

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**January 4, 2011**

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

**Executive Session**

The council went into an Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The meeting was reconvened at 7:35 p.m. No action was required concerning the personnel issues that were discussed.

The six visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

Mayor Brosius left the meeting because she was not feeling well.

**Mayor's Report**

In the Mayor's absence, Chief Fink informed the council that several meters need new mechanisms. He was given approval to purchase them with payment to be from the Parking Meter Fund.

Twelve Christmas covers for the meters have been stolen.

Mrs. Groninger asked if the Chief has submitted the police reports to the Daily Item. She said that residents, especially the elderly and those who live alone, are interested in knowing if crimes are occurring in their neighborhoods. Chief Fink stated that he has tried in the past and the reports had not been published. Francis Scarcella, the reporter from the Daily Item volunteered to obtain the reports for publication. The Item only publishes a report if charges are filed and the information is obtained at the magistrate's office, unless the Chief gives a

“story” to the reporter. He also stated that if the police chief faxes the list of police calls to the Daily Item, he will see that the calls are published. Mr. Wetzel stated that he sees Sunbury’s police calls in the paper and would like to see this done on a regular basis. Chief Fink said that he will supply the information to the Daily Item on a weekly basis.

Chief Fink stated that no one attended the Crime Watch meeting that was held last evening.

### **Street Supervisor’s Report**

Mr. Tom Slodysko thanked the council for the bonus that he received last week. The crew decorated the downtown area before Christmas and now is in the process of removing the decorations. The crew is replacing lights in the downtown area. He noted that this requires time to change the globes because the hardware is old and must be cut.

Mr. Reed asked about the status of the driveway at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Building. Mr. Slodysko stated that on the recommendation of Mr. Lytle, he is waiting to do the work until spring.

Mrs. Groninger asked if Mr. Rine has been contacted about the damage to his sidewalk. Mr. Slodysko stated that he has called him, but he has not answered the phone and does not have an answering machine. Mr. Reed asked if a letter had been sent. One had not yet been sent. Mr. Orner stated that he also tried to call Mr. Rine. A letter will be sent.

Mrs. Groninger thanked Mr. Slodysko for painting the curbing at Queen Street and Brickyard Avenue and on Orange Street at Fifth Street. Council discussed whether a resolution is required to have the line painted beyond the specified length. Mr. Tira advised that the length of the no parking segment should be stipulated by ordinance. He recommended that if there are numerous locations, they should all be included in the ordinance.

### **Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane requested that the council appoint James A Sanders and Ken Young as the Sewage Enforcement Officer and Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, the council voted unanimously to approve the appointments as requested.

Mr. Ruane presented a subdivision plan for Richard Bunting. The subdivision transfers 12 feet of land from Richard Bunting Jr. to Richard Bunting Sr. and has been approved by the Northumberland Planning Commission. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mrs. Groninger, the council voted unanimously to approve the subdivision.

Mr. Ruane informed the council that beginning January 1, sprinkler systems are required in new homes. He has attended a seminar on the topic. The systems are not required in additions, just new homes.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Mr. Jim Orner reported that the next meeting will be on January 24, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Sewer Authority.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

No report. The next meeting will be on February 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

## **Fire Chief's Report**

Fire Chief Jim Troup reported on the activity of the Fire Department for the month of December 2010.

## **Committee Reports**

### Community Development

Mr. Carl announced that the committee would meet on January 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street building at 175 Orange Street.

It was decided that all other Borough meetings will be held at 221 2<sup>nd</sup> Street until further notice.

### Finance

The committee will meet on January 19, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger stated that the committee meets as needed.

### Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel stated that no one attended the Crime Watch meeting scheduled for last evening. He said that he is trying to obtain programming for the meetings. He is not sure whether attendance has declined because people are deterred by the evening meetings or because it is winter. The Attorney General's office will not return for another presentation unless a minimum number of attendees is guaranteed.

The Public Safety committee will meet on January 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

### Rules

The committee will meet on January 25, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. One topic of discussion will be outdoor furnaces.

### Streets

Mr. Reed announced that the committee would meet on January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

## **Old Business**

1. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Reed, the council voted unanimously to apply for a Pennsylvania Conservation Corp Grant.
2. Mr. Carl asked if anyone on council would be interested in being interviewed by the Lake Augusta Committee for their opinions relating to the Lake Augusta Corridor and Smart Transportation. The committee had requested a list of three municipal officials to be interviewed. Mr. Carl, Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Slodysko were selected.

## **New Business**

1. Upon motion by Mr. Orner, seconded by Mrs. Groninger Ordinance 2011-1 was unanimously approved. Ordinance 2011-1 sets property Tax rates for 2011. Millage

rates are set as follows: General real estate – 19.8 mils; Debt Service – 2.3 mils; Parks/Recreation – 1.0 mil; Street Improvement - .5 mils; and Fire Protection – 2.7 mils.

2. Upon motion by Mrs. Groninger, seconded by Mr. Orner, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$25,607; Liberty Splashland bills total \$118.64; 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Community Center bills total \$502.01; and Parking Meter Fund bills total \$29.64.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mrs. Groninger, the council unanimously approved payment of bills due before the February 1, 2011 council meeting with the list to be ratified on February 1, 2011.
4. Upon motion by Mrs. Groninger, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, the council unanimously approved Resolution A-2011. This resolution is to obtain a \$100,000 Tax Anticipation Note from the Northumberland National Bank at an interest rate of 1.54% with a fee of \$100. The loan, to be dated January 20, 2011 will mature on July 20, 2011. Two proposals had been obtained. The second proposal was from the First National Bank with an interest rate of 2.3% plus a \$200 fee plus a \$168 state fee.
5. Mrs. Groninger asked about a letter received from Northumberland County requesting Tom Cropf's appointment to the Northumberland County Gang Awareness Task Force. Mr. Cropf had been appointed in 2010 and has been attending their meetings. Mr. Tira stated that it is not necessary to reappoint Mr. Cropf.
6. Mr. Carl moved to change the locks on the doors to the police station to regular locks. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous to approve.

Mr. Troup asked if the council was going to reorganize since this is the first meeting of the year. Mr. Tira stated that Reorganization meetings are held after election years.

Mr. Carl adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary