

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting February 5, 2019

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mayor Dan Berard offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Orlando Toro, and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Berard; Ryan Tira, Solicitor; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Brian Probst, Street Department Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Paul Boyer and Ty Sees were absent.

Mr. Ruane announced that PennDOT representatives are not going to be present tonight. However, a public meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

- Mr. and Mrs. Walker asked about the progress of the Priestley Avenue project. Mr. Ruane explained that council is working on getting the funding for the project. There are possibilities that SEDA-COG Rail Authority and PPL may contribute toward the project.
- Mr. Robert Rowe informed the council that his vehicle was covered with wood chips after the Borough crew cut up a tree that fell during the storm. He also noted that the crew plows snow over a drain that goes to the river and they do not return to clear the drain. He has requested that they not plow snow on the drain. Mr. Brian Probst responded that he was with the crew and they had apologized to Mr. Rowe for the wood chips on his car. He apologized again and said that he would check on the storm drains. Mr. Rowe asked about the work being done by the contractor along the north branch of the river. He was informed that the contractor is installing riprap to stabilize the riverbank. Mr. Rowe noted that the trucks have tracked dirt on Queen Street which is how they access the riverbank. Mr. Toro requested that Mr. Probst check the drains throughout the town because he has noted others that are clogged.
- Mr. Jon Apple requested that council approve a new Fire Policeman, Charles William Walters. A background check was provided. Upon motion by Dr. Cianflone, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council unanimously approved the appointment of Charles William Walters to the Fire Police.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

- Mr. Jeremy Deitrick provided a list of documents to be shredded and requested council approval. He added that every document that must be kept is being kept. Dr. Cianflone moved and Mr. Toro seconded the motion to shred the documents on the list. Council vote was unanimous to approve the motion.
- Mr. Deitrick recommended final payment to Lecce in the amount of \$49,500. Mr. Tira noted that Lecce has acknowledged that the couple items that are opened are warranty items. Mr. Troup moved to approve the \$49,500 final payment to Lecce. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Deitrick provided council with the bulk customer reconciliation for 2018. Point Township is to receive a credit of \$366,985.39 and Upper Augusta Township is to receive a credit of \$20,428.71. Mr. Deitrick noted that Point Township currently owes the Borough Sewer Department \$1,469,252.06. Mr. Toro moved to approve the reconciliation for 2018 and credit the amounts of \$366,985.39 to Point Township and \$20,428.71 to Upper Augusta Township. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported that in January the police issued 24 traffic citations and two non-traffic citations. They received 240 calls for service and made 40 court appearances. Several people were arrested for misdemeanor crimes, some of which included simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, terroristic threats, and DUIs. There were 33 assist calls for the month; nine to Point Township, ten to Sunbury, and 14 to other agencies. The police logged 1,189 miles of travel in the box.

There is now a drug box located in the lobby of the police station where residents may drop off their prescription drugs which will be disposed of properly.

Mayor Berard made a proclamation for National School Choice Week which was observed from January 20th to January 26th.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ms. MaryKay Clark provided a written report which was read by Mr. Ruane. For the month of January, three permits were issued. There was one zoning meeting. Permit fees were \$198.50. Eleven code violations and seven citations were issued. There were 12 complaints. 47 miles were traveled. There were two street cut permits issued for total fees of \$1,000. There were nine rental inspections completed for \$450 and six re-checks for \$90.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Ruane noted that Mr. Probst provided the council with a written report of the Street Department's activity.

Committee Reports

Streets – Mr. Ruane reported that the committee did not meet last month.

Community Development

- Dr. Cianflone reported that four companies have been contacted to provide quotes to install an HVAC system in the gymnasium. Two of the companies determined that it was too big of a job. The two other companies provided prices.
- Dr. Cianflone reported that the rebuilt pump from the pool was put on Municibid. The YMCA had the lone bid of \$300. Dr. Cianflone moved to accept the bid; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council voted 4-1 to approve with Mr. Troup voting no.
- Dr. Cianflone stated that Brian Auman was contracted to provide a plan for the Liberty Hollow area. He has completed his recommendations and will be invited to the next Community Development Committee meeting which is scheduled for February 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- Comedy Night at the American Legion is being planned as a fundraiser for the 2022 Pineknoller celebration. The event will take place on February 16th.
- John Supsic, owner of the Carpet Man, has stated that he is able to install the floor in the gym. He will provide a price for the installation work.
- Dr. Cianflone read an agreement between the Borough and Lewis Carl Jr. to purchase and remove the Bowl Slide by June 1, 2019 for \$3,500. Mr. Carl has provided a certificate of insurance. Dr. Cianflone moved to approve the sale of the Bowl Slide to Lewis Carl Jr. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Troup voting no.
- It was learned that the parts for the installation of the generator are on back order.
- Mr. Tira noted that the quotes for the HVAC require three quotes. The two contractors who did not provide quotes should not be counted. Another contractor will be contacted.

Finance

Mr. Troup moved to approve Ordinance 2019-1. This ordinance fixes the Real Property Tax Rates for 2019 based on the 2019 approved budget. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The rates are 27 mils for general purposes, 2.3 mils for debt service, and 2.7 mils for fire services. There is a 2% discount for payments made by April 30th and a 10% penalty for taxes paid after June 30th. The rates are the same as 2018 rates.

Personnel

Mrs. Rees stated that she has personnel issues to discuss in Executive Session.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. Mrs. Rees made a motion to approve the council meeting minutes of November 5, 2018, December 4, 2018, and January 2, 2019. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved 4-0-1. Dr. Cianflone abstained because he was absent at one of the meetings.

New Business

1. Mr. Troup announced that he is resigning as of the close of business tonight because he is moving out of the Borough. Dr. Cianflone moved to accept his resignation; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
2. Mrs. Rees made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$67,552.16; Liberty Splashland bills total \$46.80; and Sewer Department bills total \$109,871.56.
3. Mr. Ruane requested that the vacant seat on the Borough Council be advertised.
4. Mayor Berard informed council that he delivered the oath of office to the new fire chief, Brian Ginck.

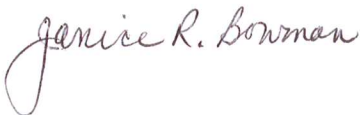
Executive Session

Mr. Ruane adjourned the council meeting for an Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, potential litigation and contract negotiations. The meeting was reconvened at 8:11 p.m.

Mrs. Rees made a motion to pay all part-time officers, including any new hires, \$20.26 per hour. This is the amount that the highest part-time officer is currently being paid. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Mayor Berard noted that all the officers are in favor of this proposal. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary