

Newport Borough Council
October 20, 2015 – Mid Month Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

Vice President John McNaughton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Penny Frownfelter, Tami Halstead, Douglas Beatty and Carl Roush. President of Council Gerald Robinson and Council Member James Prescott were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT – Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Bowers. Mayor Mary Hetrick was absent.

GUESTS – Jeremy Still, Karen Still, Stephen Tice, Michele Tice, Rachel Arietta, Frank Campbell, Tom Fitzpatrick, Luke Roman, Natalie Fritz and Alyssa Souder.

Announcement that the meeting is being recorded.

PUBLIC COMMENT – **Alyssa Souder** commented in regards to the burn pits. It is something that her family likes to do. Someone from the audience asked if we get complaints about stoves burning in the winter as far as the smell and smoke? **Natalie Fritz** commented she spent the afternoon in the borough office reviewing the property maintenance ordinance. During the summer she watched as some owners maintained the look of their property or spruced up their property with a touch of paint; new plantings and in some cases repairing worn steps and such. She was also aware of those properties where there seemed to be no pride of ownership. Codes for the borough would seem to be addressed to some of these neglects. As she read the codes it became painfully obvious that these code violations are not being addressed. Why is this taking place? There is a time limit for these codes in fact but nothing seems to be done. She watches in her neighborhood as 90 year old women make sure their lawns are properly maintained. Men come home from work and blow leaves in the dark and others take their weekend to do projects. What is this saying to these people when others let their grass grow all summer, care not what they place in front of their property or let this year's leaves accumulate on top of last years. Having codes and not enforcing them is a pure waste. Vice President McNaughton commented you can't argue with anything there. **Frank Campbell** commented that Natalie Fritz's points are well taken. Frank Campbell asked for authorization for NRPS to hold the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5th at 5:00 P.M. He asked for the square to be closed on the north side from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. They will place the trailer for their stage at 4:00 P.M. on Friday. **Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to allow NRPS to hold their Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5th, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. with the square being closed on the north side from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and allow them to place trailer for their stage on Friday night at 4:00 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.** Frank Campbell reported there is one more thing to do to complete Heritage Park and that is to coat the concrete. The Park Committee will be meeting on October 22, 2015 at 10:30 A.M. The Solicitor is preparing the documents for the purchase/ settlement of 279 N Front Street. **Steve Tice** commented in regards to the burn pits. The burn pits are no different that the chimneys in town with wood burning stoves. There should be etiquette between neighbors. Be considerate of one another. This is an affordable way of having family fun. Doesn't see where it would be beneficial to change the ordinance. **Jeremy Still** commented he enjoys having a burn pit. If the ordinance is changed who will enforce it. **Vice President McNaughton** commented he received (3) complaints about the burn pits. You have to be considerate of your neighbor, don't burn green wood, no burning of trash and don't stack up with wood so that the flames are so high. Jeremy commented walk around town and see how many people have burn pits. A lot of things around town need attention more than burn pits. **Tom Fitzpatrick** commented we buy wood for our burn pit. **Vice President McNaughton** commented he was the one who brought up about burn pits and he is dropping the issue for now. **Cl'm Frownfelter** commented it is good to have discussion and glad to see people are coming to the meeting to discuss. **Karen Still** commented she was here in support of having burn pits. **Michele Tice** commented she enjoys the burn pits and it is a family thing. It is something that the whole family can do together. Vice President McNaughton will drop the fire pit issue but spread it around to have consideration for your neighbor when using them. **Michele Tice** asked if there was any way down at the park to get the swings up to waist height and fix the slides, they are all cracked. Frank Campbell will take a look at the swings. **Jeremy Still** commented last year the board didn't like the lights that were on the tree. If the Board buys new ones they (the fire company) will put them up. They put the tree up the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. The board will get back to Jeremy after the next meeting in regards to the lights.

PURCHASE OF ANNUAL NUTRIENT CREDITS - Josh Owens submitted the information for the purchase of the annual nutrient credits. Lycoming County Water and Sewer will sell the Borough 7,016 Nitrogen credits for a \$1.00 each for a cost of \$7,016.00 and Manheim Water and Sewer Authority will sell the Borough 246 phosphorus credits for \$1.50 each for a cost of \$369.00. Total cost for this year of \$7,385.00. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to authorize the purchase of the annual nutrient credits as presented for a total cost of \$7,385.00. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 BUDGET WORKSHEET – Vice President McNaughton reported we (Secretary Bowers) worked on the budget today. The money being brought forward for next year will be approximately \$100,000 which would give us surplus of \$7,511.00. Cl'm Halstead commented that the Borough could give each employee a \$.50 an hour raise totaling \$4,478.24 to include the taxes. **Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter to give a \$.50 an hour raise to each employee for 2016. Motion carried with Cl'm Beatty opposed. The budget figures will be rechecked again for accuracy with the new figures.** There was a brief discussion of health benefits. We will contact Don Jacobs Insurance to see what they offer for health insurance.

Vice President McNaughton called for an Executive Session at 7:52 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to come out of Executive Session and back to the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOROUGH INSURANCE QUOTES - Secretary Bowers reported Cupp's Insurance submitted the quotes for the Borough insurances. Everyone received a copy of the quotes. The only quote not received yet is for the Errors and Omissions. Still working on that. The total for Work Comp for both the Fire Company and the Borough is \$21,774.00. Big savings from last year. Total quote of \$44,123.00 which is for Property, General Liability, Crime, Inland Marine, Auto, Commercial Umbrella and Work Comp for Fire & Borough. All policies will be written through EMC except for the Work Comp which will be through United Wisconsin. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to accept the quotes submitted by Cupp's for the Borough insurances which does not include the Errors and Omissions insurance at a cost of \$44,123.00 for 11/1/15 to 11/1/16 coverage period. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting November 3, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

There being no further business to come before Borough council, Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bowers
Secretary