

Newport Borough council
February 16, 2016 – Mid Month Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

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

OTHERS PRESENT – Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Bowers

GUESTS – Thomas Fitzpatrick and Frank Campbell

APPROVAL OF BILLS – Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to pay the outstanding bills presented for payment in the amount of \$8,432.58 from the General Fund Account. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT - **Tom Fitzpatrick** asked who was in charge of putting the flag at half mass. Secretary Bowers commented it is usually the County that tells us to do that and then Cody, Ron or Rick takes care of it. Tom also asked if the ordinance could be updated to have more than 12 units in an apartment building, not 39, but more than 12 units. **Frank Campbell** reported they are working on the NVMP Project. Harry Fahnstock will be checking the house to see if there is anything salvageable. Stydinger is taking down the building (279 N Front Street). It will cost under the limit of \$10,400 so no quotes will be needed. He reminded everyone there will be a Zoning Hearing on February 18, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. for the Newport Millworks Project.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE # 366 - Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to adopt Ordinance # 366 that amends Ordinance # 348 , Chapter 237 Vehicles and Traffic, §237-53 Recertification and §237-55 Fees of the Newport Borough Code of Ordinances as amended. This amendment changes the renewal period for parking permits to annually and changes the fee to annually. Fees are set by Resolution and will be \$100.00 for the annual fee. There will be an initial application fee of \$25.00 and thereafter there will be none; only the payment of their annual fee of \$100.00 after the proper application is submitted. January will be the annual renewal submittal for all parking permits. Motion carried unanimously.

AD FOR PART TIME STREET WORKER – Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to authorize the ad for (2) weeks in the News Sun for part-time street help for all year round work. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION LETTER OF INTEREST – The Borough Council received a Letter of Interest from Gwyn Smith to serve as a board member of the Newport Borough Planning Commission. Gwyn has extensive experience in project management and systems engineering, negotiations, public speaking and teamwork. Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to appoint Gwyn Smith as a board member of the Newport Borough Planning Commission to fill the vacancy left by Pat Bowers. Her term will expire January 1, 2019. Motion carried with Borough Council Member Penny Frownfelter abstaining; she is related to Gwyn Smith.

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR - Borough Council received a letter from Carol Wilson for the appointment of Deputy Tax Collector. She asked that Borough Council appoint James Prescott as the Deputy Tax Collector. Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to not approve the request from Carol Wilson, Tax Collector to appoint James Prescott as Deputy Tax Collector. Motion carried unanimously. President Robinson commented in talking with the Solicitor, Bill Dissinger, every Tax Collector must have a Deputy Tax Collector. Letter will be sent to Carol Wilson informing her of Council's decision and that she will have to submit another name for consideration.

GAS HEATERS FOR THE BOROUGH GARAGE - Cl'm Beatty and Cl'm Roush were down at the Nordic Gear Building. As stated before, there are a couple of gas heaters down there that could be used at the Borough Garage. Also a grate for Third Street. Cl'm McNaughton will tell Cody to go down and look at. The Nordic Gear is going to be demolished; we need to get them out. Cl'm McNaughton will get with Cl'm Roush on the gas heaters and get the grate also.

VISION COVERAGE FOR BOROUGH EMPLOYEES – Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to approve the vision coverage from Capital Blue Cross (12/0-A Healthy Vision) for a monthly cost of \$31.86 to cover the Borough's Employees. Motion carried unanimously.

NEWPORT BOROUGH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY RESIGNATION – Secretary Bowers informed the Borough Council that the Newport Borough Municipal Authority received a resignation letter from Cody Harris as a board member effective immediately. Cl'm Roush moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to accept the resignation of Cody Harris as a Newport Borough Municipal Authority Board Member effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously. A letter of interest was submitted by Thomas Fitzpatrick to serve as a board member of the Newport Borough Municipal Authority. Cl'm Frownfelter moved to appoint Thomas Fitzpatrick as a Board Member of the Newport Borough Municipal Authority. Motion failed because there was no second to the motion. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to advertise for Letters of Interest for the Newport Borough Water Authority and the Newport Borough Municipal Authority for (4) issues in the News Sun. Motion carried unanimously.

BOROUGH BUILDING HEAT – Cl'm McNaughton reported he received the estimate from Hetrick Electric to put the heat in the Borough Office. It will be \$425 to rewire and \$200 to replace the old heaters. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, second by Cl'm Beatty to accept the estimate from Hetrick Electric in the amount of \$625.00 to do the electric for heat and replace the (2) heaters in the Borough Office. Motion carried unanimously.

(5) YEAR PLAN – President Robinson named a few things that the Borough needs to work on over the next (5) years. The streets, lighting, storm water, business development, ordinances and acting legislation. We want to deal with only the things that the Borough has responsibilities for. Cl'm Frownfelter commented we need to work collaboratively with the Planning Commission. Where are we at with technology? President Robinson comments that Walnut Street is horrendous. Piping is inadequate in size and is beyond its life expectancy. When doing a project get all the infrastructure done at one time (sewer, water and storm). We need to do a better job of coordinating the projects. With storm concerns right now would be a good time to start on Front Street and work our way up. Planning of projects should be done with finances in mind. We need to improve the street lighting. And reduce our costs. Cl'm McNaughton commented last year the grant writer said there is money out there for street lighting. There are USDA grants for LED street lights. We need to check to see if that is still available. President Robinson commented there are funds available for storm sewer. With Zoning, we have an extremely limited growth potential unless there would be annexation. Cl'm Frownfelter commented we need to get a copy of a (5) year plan from another municipality. This is something to really sit down and think about and actually do it. Will contact Jason Finnerty to see if he can find us a municipal plan; not a county plan. We will continue working on next month.

The next meeting will be March 1, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bowers
Secretary

