

Borough of Northumberland
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
June 28, 2011

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

Roll Call

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

The five visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Mr. Adam Klock requested that the meeting minutes be updated on the Borough website. He also thanked the council for approving the purchase of the ENRADD system for the police department. A portion of the funding was raised by the Friends of the Norry P.D.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Carl moved and Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 7, 2011. Roll call vote to approve was unanimous.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Slodysko reported that the street sweeper is in for repair.

Mr. Slodysko said that tires are being left at the recycling center. The garbage collector is not taking them and the Borough must pay to dispose of them.

Mulching the branches that were collected at the Recycling Center took approximately twelve hours. A large amount of branches was dropped off at the center.

The brick in the downtown intersections is deteriorating. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Reed asked if Mr. Slodysko had obtained prices for a fix for the pipe along the parking area at the Kiwanis building. Mr. Slodysko responded that he has the estimate to purchase the concrete pipe but does not have pricing for the rip-rap option. The ground sinks in areas above the pipe when there are heavy rains and the crew fills them in as necessary.

The pre-construction meeting for the Hanover Street project is scheduled for July 8th. Construction may begin on July 11th.

The area along Hanover Street where curbing is to be replaced will be marked by the contractor.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported that the owners of the property at 577 Duke Street would like to rent the garage. He has a letter stating that the previous owner had retired in 2005 but had done nothing to change the appearance of the building. Mr. Ruane feels that the current owners may still utilize the property as a garage. Mr. Tira advised that any appeal would be heard by the Zoning Board. Mr. Ruane added that any change in use would also have to go before the Zoning Board.

Mr. Ruane informed the council that he has condemned the property at 156 Orange Street. The water and electric services have both been turned off. This is a rental property.

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report

Mr. Adam Klock informed the council that representatives of DEP will be attending the July 25th meeting to discuss the options that are available to the Sewer Authority for purchasing credits to delay the upgrades to the plant. The meeting is set for 4:30 p.m. at 221 2nd Street.

Repairs continue on the flush truck. A new water tank is needed.

The concrete holding tanks will be inspected after the water recedes.

The lawyer updated the status of the penalties to the IRS. Interest is approximately \$190,000 and penalties would be similar. Thus far, \$35,000 has been forgiven but some requests have not been acted upon as yet.

Emergency Services Board Report - No report.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Carl announced that the committee would meet on July 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the 2nd Street Community Center since one topic of discussion will be the sidewalks to be installed along the open space from the police department to the inside corner of the building and along the back wing of the building toward the basketball court.

Mr. Reed received a phone call from Dan Berard requesting permission to set up food stands in the King Street Park. Discussion ensued. The health officer will be contacted about inspections. Mr. Tira will review the requirements for permits.

Finance

Mr. Rees stated that he will not be able to attend the scheduled committee meeting on July 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. The committee meeting was rescheduled for July 19th at 6:30 p.m. before the council meeting. The meeting will be advertised.

Personnel

Mr. Tira stated that one personnel issue would be discussed in Executive Session.

Public Safety

A meeting was held on June 13th to discuss the Emergency Operating Plan. The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Rules

The next meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Streets

The committee will meet on July 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor's Report

In the Mayor's absence, Mr. Carl read her written report:

- The police have their Policies and Operating Procedures ready for Council's approval. The Mayor urged Council to adopt them quickly.
- Larry Redington has submitted a letter to change his standing with the Northumberland Police Department to once again reflect his status as Superannuation Retirement – In Good Standing as a Chief of Police with the Northumberland Police Department. He also requested that he be issued a retired police officer's identification card pursuant to 37Pa. Code section 221.23, adding that he would pay the requisite fee to the Borough Office.
- Mr. Redington also tendered his letter of resignation from his appointed volunteer position as Deputy Emergency Management Director for Northumberland Borough, effective immediately.
- The EOP's are being completed by the Emergency Management Group. Mayor Brosius requested that they be approved quickly as well.
- Mayor Brosius attended three meetings in May and June that resulted in adding the following funds to the Second Street Playground and Community Center:
 1. S. Luther Savidge Trust added \$20,000 for the completion of the Savidge Room and \$1,000 for trees on the playground. Another \$500 was given for a handicap-accessible picnic table.
 2. The Sunbury/Northumberland Trust gave \$10,000 for the playground to finish the paving, for tables, benches and a bike rack along with finishing the handicap sidewalk from Second Street to the building.
 3. Donald Steele from the Northumberland National Bank provided a contribution of \$9,000 from the Northumberland Development Fund to complete the kitchen adjacent to the Savidge Room.

Mayor Brosius noted that she is very grateful to all of these groups and requested that thank you notes be sent to each as well as a follow-up letter inviting them to see the results of their contributions. She also requested that the playground be finished soon.

- Mayor Brosius reminded council that Pineknott Days are upon us starting with the Soap box Race on July 2nd and the church service on July 3rd. From July 4 through the 8th, volunteers are needed for the Bingo Stand that benefits the Second Street Community Center. She requested that volunteers call or email her for times available to man the stand.

Mr. Carl presented the following Mayoral Certificate of Excellence to Councilmember Judith H. Groninger:

“Mayoral Certificate of Excellence awarded to Judith H. Groninger in recognition of her volunteer spirit that has been demonstrated over the past 40 years by her faithful involvement for the betterment of Northumberland. She has served as a member of the Northumberland/Point Township Recreation Commission, Chairman of the Coronation Committee of the 1972 Northumberland/Point Township Bicentennial, member of the Liberty Pool Association, and an exemplary member of the Northumberland Borough Council for the past 12 years. Presented on June 28, 2011 in the Borough of Northumberland. Gretchen H. Brosius, Mayor.”

- Mr. Carl noted that Mayor Brosius wishes to give her thanks to all who work so hard in this community, both volunteers and paid employees.

Mr. Carl then read the following letter from Mayor Brosius:

“Dear Council,

Due to on going health concerns and family commitments, I will be unable to finish my term of office. So affective July 1, 2011, I do resign as Mayor of Northumberland.

If health permits, I will continue to serve on the Northumberland/Point Township Revitalization Committee and the Second Street Community Center Committee. Being an original member of both groups, I would like to see some projects completed.

The past ten years have been a prayer adventure for me. I thank God for all who have volunteered and for those borough employees as well who have worked so hard in the improvement of Northumberland. I will continue to pray for your protection, guidance and peace as you continue your service.

Prayers,

Gretchen H. Brosius, Mayor.”

Mr. Carl requested a motion to accept Larry Redington’s resignation. Mrs. Groninger moved to accept, with deep regret, Larry Redington’s resignation as Deputy Emergency Management Director. Mr. Reed seconded the motion which council passed unanimously.

Mr. Carl then moved and Mr. Rees seconded the motion to accept Mayor Gretchen Brosius’s resignation with great regret. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tira advised that the council has thirty days to appoint a Mayor. A regular council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on July 19th. The mayoral position will be advertised with

applications due by 4:00 p.m. on July 19th. Mr. Tira noted that until then, Mr. Carl, as President of Council, is the acting Mayor.

Mr. Carl requested that the vacated Deputy Emergency Management Director position also be advertised.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

1. Mrs. Groninger moved and Mr. Rees seconded the motion to approve payment of the bills. One bill from AT&T mobility for \$71.38 due on July 10th was added to the list of bills. Council approved unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$35,553.83; Liberty Splashland bills total \$11,364.28; Parks and Recreation bills total \$50.92; and 2nd Street Community Center bills total \$113.05.
2. Mr. Carl noted that the next topic concerning the control of alarm devices at Borough property would be discussed in Executive Session.
3. A letter has been received from Susquehanna University concerning SU Gives Day on August 27, 2011. Mr. Reed offered to oversee the volunteers. The Community Development Committee will discuss where to utilize the students.
4. A Land Lease Agreement will be discussed in Executive Session.
5. The Montour Area Recreation Commission requested permission to use Borough streets for the Riverstock Triathlon on Sunday, August 28, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Carl moved and Mr. Rees seconded the motion to approve the request. Council voted unanimously to approve.
6. Mr. Klock stated that a check that was written to the Borough from Northumberland Sewer Authority was not cashed. He stated that a new check would be issued less the \$30 bank fee for a stop payment. The Borough Secretary stated that the Borough Office had not received the check Mr. Klock was referring to or a check for the Local Services Tax. Discussion ensued.
7. The Northumberland Borough Housing Corporation's audit for 2009 and 2010 was received.
8. Julia Marano thanked the Borough for their interest in the 17857.org. The first meeting was held with the bylaws provided by Gene Brosius. The articles of incorporation have been completed and the cost to file the articles of incorporation is \$125. In order to file the articles of incorporation, three members of the Board are required. Mr. Carl had volunteered to be on the committee. Ms. Marano requested that the Borough appoint Mr. Carl to the committee. The mission of the organization is to enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Borough and Point Township. The official name is 17857.org, Inc. Upon motion by Mrs. Groninger, seconded by Mr. Rees, council voted 3-0-1 to appoint Mr. Carl as Northumberland's representative to the non-profit 17857.org, Inc. Mr. Carl abstained from the vote.

Mr. Carl stated that the Executive Session would follow the meeting and since no action would be required following the Executive Session, the council meeting would be adjourned.

Mr. Rees moved to adjourn; Mr. Reed seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary