

Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
April 5, 2016

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Paul Boyer, Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Jim Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C. L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Ted McCollum, Street Supervisor/Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Ty Sees was absent.

Public Comment

Thirteen visitors introduced themselves. No comments were offered.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Boyer, the council meeting minutes of March 1, 2016 were approved unanimously.

Upon motion by Mr. Boyer, seconded by Dr. Cianflone, the council meeting minutes of March 15, 2016 were approved unanimously.

Northumberland Sewer Department

Mr. Mark Strahota, Hazen & Sawyer, informed council that there are three payment applications for council's consideration.

Mr. Boyer moved to approve payment number 10 to Fulkroad (contract 14-1G) in the amount of \$792,060.86. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wynn moved to approve payment number 9 to Myco (contract 14-2H) in the amount of \$5,794.38. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Troup moved to approve payment number 9 to Lecce (contract 14-3E) in the amount of \$31,787.45. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Strahota informed council that the General Permit for Liberty Hollow was approved this month. He recommended payment of application for payment number 1 to Mid-state Paving in

the amount of \$110,918.20. Mr. Boyer moved to approve the payment. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Strahota recommended that council authorize Mid-State Paving to complete the connections of two unforeseen utilities to the new stormwater pipe. The work change directive would be completed on a time and material basis with a “not to exceed” amount of \$9,900. A time extension of sixty days for this work is also requested. Mr. Wynn made a motion to approve the change order at a cost not to exceed \$9,900. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Strahota informed council that bids were opened for the Wheatley Avenue manholes. He recommended that council award the project to Mid-State Paving for a price not to exceed \$100,000. Mr. Boyer so moved. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruane stated that the sewer department would like to establish a bank account for tapping fees. Mr. Boyer so moved. The signers will be the same as the other bank accounts. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray told the council that the JROTC will be cleaning up area streets starting Monday, April 18th in conjunction with Earth Week.
- The meter money was collected and some of the batteries were replaced in the meters.
- The Memorial Day parade will be early this year. It will be held on May 30th, forming at King Street Park. The American Legion Post 44 will be in charge.
- Mayor Zboray noticed that the flag pole at the Front Street end of King Street Park needs to be painted. The pole is too high to reach the top with the bucket truck. PPL has offered to assist with painting the pole.
- Mayor Zboray spoke to Roseann Zies from SUNCOM. They would like to volunteer their services to clean up at the Northumberland Little House. He asked if anyone had any objections. No one voiced any objections. Mayor Zboray will give the contact information to Barbara Kistner.
- The mayor has administered the oath of office to the part-time officers Michael Vognetz and John Robbins. He noted that Officer Vognetz, a former officer in the Borough, is working; Officer Robbins is working on his certifications with Chief Kriner.

Street Supervisor/Code Enforcement Officer's Report

- Mr. Ted McCollum reported that UGI has started repairing the excavation cuts from last year. He stated that he has received a call from UGI representatives who want to meet with Mr. Ruane and Mr. McCollum on April 7th to discuss how they will proceed with the lane paving. They are looking for a permit to start additional work. Mr. McCollum said that an additional permit won't be issued until they clean up the cuts that were done last year.
- The street sweeper was inspected and service. Mr. McCollum added that he would check it out next week to make sure it is fully operational.
- Mr. McCollum placed a 24-hour video surveillance sign on the 2nd Street Playground.
- The drainage line has been installed at the Acorn Little League field. It is taking a lot of the water away.

- NorthShore Railroad is waiting on a permit from DEP so they can install a stone ditch between the railroad and the Priestley House property. They are surveying the area.
- Investors are interested in putting a craft brewery and restaurant at 611 Priestley Avenue. The area is zoned R-2 so a zoning hearing will be necessary.
- A couple is interested opening a bakery at 82 Queen Street. It was the former Daddario Barber Shop. Mr. McCollum requested that they provide him with all the information.
- Stop signs, snow emergency route signs, and all-way signs are on order.

Code Enforcement Report

- Mr. McCollum conducted 28 inspections; had six violations and twelve complaints.
- A Zoning hearing is scheduled for tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. regarding a resident at Water Street and Sheetz Avenue who wishes to have an auto repair shop in a garage behind his house.
- Five permits were issued.

Mr. McCollum read a resignation letter to the council. His resignation is effective April 15th. He provided council with copies of the letter.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Dr. Cianflone reported that the committee has not met since the last council meeting.
- On April 15th, volunteers will be installing playground equipment at Pineknott Park and painting sections of the Santa House.
- The committee will meet next Monday at 7:00 p.m. Rocky Baer will present the initial drawing for the gymnasium.
- Mr. Wynn stated that Mike Daddario approached him about getting the field ready for tournament games. Mr. McCollum stated that he spoke to Dick Simpson today about repairing the pitcher's mound.

Finance – no report

Personnel

Mrs. Rees stated that the committee has met and interviewed several candidates for positions at Liberty Splashland.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets

- Mr. Boyer reported that employees from the Street Department and Sewer Department have completed the CPR class and the Street Department employees have completed the Flaggers' course.
- The curbing in front of Fran Bogovich's house has been repaired.
- The two stop signs at Seventh and Orange Streets used to have small "2-way Stop" signs posted below the stop sign. Mr. Boyer requested that they be replaced. Mr. McCollum stated that he would see to it.

Old Business

1. Mr. Ruane tabled Resolution C-2016 (Police Retirement Contribution) until the police contract is settled.
2. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to appoint Ann Roll to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term ending December 31, 2017.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$56,109.75; Park and Recreation account bills total \$3,260.82; Liberty Splashland bills total \$56.06; Donations account bills total \$28.41 and Sewer Department bills total \$12,903.31.
2. Handicapped Sign Requests
Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council voted unanimously to approve the requests for handicapped signs from Jennifer Falso at 665 Wallace Street and Cathleen Eltringham at 329 Orange Street.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. for an Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

Mrs. Rees made a motion to hire Travis Fisher as the Manager of Liberty Splashland at a salary of \$450 per week; Tylor Dwonchyk as the Assistant Manager at \$8.00 per hour; and Connor Sees as head lifeguard at an hourly rate of \$7.50. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Boyer moved to accept Ted McCollum's resignation, effective April 15, 2016, and thanked Mr. McCollum for his service to the Borough. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wynn moved to advertise for a street supervisor. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Mrs. Walter requested the floor. She said that she didn't know that the time for the public to speak was at the beginning of the meeting. She said that she lives at Orange and Fifth Streets and is concerned about the construction project and their way of life. She said that she goes for a run at 5:30 in the mornings and feels safe. Her seven year old son is permitted to ride his bike around the block. She is concerned about the property value of her home. She said that after the meeting last Tuesday, she considered moving because she does not want to fight the traffic. She has read what was in the paper and is concerned that the council is not going to fight for the residents. She stated that she lives here for a reason and feels it is important to protect our lifestyle. She added that she is not proposing that the project not be done; but would like to know if it could be done in a different way. She asked where the council members stand.

Mr. Ruane stated that the council has met with PennDOT and has signed the letter with their concerns. Mr. Tira noted that PennDOT has agreed to include the Borough in the planning and discussions when they get to the details laying it out. PennDOT has not said every exact thing that they are going to do as far of the project. That will come as part of the construction phase. The council had raised concerns and informed PennDOT that they want to be part of that. The public will have input into it also. Mr. Ruane added that the roads are all in bad shape. He said that he lives at the corner of Water and Orange Streets. Mr. Boyer added that he lives at the corner of Front and Orange Streets and there will be a red light at his corner.

Mr. Drake Owen stated that he is concerned about the children. He said that children will be walking to the Christian School and to the Shikellamy Middle School. He said that this should be the council's main concern. He said that they can't take the stop signs out. He asked how they will keep the trucks from coming through town. Someone noted that she saw three trucks come down King Street.

Mr. Ruane asked why more people weren't present for the meetings with PennDOT, noting that there were only about thirty people at the most for the first two meetings. Someone questioned why the December meeting was held at Shikellamy. They were told that it was because of the number of people who were expected to attend.

Mr. Wynn asked where else the detour could be planned. He said that PennDOT has said that every business on Duke Street will be opened during the construction. Mr. Owen asked if council would talk to them about the free-flow traffic. Mr. Wynn responded that council has talked to them and that they did not say that they would take the stop signs.

Mr. Troup stated that he was raised in Northumberland. He feels that it is the citizens' responsibility to be more diligent with their kids. He noted the benefits that the residents are going to get out of this with the new roads.

Dr. Cianflone added that PennDOT has said that they will reduce the detour to a two-block span. When a section of Duke Street is completed, traffic will be allowed on that section and the detour will be moved. He also explained that a large percentage of the traffic will be eliminated by restricting thru traffic to trucks under 35 feet long. The traffic will be detoured to Route 15. Only trucks with local deliveries will be permitted. Mayor Zboray added that others will be ticketed. Dr. Cianflone said that if anyone has a better suggestion, council would take it to PennDOT.

Mayor Zboray noted that when PennDOT first met with the council, they were considering closing Duke Street completely. They also talked about closing Water Street from the Barry King Bridge to Duke Street and the Priestley Bridge. Council talked them into keeping one lane opened instead of complete closures. He added that meetings have been taking place for a few years. PennDOT, Lynda Culver, and Borough representatives met with the property owner at the corner of Water and King Streets several years ago and watched trucks driving over the curb and sidewalk. PennDOT is projecting that by 2044, there will be 35,000 vehicles a day traveling Water Street.

Someone noted that the paper said that traffic on these roads will double even with the bypass.

Ms. Sandy Miller asked what the council has requested of PennDOT. Dr. Cianflone stated that the original plan was to close Water Street from Duke Street to the bridge. Council requested that one lane be kept open, traveling south. They also planned to close King Street from the Priestley Bridge to Water Street. Now one lane will remain open, coming from Sunbury.

Mayor Zboray said that he asked if the project could be delayed. PennDOT responded that if the project is delayed, they couldn't guarantee that the money would be available. They also said that once Duke Street "starts going", it's going to go fast. If the road is not reconstructed and it starts to deteriorate, emergency work would take place to make the repairs and it wouldn't be done correctly, meaning to replace the utility lines and totally rebuild the street. Mayor Zboray noted that during heavy storms, Duke Street floods and it is necessary for a police officer to direct traffic. There is not enough drainage to go to the river because the last time PennDOT repaired Duke Street, they cut down the amount of drains. They will correct these problems to alleviate the flooding. Mayor Zboray said that during the construction, there will be frustration. But when the project is finished, the residents will be happy.

A resident of Orange Street asked if there is any consideration about the roads that are being used as detours. Mayor Zboray stated that PennDOT has said that they will video the roads before the detours are started and the streets will be repaired when the detour is ended.

Mayor Zboray said that other options were discussed for Priestley Avenue, permitting left turns. They are also considering the use of Dale Walter's property. Mayor Zboray noted that the original plan was to close Front Street completely, but are now going to keep one lane opened.

Someone suggested that the work could be done at night. Mr. Troup stated that this causes a secondary problem for the people that live along that street. He also noted that if the infrastructure under Duke Street is not done, the Borough could have to do that within the next five years which would come at a price to the taxpayers.

Mr. Bruce Killian stated that at the meeting at Shikellamy High School, the PennDOT officials listened to the residents and said that they would take the suggestions back to their superiors. He said that the meeting last week was a one-sided meeting. He thought it would be an informative meeting like this one; but it was a negative meeting. He noted that PennDOT is listening to people and they are working hard with the Borough to repair Duke Street at the least inconvenience to Northumberland and they are being fought tooth and nails.

Mrs. Rees stated that at the last meeting with PennDOT, when they discussed having shorter detours on Duke Street, she thought that this could be accomplished without removing any stop signs on King and Orange Streets. She plans to advocate for this at the next meeting with PennDOT. She said that she asked them about installing a traffic light at Fifth Street. She added that she is also concerned about the children walking to the schools.

Someone asked if the school district is informed about the project. Dr. Cianflone stated that he thinks the school board is meeting with PennDOT tomorrow night.

Mr. Wynn left the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Someone stated that they weren't aware of the first public meetings that PennDOT held; but the meeting held last week was better publicized. Ms. Barbara Kistner said that Representative Culver asked them (the steering committee) to get involved and they got the news around. She said that they thought it was time that everyone understood the plans. Mrs. Rees noted that PennDOT had sent notifications to all residents in the Borough. Someone else mentioned that residents in Point Township and Upper Augusta Township were also informed of the meeting at the high school last December. It was also discussed that Representative Lynda Culver met with residents at the Borough Building in February where the alternative detour plan to close Duke Street two to three blocks at a time was suggested.

Someone questioned if Orange and King Streets would be one way during the detours. They were told that the detour direct westbound traffic to Orange Street and eastbound traffic on King Street, but both streets will be two-way during the detour. He noted that parking will only be permitted on one side of the streets.

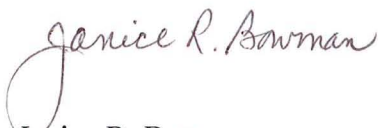
Mr. Ruane said that additional public meetings would be held with PennDOT.

Mr. Bingaman asked if PennDOT has provided an estimate of when they will have the final plan. Mr. Ruane said that they haven't yet provided that information.

In response to someone's question, Mayor Zboray stated that by eliminating the tractor trailers, except for local deliveries, the traffic on the detours will not be as heavy.

Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice R. Bowman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary