

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:30 PM on Thursday August 19, 2021. The meeting was held in council chambers and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present at roll call were: President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., , Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Julia Kutzler and Ronald Glassic and Kenneth Hall. Vice-president Keith Piescienski was absent. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Mayor Thomas Reenock, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and recording secretary Meaghan Case.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Ronald Galssic, and carried to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting held on July 15, 2021. Kenneth Hall abstained from this motion.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Brian Sabo, Change on Main, Northampton, was present to let everyone know that he is back as the Director of Change on Main. He is excited to be back in the borough and is looking forward to helping in any way that he can. He let borough council know that on Friday, September 10th, he will have approximately 30-40 volunteers to clean up along all of Canal Street.

Mr. Glassic said to let the borough office know if he needs any supplies and thanked him for his service to the borough.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Reenock had nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella asked council to make a motion that requires all clergy to pay full price for use of the Recreation Center.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Julia Kutzler to require all clergy to pay full price for use of the Recreation Center.
Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. abstained from this motion.

He also informed council that he and his office are working on reviewing and updating several ordinances in the borough.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: **Councilman Hall** reported that we have received the final installment of the 2020 Hotel Tax Grant. As you may recall that money was used to produce the video based on the Borough of Northampton.

--We have received the first half of our American Rescue Plan allocation in the amount of \$516,542.56. We will receive a similar amount next year at approximately the same time.

--We received the second quarter installment of the Service Electric Cable TV franchise fee in the amount of \$6,111.72.

--On Tuesday, August 10, 2021, Mr. Brobst participated in a virtual meeting of the River Central Committee. Project planning is moving along but we are still meeting virtually, and he finds it somewhat distracting. He looks forward to live meetings.

Building, Land and Recreation: **Councilman Pristash** reported that we have run into a temporary stumbling block with the creation of a rose garden along Canal Park. When the offer was made by the Lehigh Valley Rose Society, it was made to a number of local communities. Unknown to us, another community availed themselves of the offer and we were not informed. Members of the committee are researching an alternate solution. Mr. Pristash added that he has been in contact with a horticulturalist and master gardener. She is a graduate of Penn State. She will be working with Mr. Pristash to formulate a plan to improve the grove area at Canal Street Park. He also mentioned the possibility of a monarch butterfly waystation in the grove area, similar to the one at the Uptown Park. He also mentioned the possibility of adding a pavilion in the grove area.

--He said over the past weekend he observed about 17 people enjoying the Canal Street Park. They were walking and bike riding on the trail and kids were playing in the park. It was quiet and peaceful. Among those people were borough residents, Tristan Rodriguez and Jenn Kurtz. He said they had a great conversation about the park and the possibilities to come.

--The swimming pool will close for the season on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. All things considered, Mr. Brobst would count it as one of our best seasons ever. However, until he gets a final accounting on expenses vs income, he will withhold final judgment.

--On Tuesday, August 10, 2021, we entertained Daniel Roebuck, who is filming portions of The Hail Mary in Northampton Borough. He visited the office staff and provided hot dogs for lunch. We found him to be very approachable, friendly and a welcome guest. He added that he is a great guy and he enjoyed spending time with him.

--Council had granted permission to the Siegfried Elementary School to conduct a Color Run on Sunday, September 19, 2021. Mr. Brobst received notification from Douglas Sherman, who is the vice-principal of Siegfried school, that the event will be postponed.

Code and Police: Councilman Pristash reported that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2021, was postponed by the developer of Phases V and VI of Quarry Hill Estates. It will be rescheduled in either September or October.

--The Zoning Hearing Board met on Thursday, August 12, 2021, and considered two appeals. Both appeals were granted. The first was granted to Douglas Delabar and Jordan Jones to operate a pet grooming salon. The second appeal was granted to Richard Yost of RGM Land Holdings for a change of use.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the next Board of Health meeting will be on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7 PM.

--A hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 3:15 PM, before District Magistrate Robert Hawke, regarding the property located at 2424 Dewey Avenue. We are hoping for some resolution and a solution.

--The fire department has had six new volunteers, keeping the department one of the strongest volunteer units in the Lehigh Valley. She thanked Fire Chief Knobloch for keeping them active in volunteering. She said they are teaming up with the Fire Police and both departments are doing an excellent job.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that we lost the dialer alarm at the Jeffrey Lane pump station when it was hit by lightning. Repairs were made to bring the unit back into operation the following morning. On Friday the 13th it was reported that the level transmitter at the same pump station failed the night before. Repairs cannot be made immediately, so it will be manually monitored until repairs are complete.

--Mr. Brobst commended the public works department for their assistance with securing areas of the Canal Street Park as directed by Council. The police are also to be commended for monitoring this area. Mr. Glassic also added that he had many people approach him at the Liederkrantz picnic thanking him, borough council and the public works for closing the grove area of Canal Street.

--Public Works will be checking the school traffic signals because school opens on August 30, 2021. Drivers are cautioned to be alert.

--Several stop signs had been obscured by tree and shrub overgrowth. Property owners are encouraged to trim trees and shrubs on their property to prevent this from happening. Otherwise, a crew of the public works department will do it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reintroduction of Junior Council Member Applicant:

In spring of this year, Council had the opportunity to be introduced to Ms. Ryleigh Tillotson, a candidate who wishes to serve as a junior council person. She was in attendance at the meeting to reintroduce herself. Since she cannot be appointed until September, Mr. Brobst expects to list that as an agenda item for Thursday, September 2, 2021.

Consider Request to Attend D.A.R.E. Training Program:

When Officer Emanuel Torres assumed the duties of the D.A.R.E. officer, a training date at that time was not available. Since then, Chief Kadingo has notified our office that a school will be held October 18-29, 2021, in Fort Indiantown Gap. He anticipates there will be no cost for the training and requests that Officer Torres be allowed to attend.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Ronald Glassic, and unanimously carried to allow Officer Emanuel Torres to attend the D.A.R.E. officer training on October 18-29, 2021, in Fort Indiantown Gap.

Authorization to Apply for a Northampton County Hotel Tax Grant:

Mr. Brobst is requesting permission to have Community Planner Victor Rodite prepare the current Hotel Tax Grant application to be applied toward enhancing the Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Trail connection between North Catasauqua and Northampton Borough, as well as providing trail-friendly business information. The criteria on which the grant is awarded leans towards tourism opportunities within Northampton County.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and carried to grant permission for Community Planner Victor Rodite to prepare the current Hotel Tax Grant application to be applied toward enhancing the Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Trail connection between North Catasauqua and Northampton Borough. Mr. Glassic abstained from this motion.

Consider Request to Conduct Request to Conduct Wheels on the Canal:

We have received a request from the organizers of Wheels on the Canal asking permission to conduct their annual event on Saturday, May 21, 2022, with a rain date of Sunday, May 22, 2022. They are also requesting use of the portable band trailer.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to the organizers of Wheels on the to conduct their annual event on Saturday, May 21, 2022, with a rain date of Sunday, May 22, 2022 and use of the portable band trailer.

Appointment to Planning Commission:

We have received an application from Jeffrey Odenwelder of 942 Dewey Avenue, to serve on the Planning Commission. He had previously introduced himself when he had applied for a vacant seat on the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority. He would fill the unexpired term of Robert McHale, which ends on December 31, 2022.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Ronald Glassic, and unanimously carried to appoint Jeffrey Odenwelder of 942 Dewey Avenue, to serve on the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Robert McHale, which ends on December 31, 2022.

Ronald Glassic added that Jeff Odenwelder will do a great job and said it's nice to see people getting involved in the borough.

Consider Request of Northampton Fire Police:

We have received a request from the Northampton Fire Police to allow Phil Brink to assist with traffic control in East Allen Township for a bike safety course on August 21, 2021. He is a resident of East Allen Township.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., and unanimously carried to grant permission to allow Phil Brink of the Fire Police to assist with traffic control in East Allen Township for a bike safety course on August 21, 2021.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall said he was glad to see UGI making some headway on some streets, especially Main Street.

