

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by Vice President Julia Kutzler at 7:30 PM on Thursday, August 4, 2022. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present at roll call were: Vice President Julia Kutzler, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Kenneth Hall, Bonnie Almond, Trevor Stone and Ronald Glassic. President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., Judith Haldeman and junior councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson were absent. Also present were Mayor Anthony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Bill Leiner, Northampton Press Reporter, was present to comment on the NASD Student Council auto show event held at Bicentennial Park on Saturday, July 30, 2022. He was in attendance and said the event was great and the borough's portable restroom was fabulous.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO PLACE A MEMORIAL BENCH:

A group of individuals wish to honor the memory of Elizabeth Hoffman Mann, who passed away on May 22, 2022, by purchasing and placing a bench at a location in the Northampton park system. The bench slat would be engraved with her name and a short memorial. Since she lived in the Second Ward, Mr. Brobst thought the Municipal Park would be an excellent location.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to allow a group of individuals who wish to honor the memory of Elizabeth Hoffman Mann, who passed away on May 22, 2022, by purchasing and placing a bench at a location in the Northampton park system.

Councilman Hall asked Mr. Brobst if he had any idea where the bench would be placed in the park, adding that we may get more requests for memorial benches in the future.

Mr. Brobst suggested somewhere in the grove area of the park.

Councilwoman suggested placing it in the area of the Sister Cities monument. Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. suggested placing it in the Uptown Park, near the business district of the borough where more people will see it. He also added that it's in the 2nd Ward where Elizabeth Hoffman Mann resided.

Councilwoman Almond said she knows that a group of her friends and family will be paying for the bench but asked who would be responsible for maintenance and repairs of the bench.

Mr. Brobst explained that the type of bench they want to purchase is almost indestructible, referring to poly resin furniture.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND A TRAINING CLASS:

Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has submitted a request to have Officer Dennis Smith attend an FBI- LEEDA supervisor training class hosted by the Palmer Township Police Department. The course will be held on November 7-11, 2022, and the cost is \$695.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to approve the request of Chief Kadingo to have Officer Dennis Smith attend an FBI- LEEDA supervisor training class hosted by the Palmer Township Police Department on November 7-11, 2022.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND A TRAINING COURSE:

Chief Kadingo has also submitted a request to have Officer Geoffrey Perry attend a one-day Glock Armorer school hosted by the Slatington Police Department. The course will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, and the cost is \$250.

Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if this is a one-day class. Chief Kadingo confirmed it is a one-day class.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and unanimously carried to grant permission to have Officer Geoffrey Perry attend a one-day Glock Armorer school hosted by the Slatington Police Department on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO VIEW WASTEWATER EQUIPMENT:

Sewer plant superintendent Scott Gillespie, head operator Steven Urban, and environmental engineer Tom Duffy have been invited to examine various equipment in the area of Saratoga Springs, New York. Jim Moyer of Kappe Associates will provide transportation, along with lodging, and the event is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2022, and Thursday, August 11, 2022.

Councilman Glassic if both Scott Gillespie and Steven Urban need to attend. Mr. Brobst said yes, it would be beneficial if they both attended the event and added there is no cost to the borough.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission for sewer plant superintendent Scott Gillespie and head operator Steven Urban to examine various equipment in the area of Saratoga Springs, New York. Jim Moyer of Kappe Associates will provide transportation, along with lodging, on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, and Thursday, August 11, 2022.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SEWER PLANT TOURS:

Eastern Water Pollution Control tours will be available on Friday, September 16, 2022, and Friday, November 4, 2022. Superintendent Gillespie would like to send some of his staff on these tours because it provides an excellent opportunity to see how other plants operate. There will be additional tours in the spring of 2023; however, definitive times are not yet available.

Councilman Glassic asked that Scott Gillespie prepare future requests separately on borough letterhead.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission for some of the sewer plant employees to attend the Eastern Water Pollution Control tours on Friday, September 16, 2022, and Friday, November 4, 2022.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that we have received the second quarter franchise fee from Service Electric Cable TV in the amount of \$6,040.37.

--The list of candidates for the assistant to the borough manager has been trimmed to four individuals. A second interview with each candidate will be conducted on either Wednesday, August 10, 2022, and Thursday, August 11, 2022.

--Budget revenue and expenses are about where Mr. Brobst expected them to be. He anticipates the second half of the American Rescue Plan Act money any day now.

Councilman Glassic asked if we have to pay \$6,040.37 to Service Electric.

Mr. Brobst said no, that is a quarterly franchise fee that we received from Service Electric Cable TV.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Stone reported that Mr. Brobst couldn't offer enough thanks to applaud the efforts of the Northampton, Coplay and Allen Township fire departments for their orchestration of the Splash Party that was held in lieu of opening the pool on Saturday and Sunday, July 23 & 24, 2022. Of equal importance was the quick action of pool manager Andrew Laub, who spread the word through social media alerting the residents of an alternative to suffering through the weekend's heat wave.

--A review of staff available has lead us to the conclusion that the pool will close for the season on Saturday, August 20, 2022. With all things considered in an unusual year, Mr. Brobst is happy he did not blow up the pool (only kidding).

--Mr. Brobst is working on a grant application with Victor Rodite that is directed at examining our park vandalism and designating a need for funding to establish camera systems and recording surveillance in our parks and around our public buildings.

Code and Police: Councilwoman Almond reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Thursday, August 11, 2022, to hear the appeal of Daniel Mantz of 1630 Washington Avenue. Mr. Mantz is seeking a variance for the comer lot setback requirements for a fence.

--Code Officer Keith Knoblach took advantage of an opportunity to attend a two-day workshop providing a legal background which he can apply in his duties.

Fire and Health: Councilman Glassic reported that Health Officer Ted Veresink continues to monitor activities at the Farmers' Market. To date, everything seems to be proceeding according to expectations.

Councilman Hall added that there will be 3 upcoming resignations from the fire police in October and November.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that paving on Barrington Drive has been completed. We will be moving to Osborne Alley.

--We are busily working with Amanda Ruth of Ruthless Media Marketing and Chris Stanford of Michael Baker International toward furthering the marketing and development along the D&L Trail.

--A crew of the public works department has begun painting line markings and crosswalks. These are items that are painted with white paint. Once they are completed, we will address curb painting with yellow paint.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall reviewed the fire police reports for July. They had approximately 230 volunteer hours with a total of 37 calls.

Trevor Stone thanked Mr. Brobst, Keith Knoblach and all other departments involved for putting together the spray event for residents on July 23rd and 24th since the pool was closed.

--He asked about the status of the UGI work throughout the borough.

Mr. Brobst explained that the replacement of the gas lines is a three-year project and it will be done in phases. He added that the same UGI contractor will be completing all the phases of work. Not only are they replacing gas lines, they are moving all residential gas meters from inside to the outside of homes.

Councilman Hall asked who was doing the work. Mr. Brobst was not sure of the name of the contracting group.

Mayor Anthony Pristash agreed with Councilman Stone on a job well done by everyone on the spray event. He added that it was something different for borough residents to enjoy.

--He said we have it really good here with all forces and departments in the borough.

--He announced that the Hometown Heros banners will be available soon. He said there will be two sizes available. About 18 will be available for the business district area on Main Street. These are smaller in size and will be \$200. 30"x60" banners will also be available for \$250. He plans on rolling this out next and will keep everyone posted on the details.

--He said the police department will be using drones to assist in search and rescue. He said that one officer must be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Solicitor Panella said he will have a draft ready of the nuisance ordinance soon.

107/109 Laubach Avenue is still a work in progress.

--He notified the public that prior to the council meeting they had an executive session to discuss personnel matters and ongoing litigation.

Julia Kutzler asked about removing two “No Parking” signs on E. 18th Street.

Mr. Brobst said the request will be on the next meeting agenda.

--She mentioned a bag of debris that been out on the 1800 block of Hokendauqua Avenue.

--She reviewed the code enforcement report. She also noted that there are several properties with overgrown weeds on the south side of 21st Street from Main Street to the old Bennett parking lot.

--She said she appreciates the work that Mr. Brobst does.

Bonnie Almond said that she sent Jeff Brant, code enforcement officer, 3 addresses with overgrown weeds/grass and excessive garbage.

Ronald Glassic mentioned properties with overgrown weeds along Wynnewoode Drive. He also pointed out a rental property at 462 E. 10th Street with overgrown weeds. He asked that the code officers look into these areas.

--He thanked the fire department and everyone involved in the spray event adding that it was very impressive.

--He asked if August 20th was a firm closing date for the pool. Mr. Brobst said yes, due to the kids going back to school and college.

--He asked about the status of changing the street pole lights to LED lights. Mr. Brobst said it is in the works and he is waiting for the contract.

--He asked if there was any update on the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Brobst said he has not received a response from DEP.

--He asked the Chief if we could stop people from rolling through stop signs.

--He asked about the status of live streaming the meeting. Mr. Brobst said it's a work in progress. Mr. Glassic offered assistance with the process and asked if we could shop around for pricing.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked about having at least one sewer plant employee as a certified operator. Mr. Brobst said that there are three employees working towards their certification which takes about 2.5 years.

--He said that the fire department and all other departments involved did one hell of a job organizing the spray event. He said it shows how committed they are. He attended the event and said it was very nice and the kids really enjoyed it.

--He suggested that we use some of the COVID relief money for stainless steel sinks and toilets in every park bathroom. He said that's where we need to invest some of the money. He said they are indestructible and necessary.

--He received many great comments about the farmer's market. He said the fruits and

vegetables are very good. He wished we could move it to the next level. He added that the Municipal Park is a great location for space but the amount of disrespectful kids in that area of the park is terrible.

--He asked that we keep an eye out for businesses being turned into apartments.

--He said we need to address future costs to obtain money for several departments in the borough.

--He said we need to make this town a place where people want to live.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst thanked the fire department and all other departments involved in organizing the spray event. He was in attendance and said the kids were having fun. He expected more people to attend.

--He reminded everyone that beginning with the September 1st council meeting, meetings will begin at 7:00PM.

--He gave a special thank you to Andrew Laub for doing a great job running the pool.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to pay the bills listed on A/P Journal #8 dated August 4, 2022 totaling \$177,739.05.

Councilman Glassic questioned the increase in the gas charges on the Pipeline Petroleum bill. Mr. Brobst said that gas is up to \$4.45 per gallon and diesel fuel is at \$4.97 per gallon.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. said thanks, Joe!

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary