

Newport Borough Council

231 Market Street
Newport, Pa 17074

September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: President Tami Halstead called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Penny Frownfelter, Barbara Leach, Mary Bucher, Billie Dudley, Gregory Shope and Jacob Zentichko present.

OTHERS PRESENT: William Dissinger (Borough Solicitor), Frank Campbell, Carol Flickinger, Karen Gabel, Kingston Shope, Chris Fickes, Peg Belcastro and Doris Miller.

The meeting was being recorded.

President Halstead announced that that Senate Bill 554 is now in effect. Council Members received a copy of the bill. The agenda needs to be published 24 hours in advance and only items on the agenda can be discussed or voted on. Some exceptions could apply.

DOCK STREET BID OPENING: President Halstead opened the bids for the Dock Street Storm and Paving Project and announced the results as follows:

Howard Detraglia	\$478,400.00
Jay Fulkroad & Sons	\$254,524.29
ProLawn	\$264,861.64

Cl'm Frownfelter suggested finding out why such a big difference in the quotes. President Halstead commented that she wants to re-examine the plans/bids and possibly put out for rebid. President Halstead will contact the Borough Engineer Phil Brath to go over the plan and bids. It is doubtful that the project will get done this year due to schedules and supply shortages. The discussion was tabled.

HEARING FOR 55 SOUTH 2ND STREET: Solicitor Dissinger stated the property at 55 South 2nd Street was declared a public nuisance. President Halstead remarked that she thought the property had not yet been declared a public nuisance and that this hearing was to declare it a public nuisance. He reached out to the owner; heard nothing back. There was no one present to testify. There is a hole in the roof, no back door, rodent infestation, and trespassers go in the house at night. Solicitor Dissinger stated we have two options. **Option #1,** We can abate the nuisance and collect the costs thereof, together with a penalty of ten percent (10%) of such costs in the manner provided by law for the collection of municipal claims or by action of assumpsit. The Borough would pay to have house boarded up, possibly hire an exterminator. **Option #2,** Seek relief by a bill in equity. The Borough would sue the owner and ask the court to have the house fixed. Borough would have to pay court costs (approximate cost of \$2,000) With Option #1 you would get prices to fix things (hole in roof, rodent infestation, broken windows boarded up etc.) and then go from there. Peg Belcastro commented the front yard looks like a jungle and rainwater is running onto her property. Solicitor Dissinger commented that is not considered a public nuisance. **Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to abate the nuisance at 55 South 2nd Street and get quotes to act upon at a future meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Frank Campbell reported the National Night Out at the Park was a pretty good success. It is nice seeing the park used. He asked the Borough Council to consider replacing the trash cans on the square that had been removed. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. NRPS is proceeding with plans for Canal Day. NRPS is submitting for a Team Mobile Grant. President Halstead freshened up an old application. He asked for a Letter of Support to submit with the Application. **Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to write a letter of support for NRPS to submit with the application for the Borough's Walkway for Veterans Memorial Park Scenario to T-Mobile for a grant for \$50,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

Karen Gabel representing Incarnation United Church of Christ; stated they have been getting a lot of water when we have heavy rains. The water backs up at the drain outside the back door (basement level). The water is supposed to go down the drain, but the rain is coming up the drain. It goes the whole way across the basement floor into the kitchen. They cannot find anything for the cause. **Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Bucher to amend the agenda to add the discussion of the rainwater at Incarnation United Church of Christ.** Karen commented the Sewer Operator came up and looked at the drain and said that there is a clog and to call advance septic to clean it out. Cl'm Frownfelter commented from the description Karen Gabel gave, it doesn't make sense that it is clogged. We need to get the engineer to look at it. **Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Bucher to authorize the Borough Engineer to look at and diagnose the drainage problem at the Incarnation UCC Church located at Dock & 4th Street. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chris Fickes commented that some of the issues that have been brought up to Borough Council have not been taken care of or followed through with. Council says they will look into it, then there is nothing being done or brought up again. The stop sign that is in the middle of the handicap ramp at Catherine and S 2nd Street. The stop sign at Locust and Catherine has not been addressed. President Halstead said some of the stop signs had to be ordered and it take some time to get done. We do our best to take care of things. Items are removed from the agenda once they are given out to be taken care of.

APPROVAL TO ALLOW COVE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY THEATER PERFORMERS TO STROLL AND SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE NEWPORT SQUARE DURING NEWPORT SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021: Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to approve the request to allow the Cove Mountain Community Theater Performers to stroll and sing Christmas Carols in the Newport Square during the Newport Small Business Saturday event being held on November 27, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 3, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Minutes have not been completed. Table until next meeting. Cl'm Frownfelter commented she would like to see the draft agenda before it is posted, the Friday before the meeting. Also, that the minutes be done within 2 weeks after the meeting and emailed out to Council.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER: Balance in the General Fund September 1, 2021 was \$356,257.08. Outstanding bills resented for payment in the amount of \$6,541.97. Estimated income for the balance of September of \$19,322.74. Estimated expense for the balance of September of \$30,005.92 will leave an estimated balance September 30, 2021 of \$339,031.93. Liquid Fuels Account balance September 1, 2021 was \$58,558.06. Outstanding bills presented for payment in the amount of \$1,522.87 will leave a balance of \$57,035.19. Cl'm Bucher moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to approve the Financial Report for September. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER BILLS TO DATE: Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$6,541.97 from the General Fund Account and pay the outstanding bills

presented for payment in the amount of \$1,522.87 from the Liquid Fuels Account. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE FIREWORKS ORDINANCE: President Halstead reported the Fireworks Ordinance has been advertised and is now ready for adoption. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to adopt the Fireworks Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE VFW REQUEST TO HOLD THE VETERANS DAY PARADE ON NOVEMBER 6, 2021 AT 11:00 AM AND APPROVE THE STREET CLOSURES: Cl'm Shope moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to approve the request from the VFW to hold the Veterans Day Parade on November 6, 2021 at 11:00 AM and approve the requested street closures. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF HOMECOMING PARADE ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 1, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AND STREET CLOSURES: Cl'm Bucher moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to approve the request from the Newport School District to hold their Annual Homecoming Parade on October 1, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. and approve the requested street closures. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK RENTAL FEES: President Halstead distributed the draft of the Veterans Memorial Park Rental Fee Schedule and reviewed it with Borough Council. President Halstead commented the schedule was made up to reflect a rate by the hour instead of by the number of people. Cl'm Zentichko commented the fees are very reasonable and asked if there was any additional fee for electric. President Halstead said it was included in the rental fee. The schedule might have to be evaluated to make sure we aren't on the hook for some of the costs. We already have someone interested in using the kitchen, Weis. President Halstead was concerned because the floor has never been sealed. Cl'm Frownfelter was in support of renting out even if we don't have it sealed. Cl'm Zentichko asked if when the large events are held; are we dealing with the extra trash or do they take along with. Whoever rents the pavilion can pull the trash out of the trashcans and put in the dumpster. There are extra bags in the cans. Along with the fee for the rental there is a \$50.00 cleaning fee that will be returned if the area rented is left as it was rented. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Dudley to approve the Veterans Memorial Park Rental Fee Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE LIONS CLUB REQUEST FOR THE HALLOWEEN PARADE AND THE STREET CLOSURES: Cl'm Bucher moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to approve the request from the Lions Club to hold the Annual Halloween Parade on Wednesday October 20, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.; rain date of Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. and to approve the requested street closures. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO REPLACE THE TWO MEN'S RESTROOM SINK FAUCETS AT VETERANS MEMORIAL Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Bucher to approve the replacement of the two men's restroom sink faucets at Veterans Memorial Park by WSL at a cost of \$375 for the replacement and installation of the faucets. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR A FULL-TIME STREET EMPLOYEE: President Halstead reported the ad for a full-time street employee was advertised for (2) weeks. We need to place the ad again. The Borough Council decided not to re-advertise and place a sign in the window and see if we get anyone interested.

DISCUSSION ON CODE OFFICER, HARRY NAZZARO REQUEST TO ATTEND THE CLASS, “READING PEOPLE: BECOMING A BODY LANGUAGE EXPERT” FOR A COST OF \$199.00: Needed more information; no action taken at this time.

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET: President Halstead reminded Borough Council to continue working on the budget. We will be working on the budget at the Mid-Month Meeting on September 21, 2021.

STREETS REPORT: Cl’m Shope reported the Street Crew has been working on cleaning out the inlets. With the storm this past week, we had little to no flooding. Cl’m Shope reported there are trees falling on Front Street that are owned by the railroad. At the corner of Oliver and Front Street (3) trees came down and landed on a house. He asked should we contact the railroad? President Halstead commented we contacted the railroad; they gave info on their claims department. They were in contact. The railroad has been contacted several times regarding the trees needing trimmed with no response. Cl’m Shope reported they swept the Elementary School Parking Lot which they Borough will receive payment for. Cl’m Dudley commented the property behind her house at 123 S 2nd Street is much better now.

ORDINANCE REPORT: Cl’m Zentichko reported the committee completed the Fireworks Ordinance. The committee was going to work on Vehicles and Traffic; but we will probably work on Tenant & Landlord Ordinance next. He would like to see the landlords report semi-annually.

PERSONNEL REPORT: There will be a personnel committee meeting September 13, 2021.

CODES REPORT: Cl’m Leach commented the Code Enforcement Officer hasn’t used any postage or any uniform allowance. Feels this Council does not appreciate him.

COMMENTS AROUND THE TABLE: President Halstead ‘s recommendation was to remove the comments around the table from the agenda.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl’m Bucher moved, seconded by Cl’m Shope to adjourn the meeting at 8:45P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bowers
Asst. Secretary