--He also added to the Fire & Health report that the six new members/volunteers of the fire department have a combined total of 90 years of service. He said that we have a really good fire department in the Borough.

Trevor Stone thanked council for allowing him to serve on council.
Ronald Glassic said that he's looking forward to working with him.

Anthony Pristash said that the town looks good. He said that UGI is putting sidewalks back together better than they were before. He said it's good to see they are moving forward with the project.

--On his bike ride over the weekend, he saw Kathy Novegratz at the community garden. He commended her for a job well done.

--He added that the horticulturalist gave some suggestions for preventing weeds in the cabbage at the community garden.

Julia Kutzler welcomed Brian Sabo back to the Borough. She values him and what he does at Change on Main for this community. She added that "People Standing Up" use a portion of the office at Change on Main for their meetings. She told him that this borough supports him.

--She said that over 200 lbs. of fresh produce was given to the Food Bank from the community garden. She added that Brian Sabo has helped tremendously with the community garden.

--She said that volunteers are hard to come by and good leadership is what makes them join and want to stay.

--She also suggested a sunflower garden be added to the grove area of Canal Street.

Ronald Glassic said that he would like to see the pool be opened longer.

--He toured the sewer plant with Scott Gillespie. He was amazed by what goes on behind the scenes. He said that it is an extremely important infrastructure of our town.

- He noticed that the weed notices are working and he is seeing great progress.
- He said that possibly in the future he would like to see an upgrade in the biology department of the sewer plant. He suggested the possibility of a part-time student. He added that there are several people close to retirement age at the sewer plant, with incredible knowledge and it's important to start training more employees on the several jobs it takes to run the sewer plant.
- He met Officer Shoemaker who dropped off borough paperwork to his home. He came to his door to introduce himself and he appreciated that he took the time to speak with him.
- He welcomed Ryleigh Tillotson as the junior council person.
- He gave kudos to Steve Urban at the sewer plant and said he is doing a phenomenal job.
- He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on council.
- He suggested a quarterly newsletter as we had in the past.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. said that the Civil Service Commission has been working on a new eligibility list to hire new police officers.

- He thanked Dan Roebuck for utilizing our borough for his movies adding that we have a nice little town.
- He acknowledged our EMS, Fire Department, Fire Police and Police Department and said we have the best in this town.
- He acknowledged Reverend Jerry Mraz for the monarch butterflies at the Uptown Park and said he has some butterflies in his pond on Newport Avenue.
- He welcomed Jeff Odenwelder to the Planning Commission and said that he and Mr. Gene Kutzler used to coach him in football. He said that he is a great businessman and long-time borough resident.
- He said that it's very dark at the end of 10th Street near the bridge at Canal Street and suggested lights near the trail.
- He welcomed Brian Sabo back to the borough. At first he was not in favor of Brian's group in the Borough, however, after Mrs. Kutzler explained his organization's purpose and goal, he quickly became a fan of Brian and his group. He added that he and his group does great things for the community. He thanked Brian for being here. He told him to reach out to Mr. Brobst if he needed anything.
- He welcomed Ryleigh Tillotson as the junior council person. He said it is a unique but critical position.
- He said that there is a business in the Slatington area that would like to have a food truck at Canal Street Park. Mr. Brobst said the owner should come see us at the borough office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. Brobst welcomed Ryleigh Tillotson as the junior council person and told her she is going to love it here.
- He said it was great to have Brian Sabo back in the borough adding that he has done so much for the borough and is a pleasure to work with.
- He commented on meeting Daniel Roebuck, saying that he was a very friendly and down-to-earth guy. He brought the borough office employees lunch and we had a great time.
- He said that on August 25, 2021, a meeting is scheduled with DEP to discuss the Act 537 Plan.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #8A, dated August 13, 2021, totaling \$4,174.16 and A/P Journal #8B, dated August 19, 2021, totaling 243,630.33.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary