

Newport Borough Council
August 7, 2018 – Regular Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

President Gerald Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Tami Halstead, Carl Roush, Richard Delancey, John McNaughton, Barbara Leach and Douglas Beatty present.

OTHERS PRESENT – Mayor Mary Hetrick and Secretary/Treasurer Heather Ilgenfritz.

GUESTS – Marty Smith, Luke Roman, George and Margaret Weltmer, Jacob Zentichko, Frank Campbell, and Kurt Kauffman

112-114 MARKET STREET PROPERTY UPDATE – Secretary Ilgenfritz reported that Mr. Beers called the Borough Office this afternoon to say that he was unable to attend the meeting due to the storm that passed through earlier that day. He had an emergency cooler repair situation at the River Bend Brewery. However, Mr. Beers did provide a status report stating they are currently waiting for a letter from Mid-Penn Bank that indicates no lien on the property which would clear the path for the purchase and renovation plan. The letter is pending, and Mr. Beers stated that he would continue to keep the Borough informed and will notify Council once the letter from Mid-Penn Bank is received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Kurt Kauffman, Kauffman’s Service Center, stated they would like in addition to servicing vehicles, to also conduct auto sales at the Service Center located on Market Street. Mr. Kauffman stated they had researched the Borough’s codes online and it appeared that automotive repairs, sales, and services are all within the same zoning. However, they are seeking Council’s approval to ensure they are in compliance with zoning and will also need a letter validating such to be sent in with their application to the State Board of Manufactures, Dealers, and Salespersons. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m Beatty to prepare a letter to allow the sale of automobiles at Kauffman’s Service Center as it complies with the Borough’s zoning ordinance. Motion unanimously carried.

George Weltmer, homeowner who resides on 5th Street in the Borough, explained his neighborhood lives in fear due to some juveniles and adults that are living on that street. He explained there has been ongoing vandalism by juveniles and the State Police have been called numerous times. However, it appears these juveniles and their parents, who are extremely disrespectful, go unpunished. Mr. Weltmer stated these are folks living on welfare and they can’t afford to live in their home. Mr. Weltmer stated that he has called the Borough’s Code Enforcement Officer numerous times regarding their trash and lawn. The State Police were called eight times in three weeks. The young boys steal, they are disrespectful and destructive to other people’s property. He has witnessed these kids throwing rocks at cars and they were messing with the contractor’s construction equipment. The State Police have responded but they tell Mr. Weltmer they can’t enforce the ordinances in the Borough. Mr. Weltmer stated he has lived in town for 41 years, has served his Country, but he is about to leave because of this situation. All of the housing in this town are now rentals or HUD housing. He said there are senior citizens who live in fear and the quality of life for the residents of this neighborhood has been drastically diminished. Mr. Weltmer said the Code Enforcement Officer has contacted the landlord who says that they are trying to evict these residents, but they are still living in the residence. Children & Youth have also been contacted as it appears these children do not attend school during the school year. Mr. Weltmer also expressed concern over drug activity in the neighborhood. Cl’m Halstead said that vandalism is not a Borough Code, it’s a law and vandalism reports would be a police matter. However, Cl’m Halstead acknowledged the problem noting nearly 62% of the homes in town are now rentals. Mr. Weltmer stated there needs to be some accountability, not only for the actions of those committing the crimes, but also by the landlords. President Robinson stated that while he sympathizes with the situation, Council can’t control the actions of the people. Mrs. Weltmer also spoke and stated that the State Police can’t babysit this town. She thanked the Borough Council members for the 5th Street Reconstruction Project noting the street is beautiful, it was long overdue, and they very much appreciate it.

DISCUSSION REGARDING BOROUGH-OWNED RECYCLING DUMPSTERS - Marty Smith, Perry County Maintenance, stated the County is looking to get a dumpster for the Food Bank. They were wondering if the Borough would consider selling back the recycling dumpsters to the County. They have contacted the Department of Environmental Protection to inquire about the transfer of the dumpsters. The transfer of dumpsters does have to be handled properly when

transferring the property and title from one entity to another. Cl'm Halstead asked the other Council members if the Borough would ever consider going back to having a recycling program. Cl'm Beatty stated he was in favor of selling the dumpsters. There was a brief discussion on price. Mr. Smith noted in order to transfer the ownership of the dumpsters, DEP approval would need to be obtained. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to sell the recycling dumpsters back to the County for \$400.00 (\$200.00 each) pending proper approvals by DEP. Motion unanimously carried. Mr. Smith stated that the County would advise the Borough once the official approval from DEP has been obtained to execute the transfer of ownership and transport of the dumpsters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to approve the meeting minutes of April 3, 2018; May 1, 2018 and June 5, 2018 as drafted. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Newport General Fund Account balance August 1, 2018 was \$275,243.03. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$7,309.23. Estimated income for the balance of August of \$19,360.74. Estimated expenses for the balance of August of \$31,211,74 will leave an estimated balance August 31, 2018 of \$256,082.80. Liquid Fuels Account balance August 1, 2018 was \$99,596.80. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$1,582.13 will leave a balance of \$98,014.37 in the Liquid Fuels Account. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Delancey to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$7,309.23 from the General Fund Account and \$1,582.13 from the Liquid Fuels Account. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

5th STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE –

- **POTENTIAL CHANGE ORDER** - Council President Robinson stated the project is complete and the Borough's Street Department painted the lines today. The Solicitor reviewed the project documents to see whether the proposed extension for paving an additional block could be done via a Change Order. He advised that it could not be done that it was beyond the scope of a Change Order. There was a brief discussion regarding researching using liquid fuels monies and the possibility of additional funding through a USDA loan.
- **INSPECTION FEES APPROVAL - 48 HOURS / \$720.00 – (INSPECTION DATES - JUNE 19, 20; JULY 19, 25, 26, 30; AUGUST 1, 2)** – President Robinson stated the Inspection Fees total 48 hours over six weeks. Cl'm Halstead disputed hours submitted for June 19th and June 20th noting those hours were prior to approval. Cl'm Halstead made a motion to pay 39 hours for Inspection noting the approval was on July 3, 2018. The motion on the table died for lack of a second. Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to accept the additional 9 hours and to change the motion that was made at the previous Council Meeting. The motion passed 4-3, with Cl'm Halstead, Cl'm Roush, and Cl'm Beatty opposed. Council President Gerald Robinson abstained. Mayor Hetrick cast her vote in favor of the motion to break the tie.
- **APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING INVOICES - 98200 – \$510.00; 97814 - \$29.83; 98193 - \$447.90** – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to approve paying the engineering invoices in the amount of \$510.00, \$29.83, and \$447.90. Motion unanimously carried.

2017/2018 SALT CONTRACT – REMAINING MATERIAL / STORAGE – Cl'm McNaughton stated that he spoke with the Borough Street Department and they will prepare for delivery of two more loads. They are going to move the anti-skid to make room for the delivery.

DISCUSSION REGARDING BOROUGH'S INSURANCE POLICY –

- **PROPERTY VALUATION ASSESSMENT** – There was a brief discussion regarding the Borough's Insurance Renewal. President Robinson is working to obtain a renewal quote from Cupp Insurance Agency, and is exploring other quotes as well. He will report back on this in the near future. It was noted the Borough needs to forward to Cupp's the proof of repair that was done to the roof of the Borough Office Building.

- **DYLAN SHERIDAN, N. 2ND STREET – ESTIMATE \$548.00** – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to table this request for reimbursement. There is not enough information and will need to see if there is further action before approving payment. Mr. Sheridan did not attend the meeting to discuss the request.

NEW BUSINESS-

APPROVAL OF PENNDOT RENEWAL AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL SNOW REMOVAL -WINTER SEASON 2018-19 – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to approve the PennDOT Renewal Agreement for Municipal Snow Removal for the Winter Season 2018-2019. Motion unanimously carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF 2% COMMISSION INCREASE FOR 2019 – There was a brief discussion regarding the request by Deborah Miller, Tax Collector, for a 2% commission rate increase in 2019. This would change the current rate of commission from 3% to 5%. Cl'm Halstead recommended tabling the request until the 2019 Budget has been determined to ensure there are funds. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to table the Tax Collector's request for a 2% commission increase until the Borough's Budget has been set and it's within the proper timeframe as part of the budget process to ensure the Borough is able to provide an increase. Motion unanimously carried.

RATIFY PAYMENT TO SWANK MOTION PICTURES - \$285.00 – AUG. 11TH MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK- Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to approve the payment made to Swank Motion Pictures in the amount of \$285.00 for the August 11th Movie Night in the Park event. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF PSAB FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR CL'M HALSTEAD – Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to approve Tami Halstead and anyone else who wishes to attend the PSAB Fall Leadership Conference up to \$200.00 and 1 night of hotel lodging expense. Motion unanimously carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Hetrick reported that she is working with the Code Enforcement Officer on some of the properties that have been cited. It's unfortunate that people are not taking pride in their properties. She stated there have been numerous complaints and residents want the town to be improved, and the Borough is working to do that, noting the 5th Street project and the work on 2nd Street with the new sanitary sewer lines. Yet, residents complain about the noise of the contractors. It's a no-win situation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Cl'm Halstead reported that she had met with the Deputy Director of Perry County EMA regarding the Emergency Operations Plan for the Borough. The Previstar software program which the Emergency Management Coordinator is provided access to by PEMA provides a template for municipalities to use. To bring the Borough into compliance, she is using this document to update the Borough's plan and will be bringing the completed document to Council to approve.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Roush moved, seconded by Cl'm Delancey to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Ilgenfritz
Secretary