

MINUTES  
New Holland Borough Council  
November 5, 2019

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, James S. Bailey, Terry S. Mohler, John A. Styer and Abby L. Keiser. Member Patrick K. Morgan was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Solicitor Bradford J. Harris, Police Chief William Leighty and reporter Carole C. Deck. Others in attendance included Borough water consultant Jeff Bologna of Becker Engineering, and residents Bill Kassinger, Mike Kurtz, Diana Morgan, Lino Vescovich, Henry Smeltz, Sharon Smeltz, Joseph Thum and Sheila Johnson.

President Herrington opened the meeting, asking for action on the Minutes of Council's October 1, 2019 meeting.

John Styer made the motion that Council's Minutes be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Abby Keiser and passed.

John Styer made the motion that Council's Workshop Minutes of October 23, 2019, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Terry Mohler and passed.

Terry Mohler made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Abby Keiser and passed.

President Herrington stated he wanted to thank and recognize Council Vice-President Todd Burkhart who in follow up with communications from Council member Mohler and himself, handled the concerns with the projected dangerous weather forecast for the originally planned Trick or Treat night of Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Because of the forecast there was concern and action by many other municipalities to move it to the next day. He was tied up at a meeting with no outside communications allowed. Based on the forecast and checking on the emergency concern with public safety with Police Chief Leighty, Vice-President Burkhart informed the office staff first thing that Thursday morning to institute the change and make the public aware.

Police Chief Leighty then reviewed his monthly Report as distributed to Council. There were 449 total incidents during the month. There were six arrests, four of which were felonies or misdemeanors; eight accidents, five of which were

reportable. There were 37 traffic citations and three warnings. There were no contacts regarding juveniles. The numerous trainings and participation with community related events is indicated on the front page.

Council member Keiser stated she wanted the other Council members to be aware that there has not been any need for the local youth aid panel to get together so far this school year. She feels this is a good reflection on the School Resource Officer and the Department; and asked the Chief to pass that along.

President Herrington reported that as we move onto Finance Committee items, he has a note here provided by Finance Chairperson Patrick Morgan, who indicated that if he is unable to be present through electronic communications it means he is still active with his evening business, and requests the following statement be read. President Herrington then read the statement.

“As a Council member and Chairperson of the Finance Committee, I take these responsibilities seriously and try to stay on top of all Borough operations. At this budget making time of year this is even more important.

In developing the proposed 2020 budget for the Borough, particularly as it affects the property tax rate, I want to note first that we have been fortunate to go seven years without a property tax increase, a pretty remarkable record for a municipality with its own police force.

We are proposing to increase the Borough millage rate from 2.75 mills to 3.25 mills. This is a step I believe is necessary to meet our expenses by law and I support it. Even with this small increase, we will remain among the lower Borough millage rates in the county. Again, I believe this is an appropriate action, needed at this time to properly maintain the quality of life for our residents.

Patrick K. Morgan, Finance Committee Chairperson”

President Herrington then noted that the proposed Preliminary 2020 budget as prepared is scheduled for discussion and possible action to proceed by Council this evening, as outlined by Chairperson Morgan and on the Agenda. There is an 18 percent increase in the millage rate for 2020, from 2.75 to 3.25 mills; and as noted by Chairperson Morgan, it has been a long time since taxes had to be raised.

Todd Burkhart made the motion that the proposed 2020 budget for the Borough be given preliminary approval. This was seconded by Terry Mohler and passed.

Todd Burkhart made the motion that the preliminarily approved 2020 Borough budget be authorized for advertisement. This was seconded by Terry Mohler and passed.

President Herrington reminded those present that there is a minimum 30 days required between preliminary adoption and final adoption. Following past practice, Council's regular meeting of December 3, 2019, is planned to be continued until Thursday, December 5, at noon, for final adoption.

Personnel Chairperson Styer reported that as done in the past this time of year, the committee on behalf of Council takes the opportunity to recognize and thank some area persons who perform volunteer services for the Borough. Pat Blair continues her many years of trash and debris pick up at Community Memorial Park. Jim Boose, who is also a member of the Board of Community Memorial Park continues to do playground and grounds inspection, also at Community Memorial Park. Council member Jim Bailey continues volunteering his time and labor at the arborturn Groff Park. And a special thanks to the Board of the Community Memorial Park, which continues its fundraising and contributions to capital needs at the Park. He noted Council sends out formal Thank you letters to these folks.

Property Chairperson Bailey reported next that similar to the Personnel Chairperson's report at this time of year, the Property Committee recognizes a number of area businesses which contribute time and services for the attractive upkeep of a number of Borough park areas. Showcase Landscaping continues its donated services to maintain the plantings at Towne Centre Green as well as at the Edward L. Sprecher memorial area at Community Memorial Park. Clean Energy Services continues to maintain the plantings along the outside of the Timbers Playground. These companies are also sent formal letters of thanks.

Water/Wastewater Chairperson Keiser stated she has no action items for presentation but wanted to note that when the short intense rains were received on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, the Spruce Road Pump Station handled the flows without alarm. The more recent rain of the 31<sup>st</sup> caused a high-level alarm, however the flow remained about four feet from overflow before receding.

Streets Chairperson Mohler reported that the 1996 Ford dump truck was placed out for sale for private bid to compare with its trade-in value of \$7,500. A high purchase bid of \$11,300 was received from Gerald G. Martin and Sons Excavating. He then made the motion that Council accept the purchase price bid of \$11,300

from Gerald G. Martin and Sons Excavating for the 1996 Ford dump truck. This was seconded by Abby Keiser and passed.

Chairperson Mohler then made the motion that the proposed Amendment #2 to the community refuse program between the Borough and Eagle Disposal be approved. This Amendment raises the payment to Eagle for the disposal of recyclable materials from \$25 to \$40 per ton for the first six months of 2020 (1/1/20-6/30/20) then to \$50 per ton beginning July 1, 2020. This was seconded by John Styer and passed.

Chairperson Mohler next made the motion that Council approve the request of the New Holland Business Association for them to cover parking meters during the holiday season, from Thanksgiving week through January 1, 2020. This was seconded by Abby Keiser and passed.

Mayor Bender then stated that the monies received through the Police Department the past month were: \$1,172.42 from the District Justice's office; \$455 from accident reports; \$20 in parking fines; and \$25 from fingerprinting. In relation to some general community items, he was able to attend the local group which continues its emphasis on the public recognizing those affected by dementia. They are sponsoring workshops particularly for those retail businesses interested. The New Holland Y has been officially sold. At this point, no one has come up with a solution for those interested. In relation to the current disagreements between the county commissioners and the District Attorney, the county Mayors group has suggested a third party be utilized to possibly address further equitable funding approaches. And of interest to local businesses, November 30<sup>th</sup> is national Shop Local Day.

Resident Joe Thum and wife Sheila Johnson explained that they live at 209 South Yund Avenue and their dog was recently bit by a feral cat roaming nearby. They are paying the medical expenses related to the dog's medical response but want to know what can be done about these cats. The veterinarian noted there could be rabies involved, so their dog is being treated and has to be observed for a 45-day safe period.

Manager Fulcher stated this problem is a local, statewide and national problem. There is no real enforcement power given to a municipality in Pennsylvania to deal with cats. The Borough will sign-out a trap for a person to catch them to take them to get neutered but currently everyone is overloaded with cats and otherwise will not accept them. If they suspect the cat that bit their dog was rabid, they should

provide the information to the Police Chief. This helps the Department and Borough staff know of areas of particular concern. Being surrounded by farms, it is difficult to curtail stray cats. He also asked them to let the Borough office know how the dog is after the 45-day monitoring period.

Council member Mohler asked Solicitor Harris if there was anything passed more recently related to the control of stray cats.

Solicitor Harris confirmed that there is little under existing state law for municipalities to address stray cats. If there is a rabid cat involved, that would create a different situation as to public safety by that particular cat.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

December 3, 2019  
Date Approved