

Borough of Northumberland

175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857

Northumberland Borough Council Minutes September 5, 2023

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

Roll Call

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

Changes to the Agenda requiring a vote - none

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mayor's Report

Council President Paul Ruane read the report on the activity of the Police Department for the month of August. The police issued 28 traffic and 7 non-traffic citations, and 87 parking tickets. They responded to 231 calls for service, made 24 court appearances and trained for 46.5 hours. Several people were arrested for DUI. The police responded to 37 assist calls for the month; 13 to Point Township, 8 to Sunbury and primary on 2; and 14 to other agencies. Milage for the month was 1,572.

Sewer Department Report

Mr. Stroup reported the budget process has started, the first meeting was August 21st. The next budget meeting will be Sept 18th at 1 pm. Mr. Stroup made a motion to accept the bid from Peak Utilities for locator services utilizing CCTV for \$10,600 for the Liberty Hollow Project. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Dr. Guilbault requested an explanation of the services. Mr. Deitrick explained that the funds are part of the American Cares Act. LIVIC recommended CCTV of the lines to get a condition assessment of the lines we're improving. LIVIC put it out to bid, Peak was the lowest bidder. All approved, motion carried.

Street Department Report

Mr. Ruane commented that milling started today on Westway, Sheetz and North. Paving will start tomorrow.

NEIC Report

Mr. Bill Brady of NEIC reported for August: 6 zoning permits were issued resulting in \$641.54 in zoning permit fees collected; 1 council meeting was attended by Ms. Jackie Hart; 4 building permits were issued, and \$2,438.64 in building permit fees were collected; 22 complaints were lodged and reviewed; 20 code violations were addressed, 6 quality of life tickets were written; 22 Quality of Life tickets for grass in the street were issued; 2 citations were issued; \$375 was collected for Quality of Life Tickets; no street cut permits were issued. 10 Rental properties were inspected, and \$4,420 was collected in inspection/license fees. Mr. Ruane commented that the Quality of Life tickets are proving to be successful.

Committee Reports

Community Development – no report

Finance

The initial budget meeting was held. Ms. Zartman brought up the need to purchase a Skid Steer. The original price is around \$101,000. However, with the trade in and CoStars the price comes down

to \$65,000. However, the bank has not gotten back with the loan percentage. Solicitor Kelso indicated there were too many missing variables so no vote can be made on the purchase. The topic was tabled until the October meeting.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel thanked Nate Boyer for moving the barricades around. Block Party appeared to be a success. The lights that were strung across the streets, quite a few would like them all year round. Mr. Wetzel indicated that would need to come to a Community Development meeting, and trucks would need to be told to go around.

Mr. Wetzel inquired about the letter to the railroad regarding the crossing on Hanover. Ms. Zartman apologized as she had not yet written the letter.

Rules - Nothing to report

Payment of Bills

Mr. Wetzel made a motion for the payment of bills; Mr. Ortiz seconded. Mr. Wetzel questioned the electric bill for the Little House. Ms. Zartman replied there have been recent rentals. All approved, motion passed. Bills to be paid from the General Fund totaled \$121,353.28; and Sewer Department bills totaled \$112,896.87.

Public Comment - none

Executive Session regarding real estate at 6:45 pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Stroup moved to adjourn, Mr. Wetzel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Zartman
Borough Secretary