

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council
Special Meeting and Meeting Minutes March 7, 2023

Council President Paul Ruane called the Special Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mr. Winston Ortiz offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Mr. Paul Ruane, Dr. Denise Guilbault, Mr. Frank Wetzel, Ms. Kaitlyn Simmons, Mr. Winston Ortiz and Mr. Charles Stroup. Others present were Ms. Melissa Kelso, Borough Solicitor, Mayor Daniel Berard; Mr. Jeremy Deitrick, Wastewater Superintendent; Mr. C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; and Ms. Ann Zartman, Borough Manager.

Special Meeting

Mrs. Kelso spoke regarding the property Shirley Marato owns where there is a portion of the house/garage on 8th @ Westway. They cannot sell property until that portion is vacated. After examination of the plans provided by their solicitor, our primary concern plowing will have enough room. In the ordinance, the owners cannot build or expand existing buildings, and it gives the borough a right of way. Mr. Wetzel made the motion to approve the ordinance on the vacation of the agreed portion of 8th Street, Mr. Ortiz seconded. All approved, motion carried. The Special Meeting was closed at 6:35

Mr. Ruane opened the regular council meeting at 6:35 pm.

Public Comment on Agenda Items - none

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard read the report on the activity of the Police Department for the month of February. The police issued 18 traffic and 1 non-traffic citations, and 45 parking tickets. They responded to 205 calls for service, made 17 court appearances and trained for 24 hours. Several people were arrested for the misdemeanor and felony crimes of Aggravated Assault, Contempt for violation of order agreement, False Identification to law enforcement, Fleeing or attempting to elude police, Flight to avoid apprehension, and DUI. The police responded to 25 assist calls for the month; 6 to Point Township, 11 to Sunbury, and 8 to other agencies.

Sewer Department Report

Mr. Stroup made a motion to approve the Kenyon Pipeline payment application #4 for \$3,195.00. Ms. Simmons seconded the motion, all approved and motion carried.

Street Department Report

Nothing to report

NEIC Report

Ms. Jackie Hart of NEIC reported one zoning permit was issued in February, and \$50 in zoning permit fees were collected. One council meeting was attended by Ms. Jackie Hart. Six (6) building permits were issued, and \$3,334.50 in building permit fees collected. Four (4) complaints were lodged and reviewed. Two (2) street cut permits were issued, resulting in \$700 in fees collected.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Ms. Simmons updated everyone on the check to Ameriglide has been sent, and the project is moving forward.

Finance – no report.

Personnel

Mr. Ortiz reviewed that Mr. John Symanski was hired and has started. He recognized Mr. Jeremy Detrick for 10 years his service. Mr Ortiz will be getting a plaque for Mr. Deitrick, paid by Mr. Ortiz.

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel reported Chief Kriner received a recommended list of lights for the office, police and playground. He requested the the March meeting be moved to Wednesday the 22nd at 6:00 pm; all agreed to the change.

Rules

Dr. Guilbaut moved to accept Ordinance 2023-A adopting updated Chapter 31, Residential Rental Registration. Ms. Simmons seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Streets

Mr. Ruane reviewed the paving bids, costs have significantly increased and roads to be paved will need to be decreased from expectations. Ms. Francene Bogovich asked if Susquehanna Road is on the list. Mr. Ruane said it is not because PA Water will be doing some work.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

Payment of Bills

Mr. Wetzel made a motion for the payment of bills; Mr. Stroup seconded. All approved, motion passed. Bills to be paid from the General Fund totaled \$ 60,800.77; and Sewer Department bills totaled \$116,361.71.

Public Comment

Shaun Sutton concerned that employees are not allowed to carry self-defense. He was also curious about Pinekontter Days parking, blocking off 4 blocks. Why doesn't PKD use Pinekontter Park, with some type of public transportation to it with small fee, lots of room for vendors.

Mr. Ruane responded it's been there 50 years, they're not going to change. As to Block Parties, its tied into the Brewery. The no alcohol is suspended for those events. Mayor Berard stated that through the years the infrastructure at King St Park has been built for vendors and is not there at Pineknottter Park. It would be economically unfeasible. Mr. Ortiz expanded on the weapons, he has been an instructor on non-leathal weapons. We cannot authorize use due to liability, only officers who are trained can use non-leathal weapons. Mayor stated the borough crew can have pepper spray if they wish to be trained. As to guns, as to the safety of everyone the employees who should be carrying handguns should be the Police. Mr. Stroup recommended coming to the Pineknotters

Days meeting on Thursday to discuss moving to Pineknott Park, he also invited MR. Sutton to Public Safety meetings.

Amanda McClain, borough resident, inquiring about the Riverboat. Mr. Wetzel directed Nate Boyer as the go to guy. Amanda is also Secretary at Point Township and as such mentioned that when it is in the water it is in Point Township. Point Township concerns about liability. Ms. Zartman mentioned she believes the Fish and Game Commission oversees Lake Augusta when the Riverboat would be in service. The next meeting for the Riverboat Society is 3/21 at the Social Club on the island.

Adjournment

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn, Mr. Ortiz seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Zartman

Borough Manager