

Newport Borough Council
January 2, 2019 – Regular Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

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

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

GUESTS – Gwyn Smith, Brenda Mayer, Jacob Zentichko, Frank Campbell, Luke Roman, Penny Frownfelter.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT – Guest Penny Frownfelter, Chair of the Flood Task Force, presented recommendations for an update of the Floodplain Ordinance along with inputs for the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Every municipality in a floodplain is required to have a floodplain management ordinance. She stated the Flood Task Force has been working with the SEDA-COG and the PA Municipal League over the past year to develop a new ordinance. The proposed updated ordinance being presented to Council for approval is very close to the national ordinance proposed by SEDA-GOG and the PA Municipal League that standardizes construction codes within floodplains. The intent of the ordinance is to promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the community; Encourage the utilization of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize flood damage in the future; Minimize damage to public health by protecting the water supply and reduce financial burdens imposed on the community; Comply with federal and state floodplain management requirements. The ordinance sets forth penalties that apply, along with an appeals process and clearly defines the floodplain and construction codes. Ms. Frownfelter said if enacted the proposed ordinance will protect the Borough, enhance property values, and help to reduce flood insurance rates.

Additionally, Ms. Frownfelter stated the next meeting for the Perry County Hazard Mitigation Plan is scheduled for January 7, 2019. The Flood Task Force is submitting a recommended list of mitigations, which are mostly flood related. This includes the permanent closure of the subway and erecting some type of levee or barrier along Big Buffalo Creek and the railroad. Another recommendation is to purchase properties considered to be high-risk for demolition. Frownfelter also discussed a matter the Newport Borough Water Authority has discussed to re-route a water pipe that is mounted under the Paul Reider Bridge (Market Street / State Route 34) where it has been since the flood of 1972, to under the Juniata River. This would eliminate the risk of having it struck by vehicles. Borough Council President Robinson again suggested the importance of having a mapping done of the Borough's storm water system. The data may already exist, but it needs to be compiled and organized. He noted that water could be diverted into Little Buffalo Creek using land adjacent to the firehouse. Frownfelter said the complete list of recommendations (there are eight items) are in the packets presented to Council for consideration and approval prior to the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to accept the recommendations and submit the County Hazard Mitigation Plan Inputs. Motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Resident Brenda Mayer requested an update regarding 334 North Fifth Street property and the code violations. She submitted to Council her observations as of Dec 28, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. – 3 stacked pallets, 2 large jugs, two smaller jugs at the rear west side, a spare tire at the front west side, an oozing stack of pumpkins at the front left; and a chair in the sidewalk front center. Mayor Hetrick reiterated the Code Enforcement Officer's report that indicated a citation had been issued on the 28th of December.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Newport General Fund Account balance January 1, 2019 was \$218,235.48. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$6,512.02. Estimated income for the balance of January of \$23,200.00. Estimated expenses for the balance of January of \$30,200.74 will leave an estimated balance January 31, 2019 of \$204,722.72. Liquid Fuels Account balance January 1, 2019 was \$91,138.51. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$429.95 will leave a balance of \$90,708.56 in the Liquid Fuels Account. Cl'm Delancey moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS – Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$6,512.02 from the General Fund Account and \$429.95 from the Liquid Fuels Account. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

REPORT OF STATUS OF USDA GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2019 – PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT – Council President Robinson stated they are close to selecting which equipment model to purchase. He is still compiling the pricing and various equipment features; however, it appears as though the cost will be approximately \$50,000. Once that information is determined the Borough can further explore USDA funding.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH NEWPORT BOROUGH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Council President Robinson reported the agreement has been sent to Solicitor Dissinger for his legal review. However, his office was closed for several days over the holidays and he has not yet received his legal opinion on this matter. Robinson will follow-up with Solicitor Dissinger later this week.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 373 – AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN JOINING THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT TRUST (PLGIT) – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to adopt Ordinance No. 373 authorizing Newport Borough's participation in joining the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust. Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS –

PLANNING COMMISSION ITEMS

• **MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS - PLANNING COMMISSION & SHADE TREE COMMISSION** – Gwyn Smith recommended appointment of Drew Gross to the Shade Tree Commission to replace Cody Harris who resigned. Ms. Smith also recommended the appointment of Frank Campbell, Drew Gross, and Tom Fitzpatrick to the Shade Tree Commission with subsequent terms of 5-years each. Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to appoint Frank Campbell, Drew Gross, and Tom Fitzpatrick to a five-year term each on the Shade Tree Commission. Motion unanimously carried.

Frank Campbell, Vice Chair of the Planning Commission, recommended the reappointments of Gwyn Smith and Drew Gross to the Planning Commission to serve a 4-year term. Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to reappoint Gwyn Smith and Drew Gross to the Planning Commission for 4-year term each. Motion unanimously carried.

• **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT** – Gwyn gave an update to the Council of the events the Planning Commission is working on for the summer. She has movies in the Park scheduled for June 15, July 13, and August 10, and Frank Campbell will be coordinating those events. The Eat, Shop, Explore annual event will be held on July 6, 2019 and the Planning Commission plans to hold another decorating contest again in the fall. All these events are made possible through generous donations by the local businesses. The Planning Commission has budgeted \$600.00 for the annual spring clean-up.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - Council President Robinson explained this was not a year in which a reorganization was needed, however, there are appointments that need to be made.

- **NEWPORT BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY** – No letters of interest received. Harry Fahnestock's term expired the end of 2018, however, he indicated that he would consider being reappointed if no other interest in the position was received. No action was taken.
- **MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY** – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to reappoint Tim Sieber to the Newport Borough Municipal Authority for a 5-year term. Motion unanimously carried.
- **ZONING HEARING BOARD** – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to reappoint Eugene Alex to Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term. Motion unanimously carried.
- **VACANCY BOARD** – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to reappoint Frank Campbell to the Vacancy Board. Motion unanimously carried.

Council President Robinson stated he wanted to add the appointments for the professional services of the Borough’s Solicitor, Auditor, and Engineer to the agenda. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m Beatty to reappoint all of the professionals – Dissinger & Dissinger, Solicitor; Smith Elliot & Kearns & Company, Auditor; and Barton & Loguidice, Engineering so that they all may be retained again for 2019. It was noted there is a slight increase in the engineering fees for 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

There was a brief discussion on developing a stormwater map. Council President Robinson stated that the he has spoken with the Borough’s engineer who has a firm belief that this is needed. Robinson went with the engineer to look at various streets where this is needed. He also spoke with Steve Flickinger, Fire Chief, about possibly using the adjacent ground to the firehouse. There is not enough information known about the storm sewers and if a map were done, this would help to document for the future. Robinson stated this also ties into the Floodplain Management. Cl’m Halstead said that she has been in touch with the Municipal Authority and the information does exist. She will follow-up on this, but she has not yet had time to review it.

Cl’m Halstead stated that she came across an old agreement between the Borough and the Railroad that confirms the Railroad owns the land behind the Weis Store and Prosser’s property. The agreement dates to 1909. It indicates that if the Borough does not maintain that road, the Agreement will be null. However, the Borough can’t fix the storm drains if it’s not the Borough’s land to resolve the drainage problem off of Oliver.

President Robinson reported that the Weis Store is contemplating allowing Food Trucks on their parking lot and stated that he was approached whether a permit would be needed. There was a brief discussion. Gwyn Smith stated that it’s private property and there is nothing in the Borough’s ordinance that applies. She also noted for the annual Food Truck Festival Event the Borough waives the permit fee in the public ordinance for that event. Robinson stated that he would have Kevin Morrison, who had inquired about this matter, submit a proposal to review and compare with the Peddler’s Permit Application and the ordinance. The Weis Store is private property; however, it was noted there could be subsequent traffic related issues.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-19 FOR DISCOVER NEWPORT BANNER 2019 – Frank Campbell requested approval of Resolution No. 01-19 for the 2019 Discover Newport Banner. This request is well in advance, as the event is not until July. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m Beatty to approve Resolution No. 01-19 authorizing a banner for the Discover Newport 2019 event be erected across State Route 34 (at Market and Second Street). Motion unanimously carried.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m McNaughton to go into Executive Session regarding personnel at 8:09 P.M. Motion unanimously carried. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m McNaughton to come out of Executive Session at 8:18 P.M. Cl’m Delancey moved, seconded by Cl’m McNaughton to accept the resignation of Ronald McNaughton, full-time street laborer, effective Dec. 31, 2018. Motion unanimously carried. Cl’m McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl’m Halstead to propose an employment offer to Benjamin Harris for a full-time street laborer position at \$15.00 per hour with benefits. Motion unanimously carried.

MAYOR’S REPORT – In reference to the Code Enforcement and the property located at 334 N. 5th Street, the Code Enforcement Officer is doing his job and it is being handled appropriately. There is nothing there creating a disturbance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – The routine Committee Reports were briefly reviewed and were included in the Council’s packet.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl’m McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl’m Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Ilgenfritz
Secretary