

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2021**

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, December 2, 2021. The meeting was held in Borough 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., Julia Kutzler, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Pristash, Trevor Stone, Kenneth Hall and junior council person Ryleigh Tillotson. Mayor Thomas Reenock was absent. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Angelica Griffin, 305 E. 9th Street, Northampton, PA was present to ask about the possibility of a convex mirror at 9th Street and Dewey Avenue. She stated that it is very difficult to see pulling out on to 9th Street from Dewey Avenue. She also added that a designated crosswalk may help in that area for the kids going to school at the Franklin building.

Amanda Tillotson, 910 Dewey Avenue, Northampton, PA was present to suggest the same as Ms. Griffin. She loved the idea of a crosswalk and added that the bus traffic is chaotic in that area. She also stated that it's extremely difficult to pull out on to 9th Street from the 900 block of Dewey Avenue.

Linda Smith, 603 E. 8th Street, Northampton, PA was present to ask how to get in touch with Keith Knoblach. She stated that she has been trying to reach him at the fire station but there is no answering machine to leave a message. She has old fire extinguishers she would like to dispose of.

Consider Resignation of Part-Time Police Officer:

We have received a request from part-time Police Officer Michael Renner to resign his position with the Borough effective immediately.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of part-time Police Officer Michael Renner.

Julia Kutzler asked how many part-time officers we currently have. Chief Kadingo said that we have three, two are currently in training.

Consider Request of Lot 74 Property Management:

We have received a request from Lot 74 Property Management of Hellertown, the owner of the property located at 1811 Lincoln Avenue. They are requesting permission to have UGI install a gas line to the property. There is normally a "no dig moratorium" after November 1 of each year but Council can give permission for this to be accomplished.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to Lot 74 Property Management of Hellertown, the owner of the property located at 1811 Lincoln Avenue, to have UGI install a gas line to the property.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they will have the road patched/paved to it's original condition. Mr. Brobst confirmed they will.

Consider Preliminary Approval of 2022 Budget:

Mr. Brobst met with two council members who had some questions about the proposed 2022 budget, and he feels that their questions were answered. Therefore, he is seeking preliminary approval for the 2022 budget.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant preliminary approval for the 2022 budget.

Julia Kutzler asked Mr. Brobst if he met with the department heads to discuss the budget. He explained that he did not meet with all of them but received wish lists from each department. Those wish list items were all taken into consideration when preparing the 2022 budget.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that the Atlas Museum has been very busy during the last few weeks. On November 15, 2021, Larry Oberly included the museum as part of his tour provided on behalf of the Northampton Historical Society. St. Peter's Church of Lynnville made a \$100 donation to the museum and Ed Pany provided a tour for a group from Willow Green. Also, on November 15, 2021, Mr. Pany attended a meeting of the Keystone Cement Community Committee.

--We are in receipt of a dividend check from Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust in the amount of \$18,514. This covers calendar years 2008, 2009, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

--The solicitor has prepared an Intermunicipal Agreement between Allen Township and the Borough of Northampton regarding 50 EDUs (estimated daily use). This is required as part of DEPs direction after finding in favor of a private request from the developer. Mr. Brobst would like to have it on the December 16th agenda for final approval.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that the Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday, November 28, 2021, much to the delight of all attendees. Special thanks to Eugene Kutzler, who provided the sound system; the fire police for their traffic control; the fire department for their transportation of the honored guests - Santa, Mrs. Claus and two of Santa's elves. The public works department had everything in order and are to be commended for their fine work and last but not least, having just returned from a world wind tour of Europe, the singers from Good Shepherd Catholic School under the able direction of Ms. Sue Parker. Letters of thanks will be sent to Sidleck Crane Rental and the tree donors Joseph & Carol Nederostek. The lights were lit by their three grandchildren -Alex, Ben, and Sylvia.

Code and Police: Councilman Pristash reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Thursday, December 9, 2021 to hear an appeal filed by John Palencar of 124 West 14th Street.

--The Civil Service test will be administered on Saturday, December 11, 2021. The written test will be conducted in the morning from 8-12 Noon and the agility test in the afternoon beginning at 1 PM.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the fire department is reminding parents wishing their child or children to receive a gift from Santa on the fire truck should deliver the gift to the fire department from 6-8 PM on Wednesday, December 8; Thursday, December 9; and Friday, December 10, 2021. The gift should be wrapped and not bigger than a shoe box. The child's name, address, and phone number should be clearly marked on the gift. Santa will deliver the gifts on Saturday, December 11, 2021, starting at 12 Noon. In the event of inclement weather, delivery will be attempted on the following day, December 12, 2021.

