

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
April 17, 2012

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees, James Troup, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Gregory Carl, Adam Klock, and Ty Sees were absent.

Three visitors introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Reed stated that the committee met and discussed a Dog Park. Mr. Reed has followed up with emails to interested parties.

Finance

Mr. Rees announced that the committee would meet tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. to review the 2012 budget.

Personnel

Mr. Troup stated that personnel issues would be discussed in Executive Session.

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel stated that the committee did not meet this evening and there is no report.

Rules

Mr. Wetzel reported that the committee met last Monday and the committee members plan to meet this week with members of SUN Pets to draft an ordinance to bring to the board at the May meeting.

Sewer

No report

Streets

Mr. Reed reported that street signs are on order.

Mr. Reed informed council that FEMA has looked at the problem with the pipe at the pool and has said that the pipe was rusted before the flood so they will not replace the pipe. The FEMA employee is recommending that the Borough be provided with funding to remove the pipe and install stones. The Borough and PEMA feel that while bottom of the pipe had rust, the force of the water going through the pipe during the flood created the ground subsidence and contributed to the deterioration of the pipe. FEMA's findings may be appealed once their report is finalized.

The committee is looking into replacing the bricks in the downtown crosswalks with stamped concrete.

It was noted that residential garbage is being found in downtown baskets. The street department will keep an eye on it.

Brush drop-offs are planned for several days in May and June.

Councilman Adam Klock arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Sewer Authority Report

Mr. Klock informed the council that the Sewer Authority met last night and that the second \$25,000 donation will not be forthcoming. Mr. Troxell indicated that the authority would wait to see the outcome of the lawsuit. A letter to this effect will be forthcoming from the Sewer Authority.

The group is moving forward with investigating the option of contracting with Sunbury for services. They are meeting twice a month. DEP is involved in the process. The meetings are scheduled for May 3rd, May 31 and June 11 at 7:00 p.m. The regular meetings are held the third Monday of the month.

IRS has informed the Sewer Authority that they will abate all the interest and penalties associated with the non-payment of payroll taxes due to the theft. The NSA has paid all payroll taxes that were due.

A new employee was hired to replace the employee who had resigned.

Old Business

1. Municipal Engineer Proposals

Council discussed the municipal engineer proposals that were submitted at the April 3rd council meeting. Mr. Klock moved to authorize the use of Mid-Penn as the Borough Engineer on an as-needed basis. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. There is no retainer fee and the council has the option to obtain quotes or bids for specific projects. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. FEMA – Flood damage from Tropical Storm Lee

FEMA has requested information about the future plans for the Fire Police Building. They have been informed that the front of the building will be used for storage of equipment for the street department. The council must decide if the restrooms in the rear

of the building are going to be restored. FEMA has agreed to pay toward the replacement of the stones that were washed away during the flood. They include the parking area around the Fire Police Building and pavilion, the road to the Sea Scout Dock, the parking area at the Point, and the path that goes under the Barry King Bridge. Council's consensus was to restore the restrooms to working order.

Another area that was damaged during the flood was the Queen Street culvert. FEMA will pay toward the removal of a dead tree by the street department and for a contractor to install concrete under the base of the culvert where the ground was washed away, and to install riprap with grout along the sides of the culvert. Proposals are being obtained from contractors for this work.

Councilman Greg Carl arrived at 7:21 p.m.

New Business

1. American Cancer Society's Walk

Mayor Zboray explained that two representatives visited the office and requested permission to conduct a 5-K walk against breast cancer in the Borough to benefit the American Cancer Society. They would like to stage the walk from the tennis courts. The Riverview Cemetery Board has agreed that they may walk through the cemetery as part of the walk. The proposed dates are Saturday, October 27th or Sunday, October 28th. Some streets may have to be closed. Mr. Tira advised that they should submit an application to the council. It was noted that the group will need to contact the school district for permission to use the parking lot.

2. Mayor Zboray stated that David Hollenbaugh, one of the owners of the Priestley-Savidge House contacted him about obtaining banners for the town. He has designed a banner that includes a picture of Joseph Priestley with Northumberland printed vertically and Welcome, Yours to Discover at the top of the banner. Mr. Hollenbaugh suggested that sponsors could be obtained to pay for the banners. Mr. Troup suggested that the banners be placed along the street coming into town. He noted that advertisements may not be displayed on the banner if they are hung on PPL poles but suggested that sponsors could be recognized in the newsletter. Mr. Troup offered to get information from PPL about hanging banners on light poles. The banners are available in several sizes. The cost for the larger size banner (28" x 60") is \$105.24. The 24" x 48" banner costs \$93.57. The cost for two brackets is \$158. Various groups will be approached to sponsor the banners. Individuals will also be able to purchase banners in memory or in honor of someone.

3. Mayor Zboray said that the Northumberland Ministerium will hold the local observance of National Day of Prayer at noon on Thursday, May 3rd, in the King Street Park.

4. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$10,693.27; Acorn Field bills total \$264.68; and Liberty Splashland bills total \$27.97.

5. An audit was conducted of the Borough's pension plans. The auditor noted that the 2000 ordinance required a 5% contribution from the police toward their pension plan. The police contract had changed the contribution rate to 1.5%. Therefore the auditor has

requested that council adopt a resolution to approve the lower rate of 1.5% for years 2009 to 2012, the current contract years. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve Resolution K-2012 setting the police contribution to the pension plan at 1.5% of their gross earnings.

6. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, the Borough Secretary was appointed as the Chief Administrative Officer for the uniform and non-uniform pension plans.
7. A correspondence was received from Terry McBride, Communications Director for PPL, about meetings that PPL is conducting with officials from municipalities to review their policy for clearing the right-of-ways at transmission lines. Mayor Zboray volunteered to attend the May 21st meeting at the Montour Preserve.
8. On May 3rd at 5:30 p.m., State Representative Lynda Schlegel Culver will be holding a public presentation on the Shikellamy State Park Complex at the Degenstein Library. Frank Nanna, Park Manager will also be present to answer questions. The presentation will include an overview of the 2012 Shikellamy Park Complex, future plans for the Marina's building project, seasonal activities to take place throughout the complex in 2012, and a history and information on the Adam T. Bower Inflatable Dam.
9. On Thursday, April 19th at 6:00, representative Lynda Schlegel Culver will be conducting a town meeting at the Northumberland Municipal Building.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup announced that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and that the meeting may be reconvened. Council adjourned for the Executive Session at 7:52 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Wetzel moved to authorize the F.C.I.S. Consultant to return for up to two additional days to complete his work at a cost of \$120 per hour. The cost for the hotel stay and meals is to be provided by the Borough for the second individual. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-1 with Mr. Klock voting no.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary