

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting November 15, 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, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Ellie Rees was absent.

Public Comment

No comments were offered.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that he administered the oath of office to Fire Police Officer Patti Gessner. He reported that one of the Fire Policemen, Gary McNeir, has retired after 32 years on the job. Mayor Zboray wished him the best in his retirement.
- The annual Veteran's Day Ceremony was held at the Riverview Cemetery on November 13th and was well attended. Ken Lenig, a Northumberland native, was the guest speaker.
- Mayor Zboray noted that a motion is required for free parking in the downtown meter area. Mr. Wynn moved to have free parking from Monday, November 28 to January 2nd. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Santa arrives on Monday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the King Street Park.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Brian Probst attended the Daily Item Reception for the "Best in the Valley" where he received the award for Liberty Splashland as the best pool in the valley.

Mr. Probst stated that he is interested in making salt brine to spray the streets before a storm comes. He said that they have the salt and the water; they need tanks to make it in. He said that it can be paid for with Liquid Fuel funds. He said that he is thinking of putting a three-hundred gallon tank on the back of the pickup. He said that it takes about 20-25 gallons per mile. He said that this would melt up to two inches of snow and once the street is plowed, it is taken down to the pavement. He feels it would cut down the amount of salt that is used and the hours of labor.

Mr. Ruane said that he received a complaint from a resident who got a ticket for parking on the street and the leaf picker did not go down his street. It was noted that the signs are posted per the parking ordinance, whether or not the leaf picker is run.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Ruane conducted the bid opening for the Gymnasium Electrical Contract. The bids are as follows:

| Contractor | Bid Amount | Alternate Bid | Total Bid |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Joe Young</i> | <i>\$23,500</i> | <i>\$750</i> | <i>\$24,250</i> |
| <i>Paige Electrical Services, LLC</i> | <i>\$15,900</i> | <i>\$375</i> | <i>\$16,275</i> |
| <i>Mid-State Commercial Contractors, Inc.</i> | <i>\$18,429</i> | <i>\$1,863</i> | <i>\$20,292</i> |
| <i>Spotts Brothers, Inc.</i> | <i>\$24,420</i> | <i>\$2,200</i> | <i>\$26,620</i> |
| <i>TRA Electric, Inc.</i> | <i>\$18,850</i> | <i>-----</i> | <i>\$18,850</i> |

Mr. Wynn moved to award the bid to Paige Electric Services LLC, with the alternate bid, for a total of \$16,275. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

- Dr. Cianflone noted that the committee discussed the pool season. He stated that he would like to transfer \$28,020.81 from Liberty Splashland to General Fund for payroll expenses and \$14,153.75 from the General Fund to Liberty Splashland which was received as PHEAA and Degenstein grants. The net result is to transfer \$13,867.06 from Liberty Splashland to General Fund. Mr. Boyer so moved. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Mr. Sees questioned why it is being done through Community Development and not Finance. Dr. Cianflone replied that the committee was discussing what it was going to do to the pool next year and the season's finances were discussed. Mr. Sees asked what was remaining in the pool account. He was told that about \$5,700 remains in the pool account. However, the pool still owes the General Fund \$15,000. Discussion ensued. Council voted unanimously to approve the transfer of funds.
- Several contractors were contacted for quotes to drywall the gymnasium. Only one contractor was willing to provide a quote because of the size of the project. Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve up to \$19,500 for drywall and plaster for the gym. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Dr. Cianflone made a motion to keep the fees the same for the pool for 2017. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Finance

Mr. Sees stated that the committee would meet next week to finalize the 2017 budget.

Personnel

Dr. Cianflone made a motion to accept Jane G. Sanders-Ressler's resignation. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. Mr. Ruane tabled Resolution C-2016, Police Retirement Contribution.
2. The highest bidder did not take the 1999 Ford Crown Victoria. Dr. Cianflone made a motion to accept the second highest bid of \$400 from Norman H. Lahr Jr. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$14,174.48; Park and Recreation bills total \$363.21; Parking Meter Fund bills total \$450.00; Donations Account bills total \$270.81; and Sewer Department bills total \$115,648.80.
2. The Blue Cross Renewal increase for 2017 for the Borough is 1.03%; the Sewer Department cost increase is 1.31%. Mr. Troup made a motion to renew the Blue Cross Insurance Plan. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. Mrs. Reber from Water Street stated that she was at the meeting to discuss an unopened alley behind her and her neighbor's properties. Mr. Ruane stated that the neighbor gave him the paperwork and the problem has been resolved. Discussion ensued.

Northumberland Sewer Department

- Mr. Jeremy Deitrick informed council that the new plant has been started and so far everything is working okay.
- He presented the rate study that was conducted by RETTEW. Mr. Deitrick stated that the existing rates are \$25 per month for collection and treatment and \$4.00 per 1000 gallons for usage. The proposed new rates are \$30 per month for collection and treatment and \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons for usage. The average charge would be \$49.36 per month. This is an increase of \$10.28 per month. Mr. Troup made a motion to approve the 2017 rates for the Northumberland Borough Sewer Department. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The increase on the flat rate will be on the January 2017 bills. The usage increase will begin with the April 2017 bills. Mr. Troup amended his motion to include that the rates are based on the information provided to the council from the study conducted by RETTEW. Mr. Wynn amended his second. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Deitrick requested that council amend the resolution that was passed at a prior meeting. The amount requested for the CFA grant was incorrect. The correct amount is \$97,067.88. Mr. Boyer moved to amend the resolution to reflect this amount. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

PennDOT

Mr. Boyer noted that Representative Lynda Culver will be at the Degenstein Library on November 22nd at 10:00 a.m. He suggested that council attend the meeting and express their dissatisfaction

with PennDOT for not notifying the council that the reconstruction project is going to be a four-year project, not a two-year project. Also, PennDOT wants to use Prince Street for a detour. The consensus of the people at a meeting was to use King and Orange Streets. He added that Prince Street is not an acceptable detour due to the Shikellamy Middle School and the pool located on this street. Mr. Troup added that if the project is going to take four years, they should wait until the bridge is done. He added that they should be held to the original plan.

Northumberland Sewer Department

- Mr. Deitrick asked if council would like them to send letters to the customers explaining the rate increase. Council agreed that letters should be sent. Mr. Deitrick asked if someone should explain the rate increase to Point Township. Council stated that he should send a letter to them, the same as the other customers. Mr. Deitrick stated that he is concerned that the money is not coming in from Point Township and the PennVest loan payments will be due next year. Mr. Deitrick stated that when Point Township does pay, they are paying \$2.67 per thousand gallons instead of the \$4.50 per thousand gallons that is due.
- Training for the treatment plant will be held on November 30th from 11:30 to 3:30.

Personnel

Mr. Wynn made a motion to advertise for a part-time office clerk. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council voted 5-1 to approve with Mr. Sees voting no.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane stated that the council would go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and the meeting would not be reconvened.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,




Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary