

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 5, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 5, 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: Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Judith Haldeman, Kenneth Hall, Bonnie Almond, Trevor Stone, Ronald Glassic, Julia Kutzler and junior councilperson, Ryleigh Tillotson. 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:

Monica Hodges, 1707 Penns Xing, Allentown, PA 18104 was present to suggest a memorial plaque or bench in memory of former Northampton Pool employees who are no longer with us. She was a pool employee for years and mentioned several past employees including Howard Kutzler who recently passed away. She also said that she believes many people would be interested in donating money or items that the pool may need. She added that the pool and the people she worked with meant a lot to her and she would love to give back with some type of contribution.

Mr. Brobst said that a plaque could be done. He will do some research on pricing.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. suggested the thought of donating an AED, automated external defibrillator, with a dedication to someone.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND TRAINING COURSE:

We have received a request from Chief Bryan Kadingo to allow Officer Erik Schaffer to attend a one- week course of instruction in Survival Training. The course will be held starting on Monday, June 20, 2022, to Friday, June 24, 2022, at the Telford Police Station in Souderton, PA. The cost is \$1,200.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to allow Officer Erik Schaffer to attend a one- week course of instruction in Survival Training from Monday, June 20, 2022, to Friday, June 24, 2022.

CONSIDER REQUEST OF ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH:

We have received a request from the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church to close a portion of East 22nd Street between Ridge Alley and Lincoln Avenue and a portion of Ridge Alley between East 22nd Street and Deibert Alley on Sunday, June 12, 2022. This will be the start of their Centennial Year Celebration and should not present any problems.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission to close a portion of East 22nd Street between Ridge Alley and Lincoln Avenue and a portion of Ridge Alley between East 22nd Street and Deibert Alley on Sunday, June 12, 2022 for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church the start of their Centennial Year Celebration.

CONSIDER REQUEST OF DIAMOND FIRE COMPANY:

The Diamond Fire Company of Walnutport has requested the use of our portable band trailer from Friday, July 1, 2022, through Sunday, July 3, 2022. They will pay the delivery and pickup fee and have provided a Certificate of Insurance naming Northampton Borough as additionally insured. They did not request the use of the portable restroom facility.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to grant permission to The Diamond Fire Company of Walnutport to use our portable band trailer from Friday, July 1, 2022, through Sunday, July 3, 2022. They will pay the delivery and pickup fee.

CONSIDER REQUEST OF RECREATION CENTER DIRECTOR:

Recreation Center Director Jason Kremus has been having trouble with some Northampton Middle School students who purchase day passes and spend most of their time annoying the other members. To alleviate this nuisance, he is requesting that Council re-establish day pass prices as listed on the attachment. He is also requesting that middle school students who purchase day passes are accompanied by an adult.

Motion: A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to require students under the age of 18 attending the Recreation Center be accompanied by an adult. One adult per family supervising would be acceptable. Council did not like the idea of a rate increase for all resident

and non-resident day passes. Trevor Stone added that it would not be fair to everyone else using the Recreation Center to raise the day pass rates because of a group of kids causing problems. Council agreed with Trevor Stone's comment.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that Northampton County will sponsor their third annual Northampton County Festival Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 8, 2022. If Council wishes to nominate anyone, there are two categories. The first acknowledges an outstanding veteran, emergency personnel, volunteer, youth, or business candidate. The second category recognizes an outstanding municipal employee.

--Borough Treasurer Mary Ellen Handlon suffered an off-duty injury that will keep her sidelined for at least two weeks and maybe longer. This comes at an inopportune time. With her telephonic assistance, we hope to be able to complete a payroll which is payable on May 5, 2022, and accounts payable, which would be approved at the May 5th meeting. We hope to have Ms. Meaghan Case complete the payroll and Keith Knoblach said he would volunteer to try to complete the accounts payable to be approved.

--Mr. Brobst has been notified by a representative of UGI that they need to push back their start date for work within Northampton Borough until sometime between May 15, 2022 and May 20, 2022. East 10th Street is still scheduled to be the first point of attack.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that Recreation Center Director Jason Kremus received a letter of thanks from the AARP site coordinator, Don Loughney. As in the past, they are most appreciative of the opportunity to serve their clients in our facility. This year, they prepared 145 Federal returns, 141 State returns and numerous local and PA property tax rebate returns.

--A crew has begun preparation of the municipal pool. We have placed ads in local newspapers to hire pool staff and we have also reached out through social media. Results are coming in but slowly.

--Historically, we hire our seasonal staff at the first Council meeting in May. However, Mr. Brobst is waiting until May 19th because the list of applicants would be incomplete.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that included in your packet are the minutes from the last Planning Commission meeting held on April 13, 2022. The meeting dealt primarily with the review of a Joint Act 537 Plan prepared for Northampton Borough and Allen Township. Their recommendation cannot be acted on by Council until after a 30- day review period, which will occur on May 7, 2022. Their recommendation will appear on the May 19th agenda.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the firemen will be holding their annual coin toss on Saturday, May 7, 2022. So, if you are in the vicinity of 21st and Main Streets, slow down and add some joy to their endeavor.

--The Farmers' Market is scheduled to open on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Health Officer Ted Veresink will be conducting on-site inspections.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that the shredding event was held on Saturday, April 30, 2022, and was considered a success. The flow of the people taking advantage of it was continuous. Mr. Brobst is waiting for a report of the results, which is always supplied by Rpr. Zach Mako's office.

--Mr. Brobst is in the process of establishing random drug and alcohol testing for our CDL operators, as required by the Department of Transportation, and our police officers. The former provider discontinued the service on December 31, 2021.

--As for the case with pool personnel, those people applying to work as seasonal public works employees have been sluggish in providing their applications. However, Mr. Brobst is certain that by the time school or college ends, we will have applicants.

Ronald Glassic suggested possibly raising the hourly rates for lifeguards.

Council members had a discussion on raising the hourly rate for lifeguards.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to raise the hourly rate for lifeguards only, from \$9.75 per hour to \$10.00 per hour.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall had nothing to report.

Trevor Stone asked if UGI was pushing back the work that was scheduled to be done. He also asked if they were going to address the whole area from start to finish.

Mr. Brobst said that yes they were delayed with their initial start date but will start the area of 10th Street with the next few weeks. He also added that they will complete the entire process from start to finish.

Judith Haldeman had nothing to report.

Mayor Anthony Pristash asked about the status of the pickle ball courts at Canal Street Park. Mr. Brobst said that public works is hoping to have them completed sometime around

June 15th.

He mentioned that the PNC Bank at 21st and Main Street will be closing on July 22, 2022. They will be transitioning employees to the Fullerton branch. He said he was in contact with someone from Embassy Bank and they may be interested in purchasing the building. He added that the current owners are from Brooklyn, NY. He will keep everyone posted if he hears any further information.

--He wished everyone a Happy Cinco de Mayo.

Solicitor Panella notified the public that prior to the council meeting, there was an executive session to discuss personnel matters and ongoing litigation.

Ryleigh Tillotson said that she had a meeting with Mr. Brobst to discuss possible dates for the high school athlete's parade. Ryleigh and the athletic director are thinking of having it on July 9th in conjunction with the fireman's parade during the Northampton Community Days Fair.

Bonnie Almond said she was struggling with her role as a council member. She is unsure of exactly what is expected and the limits of what they can actually do as council members.

--She referenced a recent incident that was brought to her attention. A resident in the area of 15th Street and Washington Avenue has been experiencing 6-8 teenagers being very loud and disturbing the neighborhood. She said she was told this is an ongoing problem every evening. They called the police department to report the issue.

Chief Kadingo said he understood the complaint, however, the police department could not do anything for them being loud. He said kids are loud and they weren't doing anything illegal.

--She asked Chief Kadingo to have the police keep an eye out for a motorcycle speeding past the NAA fields.

Julia Kutzler said she wished we lived in a better society. She referenced Ms. Almond's incident adding that it's so hard to deal with constant disturbances, especially when it's happening in your neighborhood.

--She is concerned about the code office getting out in the borough addressing high grass and weed issues. She said there are several properties in the borough that need attention. She specified an area in the 1800 block of Main Street with high grass.

--She reminded the public that all rental units must be inspected when a tenant changes.

--She wants to see our town cleaned up.

Ronald Glassic agreed with Bonnie Almond in regards to questioning her position and responsibilities as a council member. He said that it's a learning curve and all we can do is try to move things forward in a positive manner.

--He thanked the police department for catching the kids that took down the pole on

Lerchenmiller Drive.

--He mentioned that the lack of pool applications could be that we are \$3.00 to \$4.00 under the going rate for lifeguards at the pool and possibly other positions. He said surrounding communities are paying more. Mr. Brobst agreed that may be the case.

--He mentioned the vandalism and graffiti at one of the pump houses. Someone spray painted all over two entry doors. He asked about us looking into getting cameras setup in the area and also look at what other areas of the borough may need cameras as well.

--He is looking to move forward as a whole, to make everything better where we can.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked Chief Kadingo to have the officers keep an eye out for people riding dirt bikes on the sidewalks in the 1600 block of Poplar Street and on Newport Avenue. He said it is creating problems and has been an issue as of recent.

Chief Kadingo said that three officers will be attending the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) training event on Monday May 9, 2022. He said having these officers patrol on bikes will hopefully keep things like this under control. He will have the officers out upon completion of the training.

--Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. also mentioned areas where cars are parking illegally. He spoke with Mr. Brobst about placing "No Parking" signs in certain areas.

--He said the shredding event was a huge success.

--He gave kudos to the fire police for a job well done and State Representative Zach Mako, adding that he does care.

--He was happy to hear about the pickle ball court at Canal Street.

--He suggested if we face the possibility of lack of lifeguards that we should consider rotating/sharing lifeguards with other surrounding communities.

--He gave kudos to Ryleigh for doing a fantastic job. He commended the good progress on the athlete's parade. He added that the parade will be a worthwhile endeavor and this year's athletes deserve it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst thanked Ms. Case for assisting with processing payroll in Mary Ellen's absence.

--The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission sent us a letter stating that the proposed Act 537 Plan was consistent with the comprehensive plan. With their approval, a draft copy of the Act 537 Plan was sent to DEP.

--Mr. Brobst has selected a new testing facility for random drug and alcohol testing.

--He said that the shredding event was well attended and very successful.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant permission to close Al Erdosy Drive on May 6, 2022 with a rain date of May 20, 2022, May 12, 2022, May 13,

2022 and June 1, 2022. This is to allow additional parking for parents to attend the Siegfried Elementary School's scheduled field days.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to pay the bills as they come due.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary