

Borough of Northumberland
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
March 15, 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, Robert Long, James Orner, Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Timothy Fink; Police Chief; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Judith Groninger was absent. The six visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Jolynn Yankoskie told the council that she is considering purchasing the home at 659 Front Street. Drainage from underground springs comes out at the front of the home. The water crosses the sidewalk and goes into the street to the storm drain. She questioned who is responsible if ice builds up on the road. She was told that she would be responsible for the ice on her property.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius noted that the February Police Report is in the Council's packets.

She presented the name of Marlin Neidig for consideration as a member of the Fire Police. A background check has been completed. Upon motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Neidig to the Fire Police.

Mayor Brosius announced that the Susquehanna University students would hold their day of service on April 9. Suggestions for ways to utilize the students were discussed. One was to clear brush at Pineknott Park. Another was to paint the tree covers for parking meters. The borough will respond to the letter, confirming that we would like to host the students.

Mr. Rees asked if it is legal to make a left turn at a red light onto Route 11 north from the one-way side of King Street. Chief Fink responded that it is.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Thomas Slodysko stated that the town clock in front of the Norry Bank has malfunctioned. He will see to the repairs.

Mr. Slodysko suggested that the Borough consider adopting a policy to have residents park on one side of the street before a heavy snowfall. This would enable the crew to clear the snow on

the other side of the street to provide parking for the residents. Mr. Reed stated that he received a lot of good comments about the job the crew did clearing the snow.

Mr. Jim Troup asked why the crew doesn't replace the potholes that are in the intersection at Queen and Front Streets with bricks. Mr. Slodysko responded that the bricks are not the proper type for streets so the missing bricks have been replaced with macadam. The Borough has applied for a grant through PennDOT which would pay for stamped concrete to replace the bricks if awarded.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported that the apartment house at the corner of Queen and Front Streets has been sold.

There had been an issue with a tenant who has four dogs. The landlord is in the process of evicting the tenant.

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report

Mr. Jim Orner reported that the Authority met today to open bids for their project. The Authority discussed possible ways to purchase nutrients credits to delay spending money or to have additional time to find grant funding for upgrades to the plant rather than paying interest for a loan. Mr. Adam Klock noted that there are a lot of variables to be considered in weighing the options. In August of 2010, credits cost \$9 per pound of nitrogen. The price of credits has dropped by 2/3 since last fall. The credits today would cost \$25,000 so the option is more feasible now than it was last August. Mr. Wetzel asked when compliance is required. Mr. Klock stated that the date is fluid, but is now in 2013. The deadline for the revisions to the plan may be extended. Once the plan is finalized, the permitting will be issued. Mr. Klock asked if the Authority could meet at this office on March 28th. Approval was given. The meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m.

Emergency Services Board Report

The Board will meet on April 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Fire Chief's Report

No report

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Carl reviewed the topics discussed at the committee meeting held on March 14th.

2nd Street Community Center

1. Flooring bids are due on April 5th.
2. Mr. Carl has completed most of the electrical work in the Savidge Room and will install emergency lights and switches.
3. Windows do not close properly. Gary Wolfe will be contacted to see what can be done.
4. Mark Walberg has agreed to examine the gym walls and recommend the best way to repair them.

Grant Funding

1. An application has been submitted to the Luther Savidge Trust for funding to complete the Savidge Room.

2. The Joseph Anselmo Sr. Community Trust has awarded \$4,000 for the 2nd Street Playground. \$1,000 was received last year and the additional \$3,000 will be paid this year. The money is for the pavilion, tables and benches.
3. The applications for the Sunbury-Northumberland Trust are due in May. Council was asked to consider if there are any projects that should be submitted for funding.

Liberty Splashland

Mr. Carl provided packets for rates and policies for Liberty Splashland. He requested that the council approve the adjusted pool rates for the 2011 season and review the policies for consideration at a later meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Rees, the council unanimously approved the new rates. They are as follows:

1. Family pass fee is \$150 for up to 6 family members living in the same household. Additional family members would be charged \$25 per person.
2. Single pass is \$80.
3. A 10% discount at a Family rate of \$135 and single rate of \$72 would be offered until May 13th.
4. Daily admission rate is \$5.00.
5. Senior admission rate is \$3.00.
6. A new category was added for a Dry dock admission of \$3 for anyone who wants to spend time at the pool, but not go swimming. The individual may not be wearing swimwear.
7. Group rates are \$4.25 per person for groups of 20 to 49 people and \$3.95 per person for groups of 50 or more. For groups that come to the pool on a regular basis, additional discounts will be offered.
8. The rates for private parties vary depending on the number of guests, the number of hours and the features included. Rates range from \$90 to \$200 per party. An additional fee of \$15 is charged if pool employees conduct the clean-up. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 will be required.

Pineknott Park Ballfield

Mr. Carl stated that the committee had spoken with Brian Luden at the last meeting and agreed that:

- The ball teams will be required to register and provide rosters.
- A cash register is to be purchased for the concession stand and all bills are to be paid by check through the Borough Office.
- Records of concession stand sales and other income at the ballfield are to be kept.
- Game schedules are to be submitted to the Borough Office.

Farmers' Market

One person had contacted the Borough Office about the Farmer's Market.

An article will be placed in the next newsletter.

The next committee meeting will be held on April 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Finance

Mr. Rees announced that the committee will meet on April 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel

Personnel issues will be discussed in the Executive Session.

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel stated that the committee discussed the parking area at the police department. The committee feels that the sidewalk should be placed behind the parking area and the police should back into the parking area so the cars are eighteen inches from the curb. The curb is to be reinstalled at the street and a sign is to be posted stipulating "Authorized Parking Only". Mr. Long so moved and Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

The fire police would like to add a statement to their bylaws about being a felon. Mr. Wetzel stated that he felt that they could revise their bylaws as they want.

Mayor Brosius stated that the committee discussed holding an EMA meeting in June. She requested that the parties concerned suggest dates for the meeting.

The committee discussed the radios for the emergency personnel since the county will be changing to high band radios. No action was taken.

The suggestion was made that Tom look at the pit behind the C.W. Rice building for an idea of how to block off the stairwell at the end of the 2nd Street building.

The committee will meet on April 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Rules

Mr. Long stated that the meeting scheduled for March 22 will be cancelled.

Streets

An engineer from Larson Design will be in the Borough tomorrow morning to review the proposed street work.

The next committee meeting will be on April 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Long, the council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$13,662.89; Liberty Splashland bills total \$126.54; and 2nd Street Community Center bills total \$1,305.15.
2. Chief Fink asked if the council has a preference about where to install the soda machine outside the 2nd Street Community Center. The council feels that the machine should be kept where it is located outside the door at the police station. An electrician will be contacted to install the wiring for the machine and for the evidence lab.
3. Mr. Steve Cimino informed Chief Fink that a meter in the downtown area is not working. Chief Fink stated that the police are aware of several meters that are not working and they are being replaced.

Executive Session

The council adjourned for an Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.
The meeting was reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

Mr. Carl moved and Mr. Wetzel seconded a motion to accept an agreement with the police association as discussed in the Executive Session. Council approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary