. Troup said that he would talk to Ty and if he doesn't want to do it, then she could. Mr. Klock said that he said two meetings ago

that if no one else would to do it, he would do it. He said that Ty seemed pretty adamant about being on the committee. Mrs. Rees said that she is interested. Mr. Reed thanked her for volunteering.

New Business

1. Mr. Reed made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$12,249.73; Liberty Splashland bills total \$10,140.05; bills to be paid from the Parking Meter fund total \$75; bills to be paid from the Parks and Recreation fund total \$1,841.12; and bills to be paid from the Sewer Department total \$18,099.61.
2. Shikellamy Band has requested the use of King Street Park on August 7th and 8th to distribute their Chicken Barbecue because they will not be able to use the former football field. They do not need to use the electricity. Mr. Troup so moved. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup said that the council would go into Executive Session and that there would be nothing that requires a vote.

Mr. Wynn moved to adjourn. The council meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary