

NEWPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
OCTOBER 4, 2016 – REGULAR MEETING
NEWPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

GUESTS – Gwyn Smith, Brian Plank, Frank Campbell and Luke Roman.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY – Frank Campbell requested on behalf of NRPS to have the north end of the square closed on December 3, 2016 from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Event. They will be bringing in the trailer on Friday evening around 5:00 P.M. to place in front of the Orrstown Bank. Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to grant the request from NRPS to hold the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Event on December 3, 2016 and close the north end of the square for the event from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

NEWPORT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK – Frank Campbell reported he spoke with Beth Helterbran from DCNR and they need a couple of letters for in kind work that was done to close out the DCNR Grant. He will send those tomorrow. Also the ceiling is finished in the large pavilion. It looks good.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to approve the September 6, 2016 Regular and September 20, 2016 Mid Month Meeting Minute as drafted. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Newport General Fund Account balance October 1, 2016 was \$131,416.67. September interest of \$13.71. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$9,764.65. Estimated income for the balance of October of \$16,760.00. Estimated expenses for the balance of October of \$23,556.74 will leave an estimated balance October 31, 2016 of \$114,868.99. Liquid Fuels Account balance October 1, 2016 was \$74,681.86. Truck payment in the amount of \$1,235.78 will leave a balance of \$73,446.08. Reminder: The playground reimbursement is still owed to the Borough in the amount of \$26,179.95 and will be reimbursed from the grant when received with the balance being paid from the NVMPP Account. Cl'm McNaughton 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 Beatty to pay the outstanding bills from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$9,942.85 which includes an additional bill from Swenson's for propane for the garage heaters in the amount of \$178.20. Motion carried unanimously.

PARKING AT SCHOOL – President Robinson reported he, Cl'm Halstead and Cl'm Beatty had a meeting with the Superintendent Ryan Neuhard, the athletic director Shawn Lesh and the financial officer, Jamison Magaro at the school district to discuss the parking issue at the school when school events are going on. The school is amenable to their parking idea. There is no parking on the upper side of 5th Street from Caroline to Gantt Streets which they were thinking about changing. Cl'm Halstead commented there may be an issue with the Zoning Board because the "no parking" was put in place there for safety reasons. This would also include when they have events that there would be no parking also. The zoning decision conflicts with what the borough is proposing. This has to comply with the zoning issue. We might need to meet with the members of the Zoning Board. However, Cl'm Beatty commented the (3) spaces on 6th Street which is already no parking could be changed to parking for emergency vehicles only. Maybe we could accommodate the school with that. President Robinson will go back to the school with the zoning issue for 5th Street.

BOROUGH GARAGE – Cl'm Beatty reported Swenson's have the heaters in and they work like they are brand new. There are still (2) heaters at the Nordic Gear Building that he would like to put up at the Borough Garage to replace the oil furnace we have there now. Grant writer Stover Clark will be looking into possible grant money or some way to come up with the money to do some repairs on the Borough Garage which was built in the 70's. President Robinson commented he is working on getting insulation for the building through PP & L. They haven't got back to him yet.

ALEX ROCCA (NORFOLK SOUTHERN ISSUE - President Robinson reported he did call Alex Rocca but he had to leave a message. He hasn't called him back yet. He doesn't expect much to come out of the issue with the damaged wall on Penn Avenue. The damaged wall hasn't been repaired by Norfolk Southern; we went through an entire summer with no action taken. We need to notify the local news to see if they can do anything. Cl'm Frownfelter asked if the road can be opened up. Cl'm Beatty commented yes, the area has been cleaned up but the wall was not repaired.

FLOOD MAP SURVEY (SEDA COG) – President Robinson reported he received a phone call from Bill Segal in regards to a flood map survey. Mr. Segal explained that there is grant money available through Senator Teplitz office to do a survey. The feds have passed a law that will raise the flood insurance by 500%. The concerns of SEDA COG is that people will not be able to afford flood insurance for their property. Some time down the road we will have a flood; what happens then when these homeowners do not have insurance and their homes are damaged with no money to do repairs. 35% of the homes in Newport are in the 100 year flood plain. Does this present a blight situation? Darn right it does. Senator Teplitz asked SEDA COG to pick an area and they are proposing Newport with Borough Council approval. The survey involved would ask for income, value of property, commercial impact etc. The Borough would not be spending any money. President Robinson commented SEDA COG is proposing to come and do a presentation for the November or December meeting. Borough Council will wait for presentation to do a motion.

REFERENDUM FOR POLICE – President Robinson reported with the presidential election going on, he and Cl'm McNaughton discussed doing a referendum for the police to see how the public feels about having a regional police department. It is too late to get a referendum on the ballot but maybe we could do a survey outside of the polls the day of elections. Have a yes or no vote. President Robinson needs to check with the election board to see if that is ok to do it outside of the polls. Get someone to count the votes; not the Borough Council or Mayor. There were no objections from the board.

RECEIPT OF PENSION STATE AID – The Borough received the 2016 Pension State Aid on September 7, 2016 in the amount of \$17,498.58 from the Commonwealth of Pa. These monies are used to offset the cost of the Minimum Municipal Obligation of the Borough for pension plans.

PAYMENT OF 2016 MMO FOR NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN - Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to pay the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan at PMRS from the General Fund Account in the amount of \$19,780.00. \$17,498.58 of State Aid received will help pay the 2016 MMO with the Borough paying the balance of \$2,281.42. Motion carried unanimously.

RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE RELIEF STATE AID – Cl'm Roush moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to approve the payment of the 2016 Volunteer Fire Relief State Aid received in the amount of \$7,413.73 to the Newport Volunteer Fire Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF INTEREST TO SERVE ON THE NBWA BOARD – Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to appoint Trevor Kaufman as a board member of the Newport Borough Water Authority to fill the vacancy left by Robert Campbell whose term will expire on January 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

REMOVAL OF PORTA POTTIE AT PARK BY NOVEMBER 1, 2016 – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to discontinue the service of the Porta Pottie at the Park by November 1, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

STREETS – Cl'm McNaughton announced the last day for brush will be Monday, November 7, 2016.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Hetrick reported she attended the Dedication Ceremony for Lou Delancey on September 12th held at the Newport Veterans Memorial Park. She asked that Spruce Alley between the Owls Club and Mulberry St be closed for the Jamie Welfley Auction to be held on November 5, 2016 from 9:00 A.M. till done. There were no objections from Borough Council.

PLAYGROUND – President Robinson commented he talked with Cl'm Beatty about the Large Pavilion at the playground. Work needs to be done in the old concession stand. The sewer line needs repaired it is damaged. He advocates to rent it out; maybe advertise it so everyone knows that it is available. The playground is quite an asset of the Borough. We need to familiarize the people with what has been done to the park. Think about pricing of the rent. We could rent it out from Mid May to October. It could be rented every weekend. Consider this for next year.

COMMENTS AROUND THE TABLE – Cl'm Halstead commented there were no more comments received from anyone for the Ticketing Ordinance. Needs to be worked on to put in ordinance form. She will have ready for the next meeting. **President Robinson** reported everyone was provided an updated budget with the new figures from the workshop. We are way over and we need to look at some serious cutting. We will be having a Mid Month Meeting for the budget on October 18, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. Work on that budget for the meeting.

Next meeting is October 18, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Roush moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bowers
Secretary