

December 7, 2020

The New Oxford Borough Council met at 7 PM on Monday, December 7, 2020, in borough council chambers located at 124 North Peters Street, New Oxford, for their scheduled and advertised council meeting.

The meeting was called to order and pledge of allegiance led by Council President.

Roll call of those present: John Griffie, Matthew Johnston, Linda Kane, Dorothy Robinson and Amanda Sipe. Also present were Solicitor Harold Eastman, Engineer Jeremy Smith and Secretary/Treasurer Tania Kepner. Absent was Mayor James Eisenhart.

Solicitor Eastman stated an executive session of the Borough Council was conducted immediately prior to the commencement of this evening's general business meeting of the Borough Council beginning at 6:30 PM consistent with section 708(a)(1) and section 798(a)(4) of the Sunshine Act for the following purposes: (1) to discuss matters of employment, to include the terms and conditions of employment of Borough employees; and (2) in order to consult with the Borough's solicitor regarding information in connection with litigation filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania to Docket No. 1:19-cv-01829-CCC captioned Brian Platt, Plaintiff v. James Graham, Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance, Inc., New Oxford Borough, et al, Defendants.

Audience acknowledgment / opportunity for public comment:

Solicitor Eastman reminded the audience how the Sunshine Act governs audience participation.

1. Brain Platt: 1) Mr. Platt addressed the council regarding the approved October 5, 2020 council meeting minutes, Mr. Platt disagrees with the approved minutes.

2) Mr. Platt provided documents to the council that this is proof of clear fraud by PMCA.

2. Chief Staab: Chief Staab informed the council of the incidents that occurred in the borough during November 2020.

Sipe made the motion to accept the minutes from the November 2, 2020 council meeting as presented. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Johnston made the motion to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's Report as presented. Kane seconded. Motion carried.

Finance, Budget & Treasurer's Report by Johnston:

1. Johnston made the motion to pay the bills as per the Vendor Balance Detail Report. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

2. Johnston made the motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

3. Johnston made the motion to pay the bills through the end of 2020. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

Building & Grounds Report by Robinson & Johnston:

1. Borough building security cameras – tabled.

2. Council Room / Borough Office chairs. Johnston made the motion to purchase (3) new chairs for the borough office @\$232.59 each. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation Report by Robinson & Kane:

1. A-Team Pool Service – fountain estimate – tabled.

Eastern Adams Regional Police Department Commission Report by Robinson & Griffie – nothing to report.

Streets & Sidewalks Report by Griffie:

1. Griffie will contact Conewago Enterprises regarding repairs to Commerce Street.

2. Street Lighting. Johnston made the motion to table. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

Nothing to report for Health & Safety due to Mayor Eisenhart's absence.

Nothing to report for the Mayor's Report due to Mayor Eisenhart's absence.

Kane made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-2020 extending declaration of disaster. Sipe seconded. Motion carried.

Johnston made the motion to enact Ordinance No. 472 Transient Retail License Ordinance. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

Transient Retail License fee schedule review. Sipe made the motion directing Solicitor Eastman to prepare a Resolution for adoption at the January 4, 2021 council meeting setting the fees for the Transient Retail License @\$50.00 per month and \$100.00 per year. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

Sidewalk repair Ordinance review. Griffie made the motion to table. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Sipe made the motion to adopt the 2021 budget. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Griffie made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-2020 setting the tax rate for 2021 at 2.70 mills. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Aero Energy – financial security bond release. Sipe made the motion to approve the release of the financial security bond in the amount of \$5,928.00 with regards to the parking lot expansion project based on Engineer Smith's recommendation. Kane seconded. Motion carried.

Griffie made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-2020 appointing Lanny Mummert to the Zoning Hearing Board. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of alternate member on the Zoning Hearing Board – tabled.

Griffie made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 17-2020 appointing Douglas Ruhlman to the Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals. Sipe seconded. Motion carried.

Griffie made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-2020 appointing Kenneth Bevenour as the alternate member to the Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals. Sipe seconded. Motion carried.

Johnston made the motion authorizing Dorothy Robinson, Council President, to execute the agreement with SEK & Co. to prepare the 2020 audit. Kane seconded. Motion carried.

Griffie made the motion to approve and advertise the Monday, January 4, 2021 council meeting starting at 7 PM. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Sipe made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 19-2020 Adams County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kane seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report by Robinson:

1. A complaint was received regarding the lack of public transportation in the borough. Johnston will check to see if a bus stop could be placed in the borough.

Griffie made the motion for adjournment at 7:50 PM. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tania K. Kepner  
Secretary/Treasurer