--The Board of Health will hold its final meeting for 2021 on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 7 PM. The board will not be meeting during the month of December.

--She asked Mr. Brobst if he received the report from the Health Board meeting. He said he will have it at the council meeting.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that a meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, with Thomas Duffy and Kevin Beyer of Gilmore & Associates regarding the Act 537 Plan.

--The last street area was paved during the week of November 22, 2021. Due to the closure of the blacktop plant, the job did not turn out as perfectly as we would like and will be corrected in the spring.

--As is the case every year, some of the street ornaments did not light. A crew is making sure that the fuses did not break. However, in some cases, PPL will need to investigate the outlet wiring.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall asked if UGI was done with patching/paving in the borough. He asked Mr. Brobst to have some areas checked for completion.

--He said the lights around town look great and the tree lighting ceremony was very nice with great weather.

--He said the kids really enjoyed the Santa Run.

--He confirmed the civil service test will be held at the fire department on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

Ryleigh Tillotson said she went to the tree lighting ceremony for the first time and really enjoyed it. She said they might want to consider a hot chocolate stand and baked goods and donate the proceeds to a local charity.

Anthony Pristash said the public works department did a great job with the Christmas lights and decorations in town.

--He reminded everyone about the showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Roxy Theatre, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on December 15th and 16th and encouraged everyone to attend to get in the Christmas spirit.

Julia Kutzler reminded everyone about the Crime Watch meeting on December 8th at 7PM at the fire department. She said the meetings are very informative and encouraged everyone to attend.

--She said that over 550 pounds of produce were donated to the food bank from the community garden. She said that is a 35% increase from last year.

--She welcomed Judy Haldeman to borough council. She added that she knows she will do a great job.

Ronald Glassic thanked Mr. Brobst for his time meeting with him to answer questions about the budget. He also gave Mr. Brobst kudos for preparing the budget.

--He thanked Keith Knoblach for having the large roll of linoleum removed from the front of 366 E. 10th Street.

--He asked about the status of having flashing lights installed on the stop signs at 10th Street and Howertown Road intersection. He also asked Mr. Brobst about the possibility of getting a convex mirror for the 9th Street & Dewey Avenue area from another borough

or municipality. Mr. Brobst explained that the flashing lights and mirror are backordered. He said the chances of obtaining a convex mirror from another municipality would be slim to none as that is a very coveted item.

--He suggested we have pool applications available for pick up in January so we do not have a lifeguard shortage like last year. Mr. Brobst explained that we have them available in the office.

--He wished everyone a very happy Holiday Season.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked Mr. Brobst to have someone check the falls area by the river. He said he heard reports of people living down there and that someone saw seven buckets of human feces in that area as well.

--He asked to have the back area of the Uptown Park checked for people dumping trash. He added that we don't need rodents up there for Christmas. Mr. Brobst said that the person who was dumping trash/yard waste at the Uptown Park was caught and questioned and all of the trash was removed.

--He said the tree lighting ceremony was very well attended and the weather was great.

--He said the civil service test will be held on Saturday, December 11th and 8AM.

--He congratulated Judy Haldeman on her appointment to borough council. He also thanked the other two candidates for applying. He said it was a tough choice because everyone was qualified with great experience. He congratulated all of the candidates.

--He asked about the possibility of looking into the cost of creating a parking deck at the Center Street lot. He said it should have approximately 4 floors. He said it would benefit the residents giving them easy access to Main Street to enjoy the Roxy Theater, shopping and dining. He added that the Center Street lot is always very crowded. He suggested asking surrounding cement companies to donate concrete and they could have their names be recognized on the parking deck. He added that a parking deck could be a great benefit to the community and all of the small businesses on Main Street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that interviews will be held on December 6th for the mechanic position.

--He asked everyone to review the proposed changes to the public works agreement.

--He said the tree lighting ceremony was great and that he always enjoys it.

Anthony Pristash asked that someone with mechanic experience sit in on the interview so they know what questions should be asked.

Ronald Glassic added that he liked the idea of the parking deck. He told Mr. Brobst to speak with the Borough Manager of Emmaus about the feasibility study they had done. He said it is a very long process.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #12, dated December 2, 2021, totaling \$151,028.28.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary