

Newport Borough Council Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Newport Borough Council

November 1, 2022

Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice President of Council Billie Dudley called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Mary Bucher, Tami Halstead, Greg Shope, Jacob Zentichko, and Christian Fickes present. President Penny Frownfelter and Mayor Robert Campbell were absent.

Others Present – Solicitor William Dissinger, Engineer Kevin Burke, Frank Campbell, Luke Roman, Gwyn Smith, Greg Miller, John and Shirley Bailey, Michelle Tice, and Lt. Kenneth Tallman.

Cl'm Fickes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Bucher to move signors by resolution to New Business. Motion carried.

- Cl'm Fickes moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to add Sinkhole of 4th Street to Streets Report. Motion carried.
- Cl'm Dudley moved, seconded by Cl'm Fickes to add Turkey Trot ratification to agenda under New Business. Motion carried.
- Cl'm Dudley moved, seconded by Cl'm Fickes to add Ball Team Season report to communications. Motion Carried.

Vice President Dudley announced the meeting is being recorded.

Approval of Minutes – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to approve the October 4, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes as drafted. Motion carried.

Guest –Lt. Kenneth Tallman from the Pennsylvania State Police reported 1200 incidences within the Borough since January 1, 2022. Newport Borough accounts for 10% of county calls to the barracks. 175 of those being traffic citations including warnings for seat belts. 35 DUIs, 5 motor vehicle crashes. Demographics for the data ranges in adults over 40 years of age. Lt. Tallman continued to report 35 welfare checks, 18 harassment charges, 55 see officer cases, and 18 domestic and theft incidents. Cl'm Zentichko asked where most vehicle accidents were happening, and Cl'm Halstead asked if Troopers could monitor speeding on 4th Street. Lt. Tallman will provide the Borough with information relating to locations of frequent accidents. He stated Troopers will be more present on 4th Street.

Guest - Greg Miller from Don Jacobs Insurance Group displayed the premium summary to Council for the 2023 policy period. He reminded council members that there is no coverage on fencing, the ballfield dugouts, or old girls concession stand. He explained that there is blanket coverage that can be borrowed from. Miller then went through 7 sections of insurance coverage: Crime, Inland Marine which protects equipment stored, in transit, and off site. He continued with General Liability, Public Officials, Automobile, Umbrella, and Cyber. The last part of the policy involved Worker's Compensation that will be reduced by \$3,500.00 due to a change at Newport Borough Municipal Authority.

Public Comment – Shirley Barkley approached Council after reading about the prospective rental ordinance in the newspaper. She expressed her strong support for the ordinance and hopes that it will

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assist in cleaning up Newport. Barkley shared the story of her son who lived in an apartment about the Hard Hat. She described the dwelling as being infested with droppings from bats, mice, and roaches. Barkley said that even after several calls to the owner and Health Department, no solution was found.

Engineer's Report Kevin Burke submitted a written report.

- **Sewer and Drainage Improvements** – Burke stated that a dye test will need to be performed by the Sewer Authority due to the inconsistency between the drainpipe plan and where it actually flows. An inlet at Pine Street will be placed back in the week of November 6th and repaved. Cl'm Fickes asked if the inlet will be lowered by 2 inches and what will happen on Market Street with paving, while Cl'm Shope inquired about a reverse crown. Burke stated a conversation with Engineer Philip Brath would be necessary before moving on, but milling can be utilized to smooth out the roads. Cl'm Dudley stated that she observed caps on 5th and Market Street sidewalks making a risk for trips and falls. Burke will forward the concern to Engineer Brath to follow up with Borough Council.
- **One-Way Stop**- Concern was displayed by Engineer Brath about changing the direction of traffic around the school. Solicitor Dissinger said he will review the change within the Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance. He added a summary must be advertised. Cl'm Shore, seconded by Cl'm Fickes for Solicitor Bill Dissinger to review the vehicle and Traffic Ordinance and create a summary for the advertisement.
- **Sinkhole** – The brick sides have collapsed onto itself at the 4th and Dock Street Inlet. An emergency HOP is in order from PennDot. The Borough will need a contractor to repair or replace the inlet. Burke stated a contractor should also be utilized for the sinkhole on Penn Avenue. This hole should be dug out to expose the problem to then discover a solution. Luke Roman suggested that the cause of the sinkhole may be due to pooling and draining water from a nearby residence. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Zentichko to approve contractors Kirby Kitner or Amity Enterprises to restore the sinkhole at Penn Avenue and Inlet at 4th and Dock Street at a combined total of \$11,000. Motion Carried.

Street Report – Cody Harris submitted a written report but informs that Brush Pick up will end November 21, 2022. Harris mentioned that in shopping around for fuel oil for the Winter season Rolling Hills came into be the lowest pricing bracket.

Cl'm Fickes submitted a written report.

Vice President Dudley announces that the discussion 5th Street Sidewalks are tabled until December Meeting. Work on inlets at 6th Street and Catherine are also tabled until the Spring meeting.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Dissinger presented Resolution 16-22 on acceptance of Act 57. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Zentichko to approve Resolution 16-22. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Newport General Fund Account balance was \$121,092.12. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$13,542.27. Estimated income is \$16,400.00. Liquid Fuels Account balance was \$64,385.58 with October interest of \$10.29. PIB Loan Account balance was \$136,161.12 with

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October interest of \$37.86. PLGIT Reserve Account balance was \$126,612.12 with October interest of \$337.76. PLGIT ARPA Fund balance was \$138,317.55 with October interest of \$177.45. PLGIT Paving project balance was \$34,499.05 with October interest of \$228.25. Secretary/Treasurer reported that there was a P-Card payment of \$1,049.12. Treasurer Zimmerman asked for permission to reimburse a resident at \$50.00 for pavilion rental. Cl'm Shope moved, seconded by Cl'm Ficked to approve \$50.00 pavilion rental reimbursement. Zimmerman reported a payment to IRS of \$211.23 as a reimbursement for a Covid-19 tax refund that occurred in 2021. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Zentichko to approve the Treasurer's Report and bills as presented. Motion Carried.

- Cl'm Shope moved, seconded by Cl'm Butcher to enter executive session at 8:47 PM. Motion Carried.
- Cl'm Fickes moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to come out of executive session at 9:21 PM. Motion carried.

Finance/Grant Committee Report – Cl'm Dudley moved, seconded by Cl'm Butcher to schedule a mid-month Borough Council meeting on November 22, 2022 to discuss the budget. Motion carried.

RTP Reimbursement Agreement - Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Fickes to approve Resolution 15-22 updating authorization naming Tyteayanna Zimmerman and Tami Halstead to sign documents for the RTP Implementation Program for Curbs and Sidewalks. Motion Carried.

Code Enforcement Report – No Report

Ordinance Committee Report- No Report

Playground Committee – Cl'm Halstead updated that the pricing quote on the playground equipment expired at the end of November.

Mayor's Report- No Report

Old Business –**Secretary Zimmerman** presented the council with a quote of demolition from Old School Construction for \$9,150.00. Cl'm Halstead stated a grant may be obtainable for the demolition of 55 S. 2nd Street. However, since the Borough does not own the property, a grant may not be available.

New Business- Cl'm Halstead questioned the P-Card rules and process for purchases. Cl'm Ficked stated that Council will need to look back at the minutes for the specifics but the cards should be updated. Cl'm Ficked moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to remove Patricia Bowers from the P-Card account and add Tyteayanna Zimmerman. Motion carried.

- Cl'm Fickes moved, seconded by Cl'm Shope to ratify decision to hang Turkey Trot banner for 2023. Motion carried.
- **Christmas Party** – Council agreed to host Borough Christmas Party Friday December 23, 2022. Cl'm Butcher moved, seconded by Cl'm Fickes to spend up to \$250.00 on party supplies.

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- **Goodwill** – Vice President Dudley reported that Goodwill is closing at the end of the year. President Frownfelter suggested to write a letter of support. Cl'm Shope moved, seconded by Cl'm Fickes to send a letter of support to Goodwill. Motion carried.

Communications –

- Debris Management Plan Intern may conduct surveys in the area.
- EMS Strategic Planning Committee's mission statement.
- 2022 Ball Team meeting report.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Fickes to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Tyteayanna Zimmerman
Secretary