

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
July 7, 2020

New Holland Borough Council met on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. All members were present: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, Patrick K. Morgan, Terry S. Mohler, John A. Styer, Bryant J. Glick and Michael H. Kurtz. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender and Police Chief William Leighty. Others in attendance included residents Bill Kassinger, Patricia Smith and Mike Ireland and Daniel West, DMD who has an office in New Holland and reporter Carole Deck.

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

Todd Burkhart made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of June 2, 2020 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Terry Mohler and passed.

Patrick Morgan made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Bryant Glick and passed. Members Todd Burkhart and John Styer abstained.

Police Chief Leighty then reviewed his monthly summary Report. The monthly totals included 349 incidents; 13 accidents, of which 7 were reportable; 7 arrests, of which 6 were felonies; 23 citations and 8 warnings. As noted in the Report, officers Reifsnyder and Stoltzfus participated in the state funded Click It-Or Ticket program. This increased some of their activity numbers over the past few months. On June 26 and 29, the officers participated in something called the Blueprint for Addiction Recovery. This is an effort to help reduce recidivism in those cases where an individual has additional issues. It tries to assist persons on an individual basis dealing with substance abuse which led them to commit a crime. Regardless of the time of day, a supporting counselor can be called to assist. All counselors are former addicts themselves. The goal is a group effort to help return these persons to productive members of society; helping them while helping to reduce crime.

Police Chairman Burkhart stated it was good to see the copies of all the letters of support of the Police Department and thanks from so many community persons.

Chief Leighty noted he was grateful and humbled by all the support and notes from the community and Council.

Property Chairman Styer reported he requested Pool Manager Leo Ward to briefly address Council this evening on how pool operations have gone so far.

Pool Manager Ward began by informing Council that a new automatic chemical control system was installed just before the pool opened, for the Baby Pool. This was done for the big pool a number of years ago. This is a big help in reducing staff monitoring time. He and they can also control it through their phones on a 24-hour basis. Overall, the pool operations have gone well. The more recent state order to wear masks in certain public conditions helped strengthen the pool operations policy of masks when inside the pool building. Operating now in the state's Green phase, they are allowed 75 percent capacity. He feels however that 60 percent is the best operational level under Coronavirus concerns. The 50 percent is the 313, the 60 percent is 376. When they reach the 50 percent mark, those requesting to enter without memberships are informed that they have to wait until some people leave; members are allowed in up to the 60 percent point. The non-members have been very understanding. If they wish to wait in the parking lot, the staff takes their name and number in order and calls them when there is room to enter. This has occurred on two days so far, even with the high temperatures. This also usually only occurs on weekends. He has only had a few instances where serious mis-behavior has been referred to the Borough Manager for membership review. In response to a number of questions, he noted that based on initial review and observation, it appears the daily admission numbers attending are up; many of these due to other area pools being closed. Kinder Haus has not been an issue because its numbers are small and it involves weekdays.

Carole Deck, speaking as a resident, stated she feels the staff at the pool is a great and courteous staff.

Wastewater Chairman Glick reported he has no action items but wants to note that the PA DEP conducted a routine Inspection of the plant and operations on June 17. The operations passed with flying colors, so he wants to note the work of Department Supervisor Myers and staff.

There were no Finance, Personnel, Water or Streets action items.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Police Department the past month as: \$963.97 from the District Justice's office; \$15 from Accident

Reports; and \$25 from fingerprinting. He commends Pool Manager Ward and his staff for the great job in operating the pool. He has received many comments from people happy the pool was able to open. He has also received many comments of support for the Police Department and the job it does. On another matter, he wants to thank and recognize the New Holland Summer Arts program for the great fireworks display put on this year; also, to the Borough Manager and his Park staff who deal with parking assistance and the traffic concerns related to it.

ELANCO Library Board Treasurer Mike Ireland reported the activities at the Library as, a call-in, curbside pick-up service being available, four days a week. They have continued to do about 10 percent of normal circulation. Beginning the week of the 13th, people can browse books by appointment. Wearing masks is required in the building. Though one book can be located and reserved at a different library, it has to be picked up by the person at that library. Such books are not being delivered between libraries. Returned books are held in quarantine for five days. Late fines are still not being assessed or collected. All of the staff is back, but working differing schedules and with shields and masks. The Library software was not designed for this type of unusual operational system. They feel fortunate however as many of the other smaller libraries in the county have been unable to open at all.

Mrs. Patricia Smith of 340 East Main Street inquired if the Borough could do anything about the broken utility pole across the street from her house. It has been that way since it was hit many months ago. She did see utility company workers there and making notes a few days ago. It looks bad and could be dangerous.

Manger Fulcher reported this is a pole belonging to Frontier Communications, which is undergoing a bankruptcy reorganization and while still operating takes a long period of time to address these situations. The Borough has communicated with both Frontier and the power company, PPL. They are aware of it but do not provide specific work dates. Reporting she has seen them checking it on-site is good. Should the Borough be provided a repair schedule, he will let her know.

Council member Burkhart stated that as a pole belonging to Frontier Communications, the Borough has no capability to direct them.

Local dentist Dr. Daniel West then spoke to Council. He maintains an office in the Borough. He has lived in the area for about 40 years and has seen many changes in the various communities over those years. Community is important. Many of his customers are disappointed in the canceling of the annual Farmers' Fair by the

Farm Show Committee this year; even though it does not seem to him as positive an event as it was years ago. He has seen it deteriorate over the more recent years. He has helped for many years with the Terre Hill Days' activities as well as with the Terre Hill Timbers Playground. With these things in mind, he has a consideration or recommendation for someone. This is to hold some type of one-time family friendly event on North Roberts Avenue, adjacent to the Borough's Towne Centre Green on the weekend of Oct. 2nd and 3rd which would have been the weekend of the Fair; maybe 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. He used to hold an event on a Saturday in this area for his business but it ran into some concerns. His idea could involve things like a corn-hole play area, tug-of-war, outdoor movie night. Maybe the Ambulance, Fire and Police would be able to participate. Someone could ask for special permission to use the open space park. He would help sponsor it and there would be no cost to the Borough.

Manager Fulcher inquired if he has talked this over with the Downtown Business Association as to sponsoring it and assisting with getting volunteers.

Council member Mohler noted he had some good thoughts but the timeframe suggested may be a concern. He is also concerned that it may be more difficult to find the many volunteers and workers needed for this, as many organizations have this issue.

Member Glick stated it seems like a great idea but there also seems to be a number of detail questions to be answered first.

Mayor Bender reinforced the need for Dr. West to discuss this with the Downtown Business Association and possibly the Farm Show Committee to find a sponsoring partner and determine interest.

President Herrington noted that such an event if requested to be held would still have virus concern gathering limit issues and might be better if held at Community Memorial Park. He then inquired if any member had any issues with Dr. West pursuing his concept with other area organizations. There were no objections.

Council member Glick inquired if Council members felt Council needed to pass a resolution indicating support of its Police Department.

Manager Fulcher noted that the Borough support, as indicated this evening, is known in the community. Such a resolution could cause confusion as to why it was felt necessary.

Police Chair Burkhart stated he feels the support is well-known and such action is not appropriate.

Mayor Bender added that he also feels as shown and discussed numerous times through the meeting, the Borough's support is known and an action like that could create some misunderstanding.

Member Glick next stated he has had a number of businesses ask if they could go to Community Park and sell things. Is there some way to allow this.

Manager Fulcher explained that a municipality cannot just let a private business use public property to make money. This has to be done in some type of competitive proposal situation to benefit the taxpayers. The Borough currently has an agreement with a vender at the Park, who utilizes vending machines, which include ice cream products. The only other food vendors allowed are part of a sponsor organization's approved activity. He is trying to identify an approach whereby some Park or Borough affiliated organization can be used to support some type of special fundraising days at the pool later in the summer using a local business.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

August 4, 2020
Date Approved