

Borough of Northumberland

CODE DEPARTMENT
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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting May 7, 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 Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Berard; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council members Ty Sees, and Kaitlyn Simmons were absent.

PennDOT Update

Ms. Mindy Foresman explained that the contractor is installing new curbs and sidewalks on Front Street. Paving is anticipated for mid-June and should be completed by Pineknotters' Days. The work on Water Street is ongoing. Stone is being installed because the contractor hit unstable soil and had to stabilize the ground. They plan to pave the asphalt this week and concrete a section of the street next week. More work will be done on the curbs after the paving. Duke Street should be paved with asphalt next week from Depot to Front Street. It will have a concrete roadway from the intersection to Depot. This work will be completed by Pineknotters' Days.

The underpass should be completed in two weeks; however, traffic will remain southbound only until the work on Water Street is completed.

The next phase of work will begin after Pineknotters' Days and will be the reconstruction of King Street from the Priestley Bridge to Front Street.

Mr. Greg Shaffer asked if the traffic light at Front and King Streets could be reset to allow two cycles for vehicles traveling south on Route 11. He said that there is not enough time for vehicles to get through the light and traffic backs up. The traffic light on Front Street at Orange Street should remain the same. Ms. Foresman stated that they will look into changing the timer.

Mr. Ruane had a question about a storm pipe that is under Wheatley Avenue. Mr. Deptula noted that they hit a storm pipe at Water Street and Wheatley Avenue which wasn't on the

maps and was full of water. It also was not connected to the system. Ms. Foresman said that a new storm pipe is being installed and will be connected to an inlet.

Mr. Ruane requested that the contractor keep the entrance to Pineknott Park ballfield open. Ms. Foresman stated that the entrance at the Fire Police Building is to be kept open; the entrance closer to the underpass will be closed until that work is finished. The contractor will be paving Water Street from the bridge to the underpass.

Mr. Wetzel said that at the last meeting, someone had asked about moving the barriers on King Street closer to Water Street, so vehicles don't try to turn left on Water Street. Ms. Foresman stated that they cannot be moved any closer because of the blunt ends which would be a liability.

Public Comment

- Mr. Dave McGinley asked when the work would begin at the Priestley Avenue culvert. Mr. Tira advised that he has paperwork concerning the construction easement and the long-term maintenance agreement for Mr. McGinley and Mr. and Mrs. Walker to sign. The document also provides for each party to pay \$625 toward the engineering costs. This is one quarter of the engineering fees. The Borough and SEDA-COG Rail Authority are paying for the costs to remove the pipe and install a 20-foot pipe and riprap from the end of the pipe to the underground outlet that connects to the culvert going under the railroad. SEDA-COG is contributing around \$5,000 of the \$73,000 project.

Mr. McGinley stated that an open trench is not the best option. Mr. Tira noted that the open trench is DEP's preferred choice. Mr. McGinley stated that he feels that the best option is to install pipe the length of the culvert.

Mrs. Walker stated that they are not worried about the open trench flooding. She said that their concern is how to maintain the open area that has the riprap.

Mr. Tira stated that the Borough would provide the specs from the engineer to the property owners. He recommended that the property owners take the agreements to their attorneys to review.

- Mr. Jon Apple, Northumberland Fire Police Captain, informed council that Brad Woodring would like to be accepted as a member of the Fire Police. He added that Mr. Woodring is a member of the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company and has provided a background check. Mrs. Rees made a motion to accept Brad Woodring as a member of the Northumberland Fire Police. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Toro requested that Mr. Woodring provide some information about his background. Mr. Woodring responded that he is interested in volunteering and had no background with a fire department; but has now taken some courses offered to the fire police.

Mayor Berard administered the oath of office to Mr. Woodring.

