

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by Council President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:30 PM on Thursday, January 7, 2021. The meeting was held virtually via ZOOM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present at roll call were: President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., Vice President Keith Piescienski, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Thomas Gehringer, Kenneth Hall, Julia Kutzler and Robert McHale. Also present were Mayor Reenock, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:
No comments from the public were received.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 1-21:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR BOROUGH FUNDS.

Resolution No. 1-21 would designate the depositories for the Borough of Northampton, which is done on an annual basis.

Introduced By: Thomas Gehringer
Seconded By: Anthony Pristash

Unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 1-21 as written.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-21:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS, PERMITS AND LICENSES FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON.

Resolution No. 2-21 establishes fees for permits and licenses. A number of the changes that were suggested in previous Council meetings have been incorporated.

Introduced By: Thomas Gehringer
Seconded By: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.

Unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 2-21 as written.
Robert McHale and Julia Kutzler requested a copy of the fee schedule for 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-21:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR 2021, ALSO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ENGINEERING FIRM, INCLUDING FEES, FOR 2021.

Resolution No. 3-21 appoints the sewage enforcement officer and allows us to charge potential developers for engineering fees that are incurred by the Borough. We use Lehigh Engineering Associates, Inc. for these services.

Introduced By: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.
Seconded By: Kenneth Hall

Unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 3-21 appointing Lehigh Engineering Associates, Inc. for these services.

APPOINTMENT TO ZONING HEARING BOARD:

The terms of Robert Solderich and Robert Baer expired on December 31, 2020. They have both submitted letters requesting reappointment for a five-year term. If appointed, their terms would expire on December 31, 2025.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert McHale, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to reappoint Robert Solderich to the Zoning Hearing Board for a five-year term.

Motion: A motion was made by Thomas Gehringer, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to reappoint Robert Baer to the Zoning Hearing Board for a five-year term.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF HEALTH:

Ms. Carrie Hirschman, who serves as the secretary of the Board of Health, had a term that expired on December 31, 2020. She is requesting reappointment for a five-year term

that would expire on December 31, 2025.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to reappoint Carrie Hirschman to the Board of Health for a five-year term.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION:

The terms of Nicholas Politi, Jr., Donald Szerencits and Kenneth Hall have expired on December 31, 2020. All three seek reappointment for a four-year term, which will expire on December 31, 2024.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to reappoint Nicholas Politi for another four-year term on the Planning Commission.

Motion: A motion was made by Thomas Gehringer, duly seconded by Robert McHale and unanimously carried to reappoint Donald Szerencits for another four-year term on the Planning Commission.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to reappoint Kenneth Hall for another four-year term on the Planning Commission.
Kenneth Hall abstained from this motion.

APPOINTMENT TO NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY BOARD:

Mr. Joseph Szerencits' term expired on December 31, 2020 and he chose not to seek reappointment. We have received three applications for the open seat, which will terminate in five years on December 31, 2025. The candidates are: Edward Hozza, Sr., Dwayne Behler and Judith Haldeman.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Robert McHale and unanimously carried to appoint Edward Hozza, Sr. for a five-year term on the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority Board.

APPOINTMENT UCC BOARD OF APPEALS:

Currently, the UCC Board of Appeals has four vacancies. The most recent term to expire was that of Robert McHale on April 30, 2020. The only member still listed as active is Thomas Reenock. We have no applications for any of the open seats.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to appoint Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. for a five-year term on the UCC Board of Appeals.
Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. abstained from the motion.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that the garbage bills were delivered in a timely manner and people have been coming into the office to make payments. The new trash hauler, Republic Services, has been working diligently to establish a pattern for pickups. This will probably take a couple of weeks.

--With the delays in the statement reporting from various financial institutions, the audit of the 2020 financial position will be conducted once the material is received.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that the recreation center reopened on Monday, January 4, 2021 and attendance was very good. It seems people are pursuing their New Year's resolution.

--Just as a reminder-park permits will be available for Borough residents beginning Monday, March 1, 2021; non-residents must wait until Thursday, April 1, 2021.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that enclosed in your packet is the report of the code enforcement officer for December 2020. As you can see from his report, he has been very busy.

--Chief Kadingo and Mr. Brobst have been responding to complaints of parking problems on Segal Court just south of West 14th Street. In the near future, we will probably recommend parking restrictions along Segal Court.

--Letters are being prepared to mail to property owners of rental units. This will begin the third year for registration and inspection.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that enclosed in your packet are the December reports for the fire department and the fire police. Mr. Brobst found it as a matter of interest that the fire department had a total of 649 responses for 2020. While the fire police monthly report does not list a running total for an annual count, he is sure that we are deeply in debt to these volunteers.

--Health Officer Ted Veresink is preparing his annual report and it will be distributed when received.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman McHale reported that enclosed in your packet is an overview of municipal storm water fee programs. Should we arrive at a point where we wish to create storm water fees, this provides some valuable insights.

--A crew has been working on a broken sewer line on Doris Street. We found it necessary to rent some specialized equipment to complete this job.

--The Christmas decorations will be removed beginning January 11, 2021. It will not be long before the Valentine hearts take their place.

--A crew has been busy collecting discarded Christmas tree, which are taken to First Regional Compost Authority for recycling.

--Mr. Brobst is trying to establish an on-site visit for the Dry Run Creek MS4 project. He should have an exact date and time for the Council meeting.

--He added that he is researching a storm water fee structure and will continue to pursue it and present his findings to council. He said this could potentially be a \$500,000 to \$600,000 job that will need to be done.

--He added that the sewer plant upgrade has been delayed due to weather and a COVID-19 outbreak with the construction crew.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall said he hoped everyone had a happy Holiday.

--He said it was sad to see the civil unrest at the Nations' Capitol.

Robert McHale asked what the classification of Borough employees in regard to receiving the COVID vaccines. He suggested Mr. Brobst contact NBMA and/or the School District. He also suggested using the recreation center or the community center as a place to distribute vaccines. Mr. Brobst added that he spoke with Jason Kremus of the recreation center and Debbie Brobst of the community center about possibly using these facilities as distributions sites. Kenneth Hall added that any site requires a 15-minute waiting/staging area after vaccines are given in case of reactions.

--He asked if the January 21st meeting would include a public meeting for the ordinance designating West Alley and Station Alley as one-way streets. Solicitor Goudsouzian confirmed that it would be advertised and be held before the regular public meeting and open to the public for comments.

--He asked Mr. Brobst about the new electricity service contract. Mr. Brobst forgot about it for this meeting but said it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Keith Piescienski said he hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

--He does not want any more snow.

Solicitor Goudsouzian said they have come to a settlement agreement with Henry and Pennie Kern of 300 Adaire Court, Northampton, PA 18067. He asked that Borough Council make a motion giving approval to Solicitor Goudsouzian to finalize the settlement.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to Solicitor Goudsouzian to finalize the settlement agreement between the Borough of Northampton and Henry and Pennie Kern of 300 Adaire Court, Northampton, PA 18067, abiding by the terms of the agreement.

He also asked that Borough Council make a motion to move forward in finalizing the sale of a small portion of borough property to Michael Schneider and Tia Weaver of 1022 Hogan Way, Northampton, PA 18067.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert McHale, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to Solicitor Goudsouzian to finalize the purchase agreement in the amount of \$500.00 for a small portion of borough property

between the Borough of Northampton and Michael Schneider and Tia Weaver of 1022 Hogan Way, Northampton, PA 18067.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. congratulated Chief Kadingo on 30 years and thanked him for his service.

Anthony Pristash congratulated Bryan Kadingo on his 30 years of service.

Thomas Gehringer congratulated Bryan Kadingo on his 30 years of service.

Julia Kutzler said that the Fire Department had 68 responses for the month of December and 649 total responses for 2020. She added that the Fire Police had 34 responses for December. She thanked them for their service to the community.

--She said she believes in transparency and informed everyone that the person who has been feeding feral cats, was cited on December 14, 2020. The citation is being processed through the Magistrate's office.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. congratulated Chief Kadingo on his 30 years of service.

--He mentioned that months ago Robert McHale had an idea to bring back a junior council representative. He said that was a great idea and asked Mr. Brobst to contact the High School to see if there would be any interest. Mr. Brobst said he spoke with a guidance counselor at the High School and asked if there would be any interest. He said a sophomore or junior would be best.

--He mentioned the eyesore at 105/107 Laubach Avenue. He asked the Solicitor if the Borough could have eminent domain for that property, stating that the property owner is missing in action and obviously does not want the property. He said the property has been vacant since 2005. He said the borough could use it for so many things such as a meeting building. He said it could be used by the Exchange Club and many other committees. He added that we could add some nice landscaping and it would be a beautiful area for so many to use.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that to date we have collected \$138,970.50 in garbage payments.

--He attended a virtual meeting about the Cementon Bridge project. The project will start in Spring of 2022.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #12D, dated December 31, 2020, totaling \$1554.46, A/P Journal #1, dated January 5, 2021 totaling \$320.00 and A/P Journal #1A dated January 7, 2021, totaling \$223,702.19.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary