

Newport Borough Council
March 15, 2016 – Mid Month Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

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

ANNOUNCEMENT – MEETING IS BEING RECORDED.

OTHERS PRESENT - Mayor Mary Hetrick and Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Bowers.

GUESTS – Paddi Sharar

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Delancey to approve the February 2, 2016 Regular Meeting , the February 16, 2016 Mid Month Meeting and the March 1, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes.

APPROVAL OF BILLS – Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to pay the outstanding bills presented for payment in the amount of \$8,367.67 from the General Fund Account. Motion carried unanimously. Secretary Bowers reported the General Fund balance as of this date is \$73,379.77.

NEWPORT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT APPROVAL OF INVOICES – Paddi Sharar presented invoices for Borough Council approval for the Newport Veterans Memorial Park Project for Larson Design Group professional services in the amount of \$7,162.47 for Invoice #'s 77816, 69913,00000075743(credit) and 73892. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to pay the outstanding invoices from Larson Design Group totaling \$7,162.47. Motion carried unanimously. Paddi Sharar presented an invoice for payment #1 from the contractor WSL, Inc for the Park Project in the amount of \$8,871.93. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to pay the invoice for payment (#1) to WSL, Inc in the amount of \$8,871.93. Motion carried unanimously. Paddi Sharar submitted Change Order #1 for approval by Borough Council for the change in Contract Alternate No. 1 for a standing seam metal roof. WSL Inc held the base contract price for the project but the Alt No. 1 needed to be repriced which produced an increase of \$900.00 from \$7,700 to \$8,600. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$900 for the increase in pricing for the standing seam metal roof. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR – Carole Wilson, Tax Collector submitted the name of Debbie A. Partridge from Williamsport for consideration of Borough Council for appointment. There was no background info provided and the Borough Council would like to meet this person. Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to not accept the recommendation of Carole Wilson to appoint Debbie A Partridge as Deputy Tax Collector. Motion carried unanimously. President Robinson will write a letter to Carole Wilson.

5TH STREET PROJECT – President Robinson reported we looked at the 5th Street Project today. We have until the end of October to get done with the first phase which will be one and a half blocks on N Fifth Street. President Robinson described the process for the paving they want to use. We will contact contractors letting them know the project is coming. Cl'm Halstead commented several times; we need to see some plans; we haven't seen any plans. President Robinson commented we have in the past replaced water lines without any plans. The engineers are working on it.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY LETTER OF INTEREST – A letter of interest was received by Craig Martel of 434 Gantt Street to serve as a Board Member of the Newport Borough Municipal Authority. We have received no other letters of interest. Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm Delancey to appoint Craig Martel to serve as a Board Member of the Newport Borough Municipal Authority. Motion carried with Cl'm Tami Halstead opposed. His term will expire on January 1, 2018.

RAILROAD RETAINING WALL – Cl'm Halstead reported she received an email back from William Wilson who is the Federal Railroad Administrator concerning the collapsing wall at Front Street. Mr. Wilson also contacted the PUC. No word from them at this time. Basically Mr. Wilson is saying there is no problem with the safety of the track. We have it in writing. President Robinson commented right now the area is blocked off where there is traffic going through. We need to decide whether we are going to keep it blocked off. Cl'm Halstead commented maybe put a sign up to travel at their own risk. President Robinson commented this is a safety matter which is hanging over our head. We need to get something in writing from the Railroad as to when the wall will be repaired. It would be nice if we had a schedule from them. We also need to talk to them about the weeds on N Front Street and the Fickes Lane railroad crossing. The crossing is horrendous. Maybe Oliver and the Borough can work on getting the crossing repaired.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RESIGNATION – President Robinson reported the Borough Council received a letter of resignation from Code/Zoning Officer Rick Miller effective Monday, March 21, 2016. His last day will be March 18, 2016. Cl'm Delancey moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to accept the resignation of Rick Miller as the Code/Zoning Officer for Newport Borough. Motion carried unanimously. There was a brief discussion in regards to the advertising of a replacement for Rick. President Robinson commented he is not convinced that we need a full time code enforcement officer. Mayor Hetrick commented with Rick leaving, the FOG inspections will need to be done. She recommended that it is actually a sewer requirement. If the new operator of the plant has the expertise then perhaps he could do the inspections. They are all ready to go. Cl'm Beatty commented that he would check with Sewer. Cl'm McNaughton commented we need to check for training and how many hours is considered part-time. What is the max? He/she should be able to work flexible hours. Secretary will see that everyone gets a copy of the job description. Pay rate would be based upon experience etc. President Robinson commented since we are talking with Oliver about the police, maybe we could share a code enforcement officer. Cl'm McNaughton commented seems like we have plenty of work here. Cl'm Halsted moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to advertise for the position of Code/Zoning Officer for (4) weeks in the News Sun. Position would be part time with potential for full time. Motion carried unanimously. It was recommended to advertise on Craigslist, website, shopper remedy.

DISTRICT OFFICE PARKING REQUEST – The Borough received a request from Ryan Neuhard, Superintendent for the Newport School District. He is requesting that one of three parking spots in front of the district office be removed and the other two be designated for school business only from 7:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The reason for the request is for the busses to be able to pull out of the current parking lot without obstruction from parked cars. President Robinson talked with the school previously about this. Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to remove one of the three parking spaces in front of the district office (space closest to entrance) and not to sign anything restricting parking. Motion carried unanimously.

FIVE YEAR PLAN – President Robinson reported he reviewed the five year plans for Patton Township, Ferguson Township and the Borough of Bridgeport. Each had varying populations. He distributed the Proposed Elements of 5-Years Plan. He broke it down into (7) areas in order of importance. We should have goals. The purpose of the plan is to address in an orderly manner areas of municipal concern for the Borough of Newport and its citizens. It has been booted around about moving the passenger station at Kauffman's. The sign at Kauffman's needs to be finished. Mayor Hetrick commented that they will be finishing the sign. President Robinson commented we will continue to work on the plan. Everyone needs to put together their thoughts and ideas so we can discuss etc.

COMMENTS AROUND THE TABLE – Cl'm Halstead commented NRPS did approach Kauffman about purchasing the train station. Thank goodness NRPS maintains the Louise Beard House for the Borough.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm Delancey to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bowers
Secretary

