

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
August 20, 2013

Council President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Gregory Carl, Stephen Reed, Ellie Rees, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; C.L. Kriner, Chief of Police; Ted McCollum, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Adam Klock and Ty Sees were absent.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that he attended the dedication of the London Plane tree in the King Street Park in memory of Lois Haddon by the Susquehanna Valley Garden Club on August 7th. While there, he spoke with Mrs. Green who is interested in donating a new bench for the park.

Council member Adam Klock arrived at 7:06 p.m.

- Mayor Zboray administered civil service tests to three police officer candidates on August 12th. On August 13th, oral exams were given to two of the candidates. Only one candidate passed all three tests.
- A representative contacted Mayor Zboray about a high frequency noise coming from the Bimbo Bakery on Hanover Street. Mayor Zboray spoke with employees at the bakery who believe it is a bad bearing on a fan and said that they will take care of it. Mayor Zboray stated that he would follow up on it.

Emergency Services Board Report – no report

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ted McCollum provided a written report on the activity of the Code Enforcement Office to the council.

He thanked the council for passing Act 90 of 2010 which addresses blighted properties. Mr. Klock stated that the council voted to advertise the ordinance and the vote to pass it will be at the next council meeting. Mr. McCollum stated that he is applying to the Northumberland County planning

Commission for funding for the property at 572 Duke Street which is going up for tax sale in November.

Mr. McCollum said that he received a written permission from the owner of the property at Fourth and Queen Street, Ms. Welch, allowing the fire department to use the building for training on August 27th. He was asked how much time they have to demolish the property. The response was that she is still talking to a prospective buyer and they haven't agreed to all the terms. He said that the sale was contingent upon her cutting down a large tree in the back, and removing two oil tanks that are in the basement which are almost brand new. Her son has pumped all the oil out of the tanks.

Mr. McCollum stated that in the Borough's 1.6 square miles, there are nine blighted properties, which are 5.6 per square mile. He is hoping that the commission looks at the number of blighted properties per square mile when they determine the funding awards.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup adjourned the council meeting at 7:12 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The meeting was reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Carl reported that he cleaned out the pond at King Street Park over the weekend. He thanked his wife, Tom and Mary Slodysko, and a passerby named David, for helping with the work. He also personally paid two pool employees to help. He said that the pond was extremely dirty. He would like to meet with the Shade Tree Commission to determine what plants in the park can be eliminated that make dirt in the pond. He suggested mounting a camera at the pond to deter kids from throwing rocks in the pond. Mr. Slodysko stated that someone had also taken fish from the pond so a camera may deter this from occurring again.
- SU students will be coming on Saturday to help at the pool and at the dog park.
- The pool closed on Sunday.
- The kitchen is close to being completed. Mr. Carl stated that a refrigerator, electric stove and microwave are needed as well as a pendant light, outlet covers, and kick plates installed on the cabinets. Mr. Klock stated that he has a refrigerator that he would donate for the kitchen. Mr. Carl moved to approve the purchase of a microwave, an electric stove and incidentals, not to exceed \$900. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Other items that are needed are a light, receptacle covers, and kick plates installed on the cabinets.
- Mr. Carl said that the Chief Kriner contacted three companies for quotes for a six-foot fence and gate to enclose the stairwell at the police end of the building. A quote of \$2,950 was received from Buffalo Valley Fence, the only company that provided a quote. Mr. Wynn moved to purchase the fence at a cost of \$2,950 with the funding to come from the police or the building budget. If additional funds are required, they are to be taken from the General Contingency fund with the understanding that whatever balance is left in the building budget at the end of the year be repaid to the General Contingency fund. Chief Kriner stated that the fence is a safety issue. Mr. Reed seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.
- Mr. Klock stated that he has spent around \$150 for materials from Lowe's for the sign at the dog park and will need to spend about \$150 more to powder coat the sign.

Finance

Mr. Troup stated that the committee began budget meetings and that the next meeting will be held on September 19th at 6:30 to discuss the 2014 budgeted expenses. The Borough Secretary provided a summary of the balance of the bank accounts as of August 16th,

Personnel

Mayor Zboray read a letter of notice from Officer Edward Hennessey, informing the Police Chief, Borough Council and Mayor that he plans to retire in October after sixteen years of full and part-time duty. His actual retirement date will be in January, however, he plans to use vacation, personal, and comp time beginning in October. An official letter will be coming at a later date.

Mayor Zboray stated that Kevin Rushton recently passed the Civil Service test and is the only candidate on the list. He recommended hiring him as a full-time officer. Officer Rushton has worked as a part-time officer for the Borough for approximately two years.

Mr. Carl moved to hire Kevin Rushton at the Patrol Officer II level as of October 1, 2013 at a rate of \$20.76 per hour for the remainder of 2013. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. It was explained that when hiring a full-time officer who has worked in the Borough as a part-time officer, the hours of service are taken into consideration when determining the step. Mayor Zboray noted that Officer Rushton is already trained so the Borough will not have to pay additional funds for training. Council unanimously approved the motion.

Public Safety – no report

Rules

Mr. Klock stated that the Mayor, Ellie, Jan and he were at the committee meeting and discussed the Animal Ordinance which has been forwarded to the solicitor. He is hopeful that a motion to advertise may be made at the next meeting. Mayor Zboray thanked Mr. Klock for his hard work and time in devising the ordinance.

The rules for the dog park have not yet been received for council review. Mr. Reed is hoping that the dog park can open this fall. He asked if Mr. Slodysko would mark where the holes are to be dug for the posts for the small dog park. Mr. Slodysko agreed to do so.

Streets

Mr. Reed stated that the paving should begin the week of Labor Day. Mr. Slodysko stated that he is meeting with Meckley's tomorrow morning to have them sign a change order for the additional streets to be paved. Sawmill Avenue will not be included because that is a different excavation type which is not on the original bid. The streets on the list are King Street from 5th to 6th; 6th Street from Orange to Prince; Hanover Street from 6th to 7th; Pond Avenue between Hanover and Prince; and 5th Street above Strawbridge Road. Some curbing will be installed on Hanover Street.

Sewer

Mr. Klock stated that the agreement of sale for nutrient credits had been approved and is available for the council president to sign. Hazen & Sawyer is preparing the agreement for Energy Works for the phosphorus credits.

Mr. Klock reported that the auditor, Courtney Solomon, met with the sewer employees to review the accounts in QuickBooks. They created the proper three cost buckets. They are the treatment costs which are shared with the bulk customers based on the flow coming into the Borough; the costs associated with the collection in the Borough which are the responsibility of the Borough residents; and the costs associated with the shared lines which are split 50/50. Mr. Klock feels that it will now be easier to determine the budget and to reconcile the costs. The treatment agreement is being reviewed. Point Township Sewer Authority has provided an 11 page offer to amend the agreement. The committee has gone through it and they are now going back and forth.

Old Business

1. Council was presented with the 2nd Street Community Center Rental Agreement. The agreement is for the Savidge Room and kitchen. Mr. Klock asked if the Borough would have cleaning supplies available so the renters are able to tidy up. Mr. Reed asked what would happen if the rooms are not cleaned. The Borough is charging \$200 to rent the room and a \$200 deposit so if the rooms are not cleaned, the Borough will keep the deposit to pay someone to clean. The council discussed the portion of the agreement that permits renters to use tape to decorate. They decided to strike the use of tape from the agreement. Instead, any decorations used should be attached with hanging implements provided by the Borough or renter. Mr. Reed questioned the statement that the fee is required ten days before the event. He asked if someone could rent the room if they contact the Borough within ten days before the event, with the example of someone wanting to use the room after a funeral. If the room is available, they would be permitted to rent it.

Mr. Klock moved to approve the agreement with the changes discussed. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

2. The deadline for articles for the next Pineknott News is September 27th.

New Business

1. Mr. Klock moved to approve the list of bills, with the addition of \$3,500 to Patricia Young, CPA for the audit of the Borough accounts. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$9,540.61; General Contingency bills total \$228; Liberty Splashland bills total \$361.63; Parks and Recreation Account bills total \$683.00; and 2nd Street Community and Municipal Center bills total \$189.95. Ms. Young will attend the September 3rd meeting to answer any questions council may have regarding the audit.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to transfer \$9,482.16 from Liberty Splashland to General Fund for payroll.
3. Mr. Carl was asked if the money was received from Coca-Cola. Mr. Carl stated that the \$6,000 was received. He explained that Liberty Splashland had a ten-year contract with Coca-Cola and the \$6,000 was the final payment. There is not a current contract, but the company is providing a discount for the products purchased for the pool.

4. Representative Lynda Schlegel-Culver will hold a Town Hall Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 19, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Savidge Room of the 2nd Street Community and Municipal Center.
5. The Northumberland Alumni Association has requested to hold their meetings here once a month on Wednesdays. Mr. Klock asked where council should draw the line with allowing groups to use the building free of charge. Mr. Carl suggested that if groups want to be guaranteed a certain time, they could pay to reserve the room; otherwise, if the room is available, they could use it free of charge.
6. Mayor Zboray informed the council that he would be attending the ribbon cutting at the new location of Groninger Insurance. The company has moved to the former 1st National Bank building on Duke Street.
7. Mr. Klock said that at the Finance Meeting, the locations of the election polls were discussed. It was suggested that the 2nd Street Community and Municipal Center be designated the poll for all voters. The Borough Secretary stated that she called the Election Board and left a message but has not received a return call. Discussion ensued. Mr. Carl offered to visit the Board of Elections to see if one location would be feasible.

Mr. Klock moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary