

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
July 21, 2015

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 Adam Klock, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ted McCollum, Street Supervisor/Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Stephen Reed and Ellie Rees were absent.

Public Comment

- Jim Gilford explained to the council that in 2010 he received permission to place rip-rap on his property to protect the bank from erosion on the upper portion of Packer Island. He has received a grant from DEP in conjunction with the Borough to place the rip-rap on his property and along the Point. Mr. Gilford stated that he pays the invoices for the work done on his property, submits the invoices to the Borough. The Borough submits the invoices to DEP. DEP reimburses the Borough who in turn reimburses Mr. Gilford. He noted that it has worked this way for three years. He said that last year, he has not been reimbursed. Mr. Gilford stated that he spoke to a representative from DEP who stated that the Borough has been reimbursed. Mayor Zboray stated that he has checked with the office staff and the funds haven't been received. The Borough Secretary stated that when the reimbursement requests are submitted, reports are included with the requests. She stated that Ann August has been managing the grant and has met with Jason Fellon from DEP. She suggested that Mr. Gilford come into the Borough Office to review the paperwork and funding received by the Borough. Mr. Gilford noted that he wasn't here to get anyone in trouble, but is concerned about the delay of his money.

- Kathy Wagner, Keystone Insurers Group, Inc. came with a request that council move the Borough's health insurance to her agency. She would like the Borough to keep the insurance local and would like to improve the service. She said that she works with the Pfeiffer-Naginey Agency which is now owned by the Deibler, Straub & Troutman Agency. Ms. Wagner explained that the Keystone Insurers Group was started by Bob Naginey and Tom Troutman. Mr. Naginey is now working primarily with the Keystone Insurers Group. The Keystone Insurers Group grew from three agencies to over four hundred. They are the largest in the nation. Until she retired in 2009, Ms.

Wagner worked with the Blue Cross, retiring in 2009. She then worked for the Evangelical Hospital in Lewisburg. Ms. Wagner stated that the Borough's current broker has offices in Harrisburg and Lewisburg. She feels that she would be more accessible to the Borough and would be willing to come to the Borough on a regular basis to speak with employees if they are interested. Ms. Wagner would also present wellness programs for the employees, noting that she has put together wellness programs for other companies. Ms. Wagner stated that the Borough would not have to change its plan or rates by changing its broker. She said that she understands that the Borough's plan must satisfy union requirements and would see that any future changes to the plan would meet the union's approval. Ms. Wagner stated that she could come to the August meeting and could provide a letter for the Borough appointing her as the broker and also one to be sent to the current broker informing her of the change. Council took no action.

- Diane Wynn, a member of the Friends of the Priestley-Forsyth Library, and other members of the Friends, were present to request that the council provide a location in the building to collect their books and to have their book sale. She explained that the main purpose of the group is to raise funds for the library. The book sale is their biggest fund raiser. The next book sale is planned for the fall of 2016. The group currently collects books the first Saturday of the month. The books collected are stored until the sale. The books collected are stored until the sale. The current location is the basement of the Methodist Church. This location is inconvenient because of having to go the steps. The group is looking for an area about ten feet by ten feet. Discussion ensued. Mr. Klock made a motion to allow the Friends of the Priestley-Forsyth Library to store books in the gymnasium and to allow access to the building to conduct the book collection on the first Saturday of the month. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Fran Bogovich questioned the status of the plans for the gymnasium. Mr. Troup stated that the council is waiting for the signed plans. Mrs. Bogovich noted that the architect has been working on the plans since October. Mr. Troup said that Steve Reed has been in contact with the architect who is obtaining plans for the mechanicals. As soon as the plans are received and approved, construction can start. Mrs. Bogovich asked if he was given a deadline. Mr. Troup responded that he didn't know if Steve had given him one.

Mrs. Bogovich stated that the weeds are high again at the corner of Horizon Avenue and Strawbridge Road. She said that she does not feel the Borough crew should be cutting them; it should be the homeowner's responsibility. Mrs. Bogovich asked about the status of the property on Susquehanna Road? Mr. McCollum said that the property is being handled by the PA Housing Finance Agency. Mr. McCollum sent a letter to the company on July 20th. If the company doesn't cut the grass within ten days, the Borough will clean it up and bill the company. Mrs. Bogovich said that letters should be sent to property owners who have high weeds; she does not feel like the Borough should do the work. Mr. McCollum stated that at the corner of Horizon and Strawbridge, it is not just the weeds that obstruct the line of sight to the left. He

has installed two signs on Strawbridge Road to warn motorists of the upcoming intersection.

- Barbara Kistner informed the council that work at the Girl Scout House is progressing. She added that if anyone has any questions or concerns, to contact her.
- Kay Ann Busshouse requested that someone explain her sewer bills to her. She said that she has one sewer system and is receiving two bills, one for her residence and one for her business. She stated that her patients don't use the bathroom, noting that it is double dipping. Mr. Klock stated that the council has approved the engineer to conduct a rate study. Ms. Busshouse said that she does not feel it is correct because she has one sewer system and is being charge two collection fees and two flat fees. Ms. Busshouse asked if Mr. Klock is getting two bills because he has an in-home business. Mr. Klock stated that he does not have an in-home business, adding that he works out of his house but he doesn't have customers. Mr. Klock stated that she has two units, the business and the residence. The usage is only being billed once. The volume pays for treatment at the facility. The collection fees and flat fees are billed per unit to pay for maintenance on the sewer line. Mr. Ruane noted that the owner of an apartment house with eighteen units is billed for eighteen flat fees plus water usage. It is up to the owner to determine how to distribute his cost.
- Robert Friend, a representative from Christ Wesleyan Church, provided information about the Ride for America on August 29th. For his PennDOT permit, he is requesting the council's approval for approximately 2,000 motorcycles to ride through the Borough at approximately 11:20 p.m. The group begins the ride at the Christ Wesleyan Church in Milton; travels south on Route 147 to the Borough and north on Route 11 to Danville. He stated that he would contact the Northumberland Police Department and the Fire Police and if they cannot provide assistance, he would have other people present at the intersections.

Upon motion by Mr. Troup, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to allow the Christ Wesleyan Church to come through Norry on their ride. Mr. Friend requested that someone sign and date the letter that he must submit to PennDOT.

Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Troup moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 21, 2015. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council voted 4-0-1 to approve with Mr. Sees abstaining.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

Mr. Klock stated that the committee has several resumes for the personnel committee to consider. The Personnel Committee will schedule interviews with the candidates.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that the ad was placed in the newspaper for the Civil Service Testing for police officers.
- The Day of Remembrance is scheduled for August 22nd at the Riverview Cemetery. The sign-up starts at 11:00 and the service starts at noon.

- Memory Lane will play in King Street Park September 6th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- The Luther Savidge Trust awarded \$500 for the 2nd Street Playground. The funds will be used to pay for replacement parts for the playground and mats for under the swings.

Emergency Services Board Report - no report

Street Supervisor/ Code Enforcement Officer's Report

- Mr. Ted McCollum stated that he sent out an email on July 15th in reference to what he would like to see UGI pave. He is trying to set up a meeting with UGI personnel, possibly at the next Street Committee meeting. Mr. Ruane said that he would not be available for that meeting. Mr. McCollum would like to see them pave one entire lane.
- Mr. McCollum spoke to Dean with Pennsylvania American Water Company about paving one lane of Prince Street where they are working between Front Street and Permastone.
- Mr. McCollum provided a copy of an ordinance from Milton that provides for paving a street where numerous cuts are made. The Rules Committee will review the ordinance.
- Mr. Ruane stated that fill is needed at the Recycling Center.
- Mrs. Bogovich asked about holes that were cut on Jefferson Street last year. They were not paved. Mr. McCollum stated that he will check on it.

Committee Reports

Community Development

The Borough Office received a request that a portable toilet be placed at the 2nd Street Playground. The request will be taken to committee.

Finance

Mr. Sees stated that the committee would meet on July 28th at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel

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

Public Safety - no report

Rules - no report

Street

- Mr. Ruane stated that the committee met and discussed the gas company's project and street sign replacement.
- PennDOT will conduct a public meeting concerning the PA 147/US 11 Reconstruction Project on August 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Old Business

1. Liberty Hollow Culvert Replacement - Engineers from Hazen and Sawyer attended the street committee meeting to discuss the plans for the project. They project that the bids will be let in August. A request has been submitted to FEMA for a time extension.
2. Mr. Klock stated that NEIC would like to make two minor changes to the contract. The Borough solicitor has advised that if agreeable, council would have to rescind the first offer and vote on the revised offer. Mr. Klock read the requested changes.

Mr. Klock moved to rescind the agreement for services with NEIC effective July 7, 2015. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved 4-1 with Mr. Ruane voting no.

Mr. Klock moved to accept NEIG's latest agreement for services that were received from the Borough's solicitor today with the revisions proposed by NEIC in Sections 2c and 2d. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council voted 4-1 to approve with Mr. Ruane voting no.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$22,677.60; bills to be paid from the Donations Account total \$40.00; Parking Meter Fund bills total \$375.33; Liberty Splashland bills total \$4,132.82; and Sewer Department bills total \$160,485.37.
2. Richard Hort has submitted his resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Ruane moved to accept his resignation. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. Ron Frost and Jeff Farrow have requested the use of King Street Park on October 10th for "Sharon Budd Day". Mr. Klock moved to approve the request and waive the fee for the use of the park. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
4. Todd Wenrich has submitted his resignation as a part-time employee with the Street Department effective with his last day of work on July 24th. He has accepted a full-time position with Furmano's. Mr. Troup stated that he appreciates everything Todd has done for the Borough and wishes him well at Furmano's. Mr. Wynn moved to accept the resignation. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup announced that the council would go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. and reconvened at 9:06 p.m.

Mr. Wynn left the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Mr. Troup made a motion to advertise the part-time position for streets. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council voted 3-0-1 to approve. Mr. Sees abstained.

Mr. Troup made a motion that Ann August will start full-time employment on Monday, July 20th, at the same rate of pay with 2.5 personal days, 5 vacation days and 3.5 sick days. Her accumulated time will be four years. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Mr. Troup and Mr. Ruane voted yes; Mr. Sees and Mr. Klock voted no. Mayor Zboray voted yes. Motion carried.

The Borough Secretary informed the council that she attended a meeting today presented by East Coast Risk Management. The company is contracted through Keystone Insurer's Group to assist with workers' comp injuries. The company will work with the Borough to reduce the Borough's claims and outstanding liabilities to lower the rates for future insurance costs. The group also assists with obtaining a physicians' panel, accident prevention, claim reporting procedures, and developing return to work plans, reducing employer costs. The services are at no cost to the Borough. The company also assists employers with developing employee handbooks, at an additional cost. Mr. Troup suggested that council should have a work session to discuss it, or discussion could take place at one of the committee meetings.

Mr. Klock moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary