

October 5, 2020

The New Oxford Borough Council met at 7:00 pm on Monday, October 5, 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 Robinsoin.

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

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 6:00 pm consistent with section 708(a)(4) of the Sunshine Act in order to consult with its solicitor and to discuss 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, New Oxford Borough, et al. Defendants and in connection with issues on which identifiable complaints have been made to the Borough.

Audience acknowledgement / opportunity for public comment:

Solicitor Eastman stated this is the opportunity for public comment which would be on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or maybe before the council prior to the council taking official action.

1. Lanny Mummert: Mr. Mummert addressed the council with concerns and complaints regarding various activity that has occurred on the baseball field such as high balls doing damage to cars, property damage, balls coming onto his property, the use of foul language and the spread of COVID-19 because masks are not being worn. Mr. Mummert is putting New Oxford Borough Council on notice that if this continues and is not resolved in a timely manner he will have no choice to make this a legal matter in Harrisburg. Mr. Mummert asked Solicitor Eastman if he could ask him a question. Solicitor Eastman stated that this is the time for public comment, this is not a question and answer period.

2. Brian Platt: 1) Mr. Platt addressed the council with his concerns with regards to various activity that is occurring in the borough such as burglary, possible drug activity, home-less people living in the woods and a variety of other activities and provided various photos to the council that he captured from his security cameras. Mr. Platt is very concerned regarding how bad New Oxford is becoming.

2) Mr. Platt addressed the council regarding a law suit that is in federal court against PA Municipal Code Alliance (PMCA) and provided documentation to the council/Solicitor Eastman. Mr. Platt stated that this community would be doing a phenomenal service to its residents by cutting their ties with PMCA.

3. Sonja Williams, Brandon Williams and Erik Williams: Mrs. Williams addressed the council with concerns and complaints with regards to James Graham harassing, targeting and stalking her and her sons. Mrs. Williams spoke about her experience with regards to tires being marked on center square, her Transient Retail License, signage, calls to the borough office and receiving notices. Mrs. William's discussed various situations with regards to the trash collection. Brandon Williams and Erik Williams also addressed the council with concerns and complaints that they have been harassed, questioned the legal fee costs, employee wages and other bills that have been paid.

4. Nancy Bissett: Mrs. Bissett addressed the council about the years she has lived in the borough, the different ways tires have been marked for tracking the two hour parking on center square, notices of violations that she received and other various issues she had over the year since the 80's

5. Erik Williams: Mr. Williams addressed the council with concerns and complaints regarding James Graham terrorizing and targeting people. Mr. Williams spoke about the conditions of the public sidewalks and had questions regarding sidewalk repairs and permits.

6. Brian Platt: Mr. Platt addressed the council with concerns and complaints with regards to pictures he provided to the council. Eastman informed the public that borough employee's cannot be attacked.

7. Kim Burton: Mrs. Burton is a realtor and recently sold a couple a home in New Oxford Borough. Mrs. Burton informed the council that her and her husband love New Oxford and is offering help any time help is needed.

8. Jamin Snyder and Ben Carbaugh, Cub Pack 125: Mr. Snyder and Mr. Carbaugh addressed and presented to the council information regarding rebuilding the entry doorway into their scout meeting area that is located in the basement of the borough building. The estimated cost for the project is \$3800.00. Brian Platt stated he would donate \$500 then increased his donation to half of the cost of the project to the Boy Scouts.

Sipe made the motion to accept the minutes from September 8, 2020 council meeting as presented. Kane seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

Building & Grounds Report by Robinson & Johnston:

1. Johnston informed the council that he discovered a hole in the roadway next to a storm drain on West Berlin Street at Carlisle Street. Robinson stated she will inform the maintenance man.

2. Johnston stated that no information has been received from the New Oxford Baseball League regarding the installation of netting.

3. Borough Building – drainage and parking lot repairs/addition. Engineer Smith stated that the project is now complete.

4. N. O. Area Chamber of Commerce – use of borough building gym on October 22, 2020. Robinson stated that it is not certain at this time if the Chamber will need to use the gym or not. Most likely the Council Room will be used for the chamber meeting as usual.

Robinson and Kane had nothing to report for Parks & Recreation.

Eastern Adams Regional Police Department Commission Report by Robinson & Griffie:

1. Chief Staab informed the council that the 2021 police budget has been submitted to the Commission.

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

Streets & Sidewalks Report by Griffie:

1. Griffie made the motion to approve the use of Liquid Fuels Funds to rent a machine and purchase materials to crack seal borough streets at the quoted price of \$5,248.50 from SealMaster. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

Health & Safety Report by Mayor Eisenhart. No report because Mayor Eisenhart had to leave the council meeting at 7:55 pm.

Mayor's Report by Mayor Eisenhart. Mayor Eisenhart had to leave the council meeting at 7:55 pm.

1. Council decided to set the Trick-or-Treat date for Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 6 pm – 8 pm.

Transient Retail License Ordinance review. Council discussed various changes to the proposed ordinance and directed Solicitor Eastman to make additional changes to the proposed ordinance for review at the November 2, 2020 council meeting.

Borough Building parking regulations review. Johnston made the motion authorizing the advertisement of the ordinance for enactment at the November 2, 2020 council meeting. Griffie seconded. Motion carried.

Griffie made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 12-2020 rules and regulations of all meetings open to the public and the maintenance of order at such meetings. Johnston seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report by President Robinson:

1. Robinson directed Griffie to mark sidewalks that are in need of repairs.

Brandon Williams and Erik Williams addressed the council with questions regarding sidewalk repairs, permits and concerns regarding James Graham.

Griffie made the motion for adjournment at 9:20 pm. Kane seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tania K. Kepner  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Borough of New Oxford