

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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 October 21, 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 Pristash, Kenneth Hall, Trevor Stone, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and Julia Kutzler. Vice President Keith Piesciensi and junior councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson were absent. Also present were Mayor Thomas Reenock, Solicitor Brian Panella, 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 Glassic, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on September 2, 2021 and the Regular Public Meeting held on September 16, 2021.

Solicitor Panella gave everyone an update on refuse collection in the borough. He informed everyone that we had a meeting with representatives of Republic Services on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 to discuss their service in the borough. Solicitor Panella, LeRoy Brobst, Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. and I were present at the meeting. They are fully aware of the lack of service. Two representatives from Republic Services have volunteered to be at the meeting to explain the situation.

Paul Temby, Operations Manager, Republic Services – He was present to apologize and acknowledge the lack of refuse service in the borough. He said they are doing everything possible to provide better service. The main reason for the poor service is staffing issues. They are having a hard time finding and keeping people. They are currently offering a \$7,500 sign on bonus and a \$3,500 referral bonus. They are advertising as much as possible and holding job fairs to try and get people in the door. He suggested the

possibility of running routes five days a week as opposed to four. They want to work together and see service in the borough at 100 %.

Anthony Pristash asked if they have reliable trucks since there have been many reported breakdowns in the borough. Mr. Temby said they have had previous issues with trucks but have had repairs made. They are also bringing in trucks from other areas if necessary.

Elliot Crowley, General Manager, Republic Services – was present to explain their current staffing situation. He followed up with Mr. Temby's statements and apologized for the unsatisfactory refuse service in the borough. He said they are trying to do everything they can to get drivers and helpers. He asked everyone to keep in mind that it takes approximately five weeks to get a driver on board. This includes the criminal background checks, drug testing and training. He added that a helper can be on the road much sooner, within a few days of hiring. He said they are bringing in drivers from out-of-state to cover routes until they have additional drivers and helpers. The goal is to have the same drivers and helpers on a route so they become familiar with the area. They are also experiencing issues at some of the transfer stations such as getting there with a full load and not being allowed to drop off because they are at max capacity for the day. They will also start tagging items/bags with notices if certain things aren't collected letting the resident(s) know why.

Ronald Glassic asked if there was anything council or the residents could do to help the situation, such as making sure can/bags are being placed where they should be, depending if it's a curb or an alley pickup. Mr. Crowley said no, he is not looking to place blame on residents.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked for clarification on bulk items such as mattresses and carpeting. Mr. Crowley explained that per the contract residents are allowed 1 bulk item (such as a mattress) and six (6) bags maximum per week. All mattresses and box springs must be wrapped in plastic. They prefer carpet sections be cut into approximately 4-foot sections and bundled so it can be easily handled by the haulers. Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. also asked if they are experiencing containers filled with urine or needles. He said there were issues in another community with cat litter bottles filled with urine being placed out for pick up. Mr. Crowley was unaware of these issues in the borough.

Kenneth Hall brought to their attention that Osbourne Alley is frequently missed.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

No comments were received from the public.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-21

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES
GRANT APPLICATION**

Resolution No. 10-21, which is being prepared by the solicitor, would indicate Council's support of a grant application being submitted by Mark Laub of the fire department for a Keystone Communities Grant. This grant would provide funding to upgrade the electrical sign outside of the fire station.

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash

Seconded By: Julia Kutzler

Resolution No. 10-21 passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Reenock had nothing to report.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that we have received our 2020 allocation from the Public Utility Report Tax Act (PURTA) in the amount of \$3,576.46.

--Work on the 2022 budget continues. LeRoy still does not have a "final feel" for the ultimate outcome.

--On Friday, October 8, 2021, Barbara Matuczinski and LeRoy attended the PMHIC virtual meeting and learned that our medical insurance costs for 2022 will go up approximately 4.6%. This is in keeping with the Benecon average.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that there is still time to volunteer to ride in the Jack Frost Parade. Just a reminder – LeRoy will not be participating this year.

--LeRoy has a suggestion for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Just outside the NBMA office is a live, still growing, pine tree. If we were to provide electricity to the area of the tree, it could be decorated and serve as the annual tree. There is ample parking for people who visit for the ceremony and right across the street from Santa's headquarters. If this is not acceptable, LeRoy is having some difficulty locating a suitable tree within the Borough. All of this would depend on approval by NBMA or perhaps you would consider purchasing an artificial tree. LeRoy added that he did find a beautiful tree in Coplay for this year's tree lighting.

Code and Police: Councilman Pristash reported that the Planning Commission met on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 and from agenda items, the outcome of that meeting will be discussed.

--The River Central Committee met virtually on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, and one of the items discussed was the creation of round table discussions. Some of the other communities involved are having difficulty with emergency services, i.e. ambulance, fire and police. LeRoy has already discussed attending these round table discussions with Fire Chief Knobloch and Chief Kadingo. He believes we can provide the positive side to the discussion. One other round table discussion item was farmers' markets. We will also participate in that.

--Mr. Keith Knobloch and Ms. Juliann Edelman have been previewing software that will provide a complete zoning and code enforcement package. The final presentation will take place on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Our current software is no longer supported and must be replaced.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the fire department received a \$1,000 donation from the Ring of Fire Club of the Northampton Hungarian Hall. This was in appreciation of everything the fire department does for the community.

--The Fire Prevention Week Open House held at the fire station was well attended and a huge success.

--The Board of Health is scheduled to meet at 7 PM on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that LeRoy is awaiting a response from the committee to the proposal submitted by the public works and sewer bargaining unit. It would be to our advantage to schedule a meeting and discuss the matter.

--An MS4 progress report was prepared and submitted by Gilmore & Associates. LeRoy has a copy if anyone would like to see it.

--Work continues on Kingston Court and Barrington Drive. Approximately 30" of road material is being removed, a textile barrier is being put in, compacted stone and ultimately, blacktop. This project requires an enormous amount of compaction.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Request to Hire a Part-Time Police Officer:

We have received a request from Police Chief Bryan Kadingo to hire Jeremy Kenneth Kahle as a part-time officer. He is currently serving as a part-time officer in the Borough of Nazareth with seven years' experience and would only require minimum training.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant permission to Police Chief Bryan Kadingo to hire Jeremy Kenneth Kahle as a part-time officer.

Consider Request for 15-Minute Loading/Unloading Zone:

We have received a request for an additional 15-minute loading/unloading sign in the area of 1627 and 1631 Main Street. The request also mentioned painting parking space lines in the same vicinity. LeRoy suggests to Council that this matter be referred to the chief of police for evaluation.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to pass this request on to Chief Kadingo for determination.

Consider Request of Lehigh Valley Community Benefit:

We have received a request from the Lehigh Valley Community Benefit, a 501(c) 3 organization, to conduct their 11th Annual "Tucker's Toy Run." The event would be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021, beginning at 12 Noon. The rain date would be the following day, Sunday, November 7, 2021. The event would begin at Tri-Boro Sportsmen Club and proceed south on Canal Street and follow the route as described on their letter of request. Further, they are seeking the assistance of the fire police.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to Lehigh Valley Community Benefit, a 501(c) 3 organization, to conduct their 11th Annual "Tucker's Toy Run" on Saturday, November 6, 2021, beginning at 12 Noon.

Julia Kutzler confirmed that fire police assistance would be needed in the borough only. Kenneth Hall confirmed. Fire police assistance only within the borough.

Consider Lateral Promotion to Detective:

Police Chief Kadingo is requesting that Patrolman Matthew Bennicoff be laterally transferred to the position of detective. There would be no salary rate change and the detective's office has been modified to accommodate two detectives.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission that Patrolman Matthew Bennicoff be laterally transferred to the position of detective, with no salary rate change.

Consider Request of South Whitehall Township:

We have received a request from South Whitehall Township to use our portable band trailer on Saturday, December 4, 2021. This would be used for their annual holiday event and they would be required to pay a delivery and removal fee. In addition, they will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough of Northampton additionally insured.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to South Whitehall Township to use our portable band trailer on Saturday, December 4, 2021.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they had a need for a portable restroom. LeRoy said they do not.

Consider Request to Tour Sewer Plants:

Mr. Scott Gillespie has presented a request to send some of his staff to go on a tour of two wastewater treatment plants that serve two townships in Montgomery County. This type of tour is offered every year. There is no cost and they will stop for lunch on the way back.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to send some of the sewer plant staff

on a tour of two wastewater treatment plants that serve two townships in Montgomery County.

Ronald Glassic asked LeRoy if we invite others to tour our sewer plant. LeRoy confirmed, and said yes, once a year.

Consider Recommendation of the Planning Commission – Yost:

Mr. Richard Yost of RGM Land Holdings LLC appeared before the Planning Commission on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, to continue a presentation that began last month. While no Council action is currently necessary, the solicitor has prepared a list of conditions that must be met.

During the Planning Commission meeting held on October 13, 2021, a motion was made to grant conditional approval in satisfaction of October 13, 2021, review letter submitted by the Borough engineer as amended at the meeting, including providing a capacity calculation for the proposed stormwater inlet, a notation on the plan stating no evening hour activities, a notation stating that any lighting plan will be submitted to the zoning officer, which, in turn, will be submitted to the Borough engineer for review, a notation on deferred sidewalk installation along Cement Haul Road if and when Cement Haul Road becomes an official ordained public road, a notation of the anticipated number of vehicles per day coming to and going away from the property, with final review by the Borough solicitor.

Consider Recommendation of the Planning Commission- Deichmeister:

The Planning Commission has granted preliminary approval to Mr. Edward Deichmeister for a redesign of Phase V & VI into one single, 12 duplexes and 14 townhouses. The solicitor has prepared a conditional recommendation for Council action.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant preliminary approval to Mr. Edward Deichmeister for a redesign of Phase V & VI into one single, 12 duplexes and 14 townhouses based on the following conditions:

A Motion is made for preliminary approval of Quarry Hill Estates "Resubdivison", a plan first submitted on June 22, 2021, last revised on September 13, 2021, conditional and subject to the following, and in consideration of the recommendations made by the Planning Commission:

1. Subject to meeting all the conditions and all review letters by Lehigh Engineering, including but not limited to the letter dated October 13, 2021.
 2. The payment of all fees including but not limited to recreational fees, sewer fees, tapping fees, and all other fees imposed by the Borough of Northampton.
 3. Subject to the approval of all outside agencies.
 4. Subject to all the representations and agreements made by the applicant at all Planning Commission and Borough Council meetings.
 5. Conditional on the creation of a Home Owners Association to the satisfaction of the Borough Solicitor and the Borough staff.
 6. Conditional on the execution of all applicable agreements including but not limited to a Developer's Agreement, Escrow Agreement, posting of appropriate security to the satisfaction of the Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer as well as Borough staff.
 7. As recommended by the Planning Commission, the developer is hereby granted a waiver of SALDO Section 215-18 D(14).
 8. As recommended by the Planning Commission, the developer is hereby granted a waiver of SALDO Section 215-18 D(15).
 9. Conditional on Developer entering into agreements satisfactory to the Borough including releases, hold harmless and indemnifications agreements regarding storm water, if at all necessary.
- IO. Conditional on positing the appropriate security for the necessary conditions set forth in this Motion.
11. It appearing that two sets of seven (7) unit apartment buildings are being built and that the seven (7) individual units for each set are being attached to a single sanitary sewer hook-up, preliminary approval is being made conditional on a requirement that in the event that if any unit of the apartment buildings is sold as something other than an apartment building, or in the event an individual unit is sold separate and apart from the remaining other units, or in the event multiple units are sold separately from the remaining units, there shall be a requirement that

the purchasing party provide a separate sewer lateral hook-up for each individual unit, with the mode of providing for the requirement approved by the Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer.

12. Conditional on execution of any and all necessary and required indemnification agreements as approved by the Borough Solicitor.

13. Conditional to Developer providing all requested cost estimates to be approved by the Borough Engineer prior to final execution of the documents.

14. It is recommended that a waiver of the three-week submission requirement be granted and that the developer submit final plans no later than two weeks from the date required.

Consider Request of Police Committee:

The police committee has prepared an agreement between Borough Council and the Northampton Borough Police Bargaining Unit and it is ready for Council's approval.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to accept and approve the agreement between Borough Council and the Northampton Borough Police Bargaining Unit.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall was glad representatives from Republic were present to speak and happy to hear they are working on a resolution.

--He said that UGI is starting to put the streets back together.

Trevor Stone had nothing to report.

Anthony Pristash reported that he was visiting a friend near Canal Street and there was a group of 14 people from the D&L Trail taking a tour of the Canal path from the Hockey Creek to the Lehigh River. They were very impressed with everything that has been done in that area and said they will be back to visit. He added that Canal Street Park and the D&L Trail is such an asset to this town.

Julia Kutzler said she's waiting on a fire police report.

--She said that the police department had 512 dispatched calls in the month of September. Of those 512 calls, 146 of them required incident reports. They had a total of 3,225

patrol and court hours. She said they have limited manpower and need additional police officers.

--She said the part-time code officer position needs to be filled.

--She said that 10 police officer applications went out and only 6 were returned. She said we have to continue to fund our police department, adding that the new detective should have a new computer and also anything else the department needs. She thanked Chief Kadingo for a great job.

Ronald Glassic thanked Chief Kadingo for a job well done.

--He thanked the representatives from Republic Services for coming to the meeting to provide an update on their current staffing situation.

--He asked about the auto attendant feature through RCN for the office. I explained to him that this is my responsibility and I'm hoping to start the setup sometime next week.

--He asked about the possibility of flashing red lights on the (3) stop signs at the intersection of 10th Street and Howertown Road. He said there are so many times that cars fly through that stop sign. He also mentioned that several years ago a 10-year-old girl was killed at that intersection.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. agreed with Councilman Glassic about the flashing red lights on the stop signs at 10th Street and Howertown Road.

--He clarified with Chief Kadingo the title of the newly appointed detective. Chief Kadingo confirmed his title will be Detective.

--He asked LeRoy about the gentleman with the food truck that he referred to him. LeRoy stated that the owner spoke with Ted Veresink, our health officer. He said it didn't really go beyond that. LeRoy also explained that a food truck cannot be parked permanently anywhere on borough property. He said that he could pay the \$85.00 health license fee and park somewhere daily but the truck could not stay in one space permanently.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

--Mr. Brobst informed everyone that at the next council meeting on November 4th, we will advertise to have a public meeting to discuss the PADCNR grant process. A representative from Michael Baker International will be present to review the project regarding our connectivity with the D&L Trail to the Nor-Bath Trail.

--He asked everyone to keep Keith Piescienski in their prayers.

--He spoke with Eileen Eckhart of Allen Township. She heard we were having refuse collection issues in the borough. She advised him that Allen Township has Advanced Disposal, who was bought by Waste Management. Advanced Disposal was our hauler for the previous 10 years. She stated that they are having issues as

well and were told that the industry is in crisis. Staffing issues are a concern across the board. LeRoy also mentioned that previously when he spoke with WFMZ, he said that we have to be patient during this time and ride it out.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #10A, dated October 21, 2021, totaling \$248,701.97.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary