

**NEWPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: President Tami Halstead called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with Mayor Mary Hetrick leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Members Mary Bucher, Barbara Leach, Penny Frownfelter, Billie Dudley, Gregory Shope and Jacob Zentichko present.

ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE MEETING IS BEING RECORDED: President Halstead announced the meeting was being recorded.

ACT 65 OF 2021

GUEST: Mike Casey: Street Congestion

Patricia Sharar: Zoning of 49 & 51 S 2nd

Chris Fickes: Property at 56 South 4th ST

Frank Campbell: Turkey Trot Resolution

Christie Caswell, PCEDA: Update on the Economic Vitality Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Casey - Concerned about street congestion specifically on 6th Street would like Council to consider making it a one-way road. Cl'm Frownfelter suggested possible putting lines in the middle of the street to help. President Halstead stated that 6th street is a state road and feels the only way to fix the problem would be to make it no parking and feels this may happen in the future. Mike said that he will move forward with his complaints to Penndot.

Paddi Sharar, Zoning Hearing Board – The property for sale at 49 & 51 S. 2nd Street is a combined residential and commercial property. The owners have rented out the residential side of the property, but the commercial side has remained vacant. The owners have requested to be able to sell the property as a strictly residential property despite being in a Commercial Zone. This request was made after the resignation of the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer. Paddi Sharar informed Council of several commercial properties located in the Commercial Zone that were converted to residential use without approval of the Zoning Hearing Board. Paddi suggested Council pass a motion to allow the of 49&51 S.2nd St to sell the property as either residential or combined residential/commercial since no Code Enforcement Officer was in place at the time of the request to advise otherwise. Paddi feels this would prevent a property owner from claiming a precedent has been set. A change to the zoning ordinance would be required in the future to prevent this practice from continuing. Concern was expressed by Council members who felt the Borough Solicitor should be involved in this decision. Paddi felt that a delay by Council would not be advisable. Cl'm Zentichko moved, seconded by Cl'm Bucher to allow the property located at 49&51 S. 2nd St. to be sold as either residential or residential/commercial in the absence of a Codes Enforcement Officer for the Borough, pending the approval of the Borough's Solicitor. President Halstead will contact the solicitor as soon as possible to confirm the Borough's action. Motion carried.

Chris Fickes – Wants Council to be aware that 56 S.4th Street is a trash hole; there is junk in the yard falling into the street. President Halstead stated that Council is aware of the problem, that the trash in the street has already been taken care of and that this is an ongoing legal battle.

Frank Campbell, NRPS – Canal Day was a success. Auction raised \$1,375.00 for the Park Project. NRPS will be sponsoring a house decorating contest this year for Halloween.

Michelle Jones (PCEDA) - Update and ask for a letter of support for the grant. They are working with PennDot to write a Multi-modal grant. President Halstead asked what the Council would be supporting? How much of the grant would Newport be getting and where would the monies be going? Does the Grant require matching money? Cl'm Frownfelter stated they are just asking for a letter of support and then apply for project money. Frank Campbell commented that they are talking about a kiosk in the square. Michelle said they are making final touches on the plan it would be for the square, Market Street, and 2nd Streets, making the area more pedestrian friendly, possible bike racks and walkways. Michelle stated that there would be an upcoming bus tour to see other projects they have done at no cost, but there are limited seats. Cl'm Frownfelter motioned, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to give PCEDA a letter of support for the Multimodal Grant that is being written for the Penndot multi-modal. Motion carried.

Karen Gable – Incarnation Church wanted to get an update; she has not heard from the engineer regarding flooding in the church basement. President Halstead stated that she reached out to the engineer, and he agreed with the Sewer Operator that the line is clogged. Karen stated that if the church has to file a lawsuit against the Borough, they will. They didn't have this issue until they were working across the street on Dock Street a few years ago and now every time it rains it floods the basement. President Halstead stated that she will ask the Sewer Operator to dye test the line and we will go from there.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: August 3, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes – Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to approve the minutes.

September 21, 2021, Mid Month Meeting Minutes - Cl'm Frownfelter wants to amend the motion from the September 21, 2021 minutes. The amended motion will include medical leave of absence. The current motion stands as recorded. Cl'm Bucher moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to amend the motion from September 21, 2021 Minutes to pay Tina Burkholder through ARPA funds for 61 hours of medical leave of absences. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER: Newport Borough General Fund Account October 1, 2021 was \$356,257.08. Outstanding bills presented for payment in the amount of \$23,588.46. Estimated income for the balance of October is \$11,860.00. Estimated expense for the balance of October is \$24,575.92 will leave an estimated balance of \$319,953.42. Liquid Fuels Account balance October 1, 2021 was \$57,036.08. Outstanding bills presented for payment in the amount of \$103.79 will leave a balance of \$56,932.29. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to approve the Financial Report for October. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER BILLS TO DATE: Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Bucher to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$23,588.46 from the General Fund Account and pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$103.79 from the Liquid Fuels Account. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Resolution 7-21 for the Turkey Trot Banner: Cl'm Leach moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to approve Resolution # 7-21 for the Turkey Trot Banner. Motion carried

Approval to close the north side of the square on 2nd ST to Dock ST on December 4, 2021, from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM: Cl'm Shope moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to approve the closure of the north side of the square from 2nd Street to Dock Street on December 4, 2021, from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM to prepare for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Motion carried.

Approval to accept the SWIF Insurance Policy renewal for \$13,977.00 from November 1, 2021, to November 1, 2022: Cl'm Bucher moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach approve the SWIF Policy renewal for \$13,977.00. Motion carried.

Receipt of Pension State Aid in the amount of \$10,117.59. Approval to pay the 2021 MMO in the amount of \$8,133.00 and to put the surplus of \$1,984.59 into the municipal account or the member's account: Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to pay the 2021 PMRS MMO in the amount of \$8,133.00 for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan and to put the surplus in the amount of \$1,984.59 into the Newport Borough Municipal Account. Motion carried

Approval to tentatively adopt and advertise the Non-Uniform Pension Ordinance #378: Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to tentatively adopt, and advertise the Non-Uniform Pension Ordinance #378. Motion carried.

Approval to tentatively adopt and advertise the Uniform Pension Ordinance #379: Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to tentatively adopt, and advertise the Uniform Pension Ordinance #379. Motion carried.

Approval to make payment to the Volunteer Firemen Relief Fund in the amount of \$5,905.81 received from State Aid: Cl'm Bucher moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to approve the payment to the Volunteer Firemen Relief Fund in the amount of \$5,905.81 that was received from State Aid. Motion carried.

Approval of the PennDot Winter Municipal Snow Removal Contract for 2021/2022 for \$3,736.15: President Halstead explained that this is not an amount the Borough pays but an amount that is given to the Borough for plowing. Cl'm Bucher moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to approve the PennDot Winter Municipal Snow Removal Contract for 2021/2022 for \$3,736.15. Motion carried.

Approval to pay Tina Burkholder 40 hours of wages from ARPA for the week September 12-18, 2021: Cl'm Dudley moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to approve to pay Tina Burkholder 40 hours of Medical Leave of Absence from ARPA for the week September 12th - 18th, 2021. Motion carried

Sewage problem on Locust St will be fixed on Thursday, October 7, 2021, by the Sewer Authority: President Halstead just wanted to inform Council that the Sewer Authority has been working with the resident for some time and that the issue will be resolved on October 7th, 2021.

Executive Session for personnel matter: Borough council went into executive session at 9:11 PM. Cl'm Leach moved to come out of executive session at 9:27 PM.

Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to hire Billie Dudley as the Codes Enforcement / Zoning Officer starting Monday, October 11th, 2021 at \$15.00 per hour 25 hours per week. Motion carried with Cl'm Dudley abstaining from vote.

Discussion of the 2022 Budget: President Halstead stated that as it stands now the budget is balanced giving the employees a 5 percent raise, we are still waiting to plug in the insurance cost. Tabled.

Update on the Commissioner's Meeting at the Newport Fire House on Thursday, September 23, 2021, on ARPA funding:

Cl'm Dudley explained that there is ARPA money available at the county level and since the bids for the Dock Street project were so high, she thought that council could go for the difference. The commissioners agreed it was a good idea. Cl'm Zentichko stated that Newport Borough Sewer Authority has been trying to get funding for Market Steet from 4th St. to 6th St. and 4th St. from Market St to Mulberry St. Cl'm Dudley explained that after hearing from the commissioners that collaborated projects would be considered first, President Halstead and herself presented the idea to the Sewer Authority and they would do two separate grant applications and use one contractor for the combined work. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Zentichko to approve two applications, one for ARPA funding for the work on Dock Street Storm Project and second, the Market Street storm and inlet replacement project from 4th Street to 6th Street. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nuisance at 55 S. 2nd Street: Council would like to have solicitor at the next meeting. President Halstead asked Borough Council if we want a new solicitor and engineer, we should advertise for requests for proposals.

Dock Street storm project: Seeking funding from ARPA.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Streets Report from Cody Harris – No report given.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 2, 2021, Regular Borough Council Meeting

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Dudley moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Burkholder
Secretary