- Ms. Denise Guilbault asked what the residents do with yard waste. Mr. Ruane stated that the Borough does not have anything at this time. Mrs. Fran Bogovich requested that the council have a spring cleanup for yard waste, not trash. Mr. Ruane stated that there is a Street Committee meeting next week where this could be discussed. Mr. Wetzel stated that he agrees that the Borough should provide this service. He noted that when he was on Borough Council before, Sunbury purchased equipment through a recycling grant in conjunction with the Borough that mulched yard waste which was provided to residents for free. Mr. Tora stated that the committee would meet next Tuesday at 7:00. He added that the committee has been looking into what operating procedures sister boroughs have in place. Mr. Toro noted that the public is invited to all committee meetings.
- Ms. Debra Gutelius lives at the corner of Hanover Street and Sawmill Avenue. She explained that there is a pipe at the corner near the stop sign. After a heavy rain, water was shooting out of the pipe along with debris. The sewer employee inserted a red dye to see if it was sewer water; however, the dye did not appear in the manholes. They could not determine the pipe's direction. Mr. Jeremy Deitrick stated that the pipe is filled with rocks and runs in the grass alongside the road. He tried to follow it with a metal detector; but lost it. The water is clear. There is nothing on sewer records showing that it is part of the sewer system or on Borough records, showing that it is part of the storm water system. Ms. Gutelius said that she thinks the pipe needs to be connected. Mr. Tira explained that the pipe may not be a legal connection and may not be intended to be part of the system. He added that there is not enough information. Mr. Tira questioned if someone could have put a pipe there to drain water from their property. Mr. Deitrick stated that it could be a pipe installed to divert underground water. Mr. Wetzel stated that he lives on Wallace Street and there are springs all through that area. Mr. Ruane suggested that the pipe be plugged to see what happens. Mr. Tira questioned if the pipe is in the Borough right-of-way. Mr. Deitrick stated that it is close. Mr. Tira advised that this could have been a home-made project, and the Borough would not have the right to plug the pipe. If it is creating a problem on a Borough street, the property owner should be notified to take care of it and if he doesn't, then plug it. Mrs. Rees asked if the pipe had raw sewage. Mr. Deitrick replied that he did not see any, adding that the paper that was found could have been used to plug the pipe. Mr. Toro stated that the street manager is out right now; but when he gets back on Monday, they will make an assessment.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

Mr. Ruane stated that RETTEW, the engineering firm that is following the PennDOT project. They have provided a PA-DEP Chapter 94 Wastewater Management Report. Mr. Deitrick noted that Utility Services Group will soon be starting the 2018 I&I project to rehab roughly eleven manholes.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard reported that for the month of April, the police had 321 calls for service. 83 traffic citations and 4 non-traffic citations were issued. There were 28 court appearances. Several people were arrested for felony and misdemeanor crimes, some of which include

unsworn falsifications, indecent assault, simple assault, strangulation, tampering with evidence, DUIs, drug offenses, and harassment.

There were 27 assisted calls for the month; nine to Point Township, 8 to Sunbury, and 10 to other agencies. The police logged 1,543.4 miles for the month.

Committee Reports

Streets

Mr. Toro reported that improvements are being made to the playground. He added that he thinks that the street department is headed in a positive direction with a little bit of motivation given to them. They have completed the WestWay project. The street sweeper is out of commission but should be back soon. The area around the bridges between Seventh and Eighth Streets have been improved.

Community Development

- Dr. Cianflone reported that some of the equipment at the pool has been posted on Municibid Items
- Jean Seitzer, a candidate for Borough Council, was present for the committee meeting.
- The shrubs in the Gretchen Brosius Garden, located outside the handicap entrance to the Borough Building, will be trimmed by Andy York at no cost to the Borough. He has also proposed trimming the shrubs in front of the Borough Building with assistance from the Street Department who will mulch the area.
- A resident on Queen Street has requested permission from the Borough Council to hold a block party on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. The area is on Queen Street between Duke and Depot Avenue which is closed due to the construction on Water Street. Mr. Tira advised that the council could conditionally approve the application to conduct the block party. Dr. Cianflone made a motion to approve the block party on Queen Street. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. The access from the post office to Queen Street will be opened. Council approved unanimously.
- Three quotes were received for installation of an HVAC system for the gymnasium. They are \$22,800 from the HVAC Guys; \$14,350 from Star Mechanical HVACR Service; and \$39,720 from Comfort Specialists, Inc. Mr. Wetzel moved to accept the bid of \$14,350 from Star Mechanical HVACR Service. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mrs. Rees asked if the Borough has the funds for the project. She was informed that donations from foundations and individuals have been received that are designated for improvements to the gymnasium. Council approved unanimously.
- When the committee met, they authorized the Borough Office to list items from the pool on Municibid, with the understanding that the Borough Council would have to approve whether to accept the high bids for the items. The high bids received were \$30.05 for eight swimming tubes, \$625 for forty white plastic lounge chairs; \$160 each for two lifeguard stands; \$3,000 for the drop slides; and \$100 for the diving board. No bids were received for the dump tower. Dr. Cianflone made a motion that all the bids be accepted. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Finance

Mr. Wetzel reported that the Police Chief has requested permission to purchase a new police vehicle, a 2019 Dodge Charger from Zimmerman Enterprises, Inc. The list price is \$38,870. The Co-Star discount is \$13,264 which reduces the price of the vehicle to \$25,606. The 2012 unmarked Charger would be sold with the proceeds going toward the payment of the new vehicle. The funding would come from the 2020 capital purchases line item in the budget and the Parking Meter fund. Mr. Wetzel noted that this car is \$166 less than the 2015 Dodge Charger that was purchased. The warranty has expired on the 2012 vehicle. Mr. Wetzel added that a new dash camera has been purchased with money from the Savidge Trust. All the equipment needed for the vehicle can be moved over from the 2012 Charger.

Mr. Wetzel moved to purchase the new cruiser for \$25,606 from Zimmerman Enterprises, Inc. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wetzel moved and Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion to advertise the 2012 Dodge Charger on Municibid. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel

Mrs. Rees requested an Executive Session to discuss a personnel concern.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets

Mr. Ruane provided the paving bids that were received through the COG. The low bid was from New Enterprise in the amount of \$79,861.80. Mr. Toro made a motion to award the paving bid to New Enterprise. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Ruane reported that the Borough still has about \$60,000 in the Liquid Fuels fund.

Old Business

1. Council was informed that the settlement company has provided proof that Pennsylvania has issued a transfer tax refund to Michael and Tabitha Thomas and Brittany Schenck because they were related and should not have paid the transfer tax. The Borough had received transfer tax in the amount of \$750. Mr. Wetzel made a motion to refund a total of \$750 transfer tax to the two parties, Michael and Tabitha Thomas and Brittany Schenk. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

New Business

1. One additional bill was noted; MaryKay Clark's mileage reimbursement for \$22.04. Mrs. Rees moved to approved payment of the bills. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

2. Mrs. Rees moved to approve Resolution B-2019. This resolution sets the Uniform Plan contributions at 1.5% for 2019, per the union contract. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

"Resolution B-2019

WHEREAS, Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County, by Ordinance No. 465, entered into an agreement, dated January 18, 2000, with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board to provide a police pension plan; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 11 of said Agreement allows for the Borough to annually waive or reduce the required employee contributions; and

WHEREAS, Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County now desires to reduce the required member contributions for calendar year 2019 from five percent (5%) to one and five-tenths percent (1.5%).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 7th day of May, 2019, that in accordance with Ordinance No. 465 and the Agreement, dated January 18, 2000, the Borough agrees to reduce the required member contributions to the police pension plan for calendar year 2019 from five percent (5%) to one and five-tenths percent (1.5%); and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be filed with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board to so indicate the Borough's intent.

DULY ADOPTED this 7th day of May 2019, by Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County.

TALLY OF VOTES – YEAS 5 NAYS 0

ATTEST:

Secretary

BY: _____
President"

3. Mr. Toro moved to approve Resolution C-2019. This resolution authorizes PennDOT to request RR crossing alterations at Orange Street from the PUC. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

"Resolution C-2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, AUTHORIZING PENNDOT TO REQUEST RAILROAD CROSSING ALTERATIONS AT ORANGE STREET FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION.

Whereas, Orange Street is a public roadway under the jurisdiction of Northumberland Borough; and

Whereas, a railway operates through Northumberland Borough, which railway maintains a crossing over Orange Street; and

Whereas, in order for the crossing to be altered, such requests must be made to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") by and through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ("PennDOT");

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of Northumberland Borough as follows:

1. PennDOT is authorized on behalf and for Northumberland Borough to request approval of the PUC to permit the alteration of the Orange Street, at-grade, crossing (DOT# 264 182T) in Northumberland Borough.
2. PennDOT is authorized on behalf and for Northumberland Borough to request approval of the PUC to issue Notice to Proceed letters to the railroad for construction at the railway crossing at Orange Street in Northumberland Borough.

RESOLVED, this 7th day of May 2019, in public meeting duly noticed and assembled.

ATTEST:

Secretary

Northumberland Borough
By: _____
Council President

Certified true and correct copy of Resolution No. C-2019 adopted May 7, 2019 by the Council of Northumberland Borough."

4. Small Watershed Grants up to \$50,000 are available from the National Fish & Wildlife Federation. This is a Planning & Technical Assistance Program. There

is no “matching” requirement. Mrs. Rees moved and Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion to apply to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation for a Small Watershed Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for planning and technical assistance to manage upland urban runoff through green stormwater infrastructure improvements.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane adjourned the council meeting at 8:17 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues. He noted that the meeting would be reconvened.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

Mrs. Rees moved to advertise for an Assistant Waste-Water Superintendent; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wetzel made a motion to approve a resolution of the outstanding claims from MYCO for \$28,000, pending a satisfactory settlement agreement. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Toro moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Manager