

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
January 8, 2013

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 Ty Sees, James Troup, Frank Wetzel, Adam Klock, and Stephen Reed. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Timothy Fink, Police Chief; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The eight visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No comments were offered.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council unanimously approved the council meeting minutes of December 4, 2012.

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Reed, council unanimously approved the council meeting minutes of December 18, 2012.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Zboray reported that on Sunday he swore in seven Fire Police for a new two-year term. He said that he thanked them for their service and noted that they put in a total of 380 calls, totaling 1195 hours, in 2012. He also stated that the Fire Police wish to discuss their building with the council.

Mayor Zboray noted that the Daily Item published a nice article about the Borough on Sunday. He added that the article said that we are proud of the Borough and that we have done a lot of good things here.

Mayor Zboray requested that Chief Fink contact TRA Electric about the traffic light at King and Water Streets. He said that it was not working properly again.

Tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., volunteers will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the King Street Park.

In 2013, the Mayor would like the council to help the volunteers and to promote the Borough.

Mayor Zboray left the meeting at 7:11 p.m. because of a family emergency.

Street Department Report

Tom Slodysko, Street Supervisor, reported that the street department is collecting Christmas trees. The chipper is broken and the trees are being picked up and stock-piled at the Recycling Center until the chipper is repaired.

The department is removing the Christmas decorations from the downtown area.

One of the plow blades broke when a manhole was hit. The repairs will be costly.

Emergency Services Board Report – no report

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report

Councilman Adam Klock reported that money was transferred from the NSA bank accounts to the Northumberland Borough Sewer Department bank accounts.

One more NSA meeting will be held to dissolve the NSA after the permit transfer occurs.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Ryan Tira reported that he has reviewed an agreement for rental for the Savidge Room. He questioned if procedures should be established to delegate approval of the rentals by the Borough Office employees or if the council wishes to approve each agreement. He also asked if council was setting limits concerning who could rent the room. He said that there are several provisions he would like to include to protect the Borough. Mr. Tira asked about access to the room if the key is available to the renter ten days in advance. It was explained that the keys are programmed and although it may be picked up ten days in advance, the renter would not have access until the date of the rental.

Finance – no report

Personnel

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council unanimously approve the appointment of Jim Sanders as primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Kenneth Young as the alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel stated that he plans to speak to Officer Lauver about conducting Neighborhood Crime Watch meetings, beginning in March.

Rules

Mr. Sees stated that the committee is waiting for the solicitor to complete the animal ordinance. He added that he expects the new council member will be working with him and Mr. Klock on the committee.

Sewer

Mr. Klock moved to retain the engineering firm of Hazen and Sawyer for \$1 per year for one year; Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Mr. Brian Book, of Hazen and Sawyer added that the firm does not proceed on any project without prior authorization. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted unanimously to retain Karchner, McClellan & Riddell, LLP, to audit the sewer authority records for 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. The cost of the 2011 audit was \$7,000.

Mr. Klock requested that Mr. Book discuss membership in the Pennsylvania Rural Water, a statewide organization. Mr. Book explained that membership cost is based on the number of customers. He said that he has contacted the organization to learn if the number of customers would be based on Borough customers or include the number of Township customers. He estimated that the cost of membership, based on just Borough customers, would be less than \$500. Mr. Book explained that the organization publishes a monthly magazine; they offer continuing certification classes for plant operators. Mr. Book noted that an operator must take 30 hours of classes in a two year period to maintain his wastewater treatment plant operator's license. By being a member, the cost of the class is \$60 instead of \$80. They also have special devices that can be borrowed. Mr. Book feels that this is the best organization for the Borough to join and have their staff utilize. Mr. Klock added that the employees will require a lot of training with the new plant. The topic was tabled until the additional information is obtained.

Mr. Book provided several documents to the council. They include the Executive Summary, a cover letter, and a public notice. Mr. Book said that the public notice is advertised in the newspaper and tells the Borough citizens that the Borough is in the process of updating the wastewater treatment plant and are about to undertake a project at a cost of approximately \$11,000,000, and that the result of that is that the rates are anticipated to be approximately \$550 an EDU per year over the twenty year lifespan of the project. He explained that the average user will pay an average of \$550 per year. He feels that this number is a reasonable number. After advertised, the public is able to review the document and make written comments to be submitted to the Borough Council by February 14th. Mr. Book will include all comments as an appendix to the document. He will provide the council with a summary of the comments, including his reply. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Klock made a motion to authorize the advertisement of the public notice of the Borough of Northumberland's Categorical Exemption to Act 537 Planning. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by council.

Mr. Book provided the Engineer's Status Report as of January 7, 2012. This report and the Executive Summary are provided as addendums to the minutes.

Streets

Mr. Reed asked if a catch basin at 6th and Hanover Streets had collapsed. Mr. Slodysko stated that he would check on it.

Old Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Klock, council unanimously appointed Margaret Weirick to the Planning Commission.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Reed, council unanimously appointed Liz Lockcuff to the Shade Tree Commission.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, Ty Sees was unanimously appointed to the Tax Collection Committee.
4. Upon motion by Mr. Troup, seconded by Mr. Klock, council unanimously appointed Bob Sabol to the Zoning Hearing Board.
5. Rates were provided from two electricity suppliers. Mr. Klock moved to allow the Borough Secretary to choose the lower provider for electricity up to \$.077 per kilowatt hour, including the GTR. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by council.
6. Mr. Klock stated that applications are being accepted for the Borough Council vacancy until 4:00 p.m. on January 15, 2013. They are available online and in the Borough Office.
7. Mr. Klock informed the council that the bills for sewer may be later this year because of delays by the software developer. The bills will have a new format and will include several questions such as if the customer would like e-billing or the ability to pay online.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Troup, council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$51,122; Liberty Splashland bills total \$43.37; and Parking Meter bills total \$1,327.23.

Executive Session

Council adjourned for an Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Troup reconvened the council meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Mr. Klock moved to approve an addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council voted 4-0-1 to approve the motion with Mr. Sees abstaining.

Watson town Borough intends to pursue legal action against Northumberland County for the purpose of forcing them to fund the use of constables to transport defendants in criminal matters. They are asking other municipalities to share in the cost of the legal action. Watson town Borough has offered to serve as the party responsible for making payment for the expenses and then be reimbursed from the participating municipalities for their share of the costs.

Mr. Wetzel moved to join in litigation with other municipalities versus Northumberland County regarding the use of constables to transport defendants. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wetzel clarified his motion to include reimbursing Watson town Borough for the costs at equal rates for the municipalities. Mr. Klock withdrew his second. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was 4-1 with Mr. Sees casting the negative vote.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary