

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
JUNE 16, 2022**

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 June 16th, 2022. 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., Kenneth Hall, Trevor Stone, Judith Haldeman, Bonnie Almond, Julia Kutzler, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski Sr., and junior council person Ryleigh Tillotson. Also present were Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Mayor Tony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary Meaghan Case.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Judith Haldeman, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on May 5, 2022, and Regular Public Meeting held on May 19, 2022.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Kelly Milisits, 703 E. 18th Street, Northampton was present to introduce herself to council. She is applying for a seat on the Civil Service Commission. She expressed her knowledge of the community being a borough resident for 52 years. She noted her leadership skills as she helps her husband John run the Alliance Fire Hall. She said she displays selflessness stating that she has two children who attend Good Shepherd Catholic School and she helps volunteer there when she can.

Julia Kutzler said that she has known Kelly since she was 16. She added that she's done a lot for the Alliance Fire Hall and they also give back to the community. She is thankful for her friendship all these years.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked her opinion on defunding the police. She said she is in full support of the police and said they need our support now more than ever.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 7-22:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE LIVESTREAM BROADCASTS OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Adoption of Resolution No. 7-22 will initiate preparation for livestream broadcasts of Borough Council meetings.

Ronald Glassic asked if this would allow public audio. No. This would allow the public to view live streaming video of the council meetings. The public could listen and view only.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and Julia Kutzler asked about the cost. Mr. Brobst is guessing it will cost about a couple thousand dollars a year for live streaming.

Introduced By: Ronald Glassic

Seconded By: Julia Kutzler

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and Trevor Stone voted against this resolution.

Resolution No. 7-22 passed as written.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-22:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING A REDUCTION IN THE LINE OF CREDIT TO KAY BUILDERS FOR WILLOWBROOK PHASE II.

Adoption of Resolution No. 8-22 will authorize preparation of a reduction for the line of credit for Kay Builders Willowbrook Phase II development.

Solicitor Panella advised that a resolution is not necessary and a motion will be sufficient.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic, and unanimously carried to authorize preparation of a reduction for the line of credit for Kay Builders Willowbrook Phase II development.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pristash touched on comments made at the last council meeting about public safety on the D&L Trail. He did some extensive research by contacting police chiefs from here to Jim Thorpe asking about reports of criminal activity in their area where the trail runs through. After speaking with several police chiefs and officers the comments were all very positive about the trail. Not one of them reported any criminal activity occurring on the trail. In fact, they all said the residents love the trail and use it frequently. He added that the D&L Trail is a phenomenal asset to the borough and is very safe. It is used heavily along Canal Street and people come through our area from all over. He and Greg Morey recently did a bike ride with representatives of the D&L Trail. They visited the site where the trail will connect to North Catasauqua. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony later this summer. Representatives of the D&L Trail dropped off pamphlets of a trail map and information at the borough office.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella reported that they are still working on legally taking over the property at 107/109 Laubach Avenue.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: **Councilman Hall** reported that we have received nine applications for the position of the assistant to the Borough Manager. Mr. Brobst suggests that Council as a whole schedule the interviews as a series of executive sessions. Since all of Council would be meeting, personnel meetings may be discussed in an executive session.
--On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, Mr. Brobst will take part in the River Central zoom meeting. The goal of the group meetings is working toward establishing a regional comprehensive plan.

Building, Land and Recreation: **Councilwoman Haldeman** reported the operation at the municipal pool has gone quite well and Mr. Brobst is confident that this trend will continue.

--A meeting will be scheduled with a representative of The Exchange Club and members of our staff in preparation for Community Days.

--Mr. Brobst has not yet received a report on Paw Prints on the Canal. He was unable to attend. However, the preliminary indication is that it was a very successful gathering.

--Councilwoman Haldeman added that she did attend the event and it was very well attended.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that Code Enforcement Officer Keith Knoblach turned over a file to the solicitor on one of our more problematic properties. --We have begun our association with our new random drug and alcohol testing organization with a bang. The first round required two public works employees and four police officers.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that enclosed in your packet are the minutes from the most recent health board meeting and the health officer's report for May. --Also enclosed in your packet is the fire department report and the fire police report for the month of May. She gave a breakdown on where their hours were spent for the month. --Kenneth Hall added that Taylor Roasted Coffee House is so close to reopening. They are waiting on one part for one of their machines.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that work has begun on Barrington Drive. Hopefully, this can be completed with the same results we had last year on Kingston Court. --We have been experiencing some problems with our barricades. It would appear that "road closed" signs are a premium collectible. It has become necessary to retrieve them at our earliest convenience to remove the temptation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Cost of Living Adjustment for Police Pension:

Council had approved an actuarial study by our pension consultant Foster & Foster to grant a 3% cost of living adjustment to the retired members of the police pension fund. This will require preparation and passage of a resolution. The increased cost would be noted in the 2023 valuation and the first and only payment would be reflected in the 2024 Minimal Municipal Obligation (MMO) and would be \$78,793.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilwoman Haldeman and unanimously carried to grant a 3% cost of living adjustment to the retired members of the police pension fund. Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. abstained from this motion.

Appointment to Civil Service Commission:

Of the two applicants for the Civil Service Commission position, only one was able to attend the Council meeting and introduce herself. That candidate is Kelly Milisits.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Kutzler duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and unanimously carried to appoint Kelly Milisits to the Civil Service Commission Board.

She will be sworn in on Tuesday, June 21st at 2:00 PM.

Consider Request of U.S. Army Reserve Retirement Committee:

We have received a letter requesting permission to use Municipal Park Pavilion "A". This would be the 6th Annual Picnic for the Retirement Committee for the 6th Battalion 68th Armor Division. The date requested is Saturday, September 24, 2022, and they have asked that the fee be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond, and unanimously carried to grant the request to the Retirement Committee for the 6th Battalion 68th Armor Division to use Municipal Park Pavilion "A" on Saturday, September 24, 2022, waiving the rental fee.

Consider Request of Covenant United Methodist Church of Moore Township:

We have received a request from Covenant United Methodist Church of Moore Township to use the portable band trailer on Sunday, August 28, 2022. They have asked that the rental fee be waived. However, they will be responsible for the delivery and setup fee and will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the borough as additionally insured.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilwoman Kutzler, and unanimously carried to grant the request of Covenant United Methodist Church of Moore Township to use the portable band trailer on Sunday, August 28, 2022, waiving the rental fee. They will be responsible for the delivery and setup fee.

Consider Request of Lehigh Township:

We have received a request from the fire police captain of Lehigh Township Fire Company requesting the assistance of our fire police on Saturday, July 30, 2022. Approximately 350 bikers will be riding to "Back the Blue." The ride will begin at 12 sharp and if approved, they have provided a point of contact.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond, and unanimously carried to grant the request of Lehigh Township Fire Company for the assistance of our fire police on Saturday, July 30, 2022.

Consider Request of St. Paul's United Church of Christ:

We have received a request from St. Paul's United Church of Christ to close a portion of East 19th Street between Ridge Alley and Lincoln Avenue. This would occur twice; the first on Sunday, July 31, 2022, and the second on Sunday, August 21, 2022, between 10:45 am and 2:30 pm. This is similar to what they have done in the past.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilwoman Kutzler, and unanimously carried to grant the request of St. Paul's United Church of Christ to close a portion of East 19th Street between Ridge Alley and Lincoln Avenue on Sunday, July 31, 2022, and Sunday, August 21, 2022, between 10:45 am and 2:30 pm.

Consider Summer Meeting schedule:

It has been the practice in past years to only meet on the third Thursday during the months of July and August. This would be Council's opportunity to follow that practice. Should a need arise, a meeting can always be convened.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilman Hall.

The motion was defeated and a roll call vote was required.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.	NO	Kenneth Hall	YES
Bonnie Almond	YES	Trevor Stone	YES
Ronald Glassic	NO	Julia Kutzler	NO
Judith Haldeman	NO	Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr.	NO

The council meeting schedule will remain the same with two council meetings in July and August.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall stated that there has been lots of traffic on Station Alley.

--He said that Paw Prints on the Canal was a great event and a lot of people attended despite the unpredictable weather.

--He asked if there was an update on the Cementon Bridge project. Mr. Brobst said they will be starting a little later than anticipated.

--He asked if there was going to be another meeting like the one a few months back with Fire & Health committee members and members of the fire department. There were discussions

of a possible “fire tax” in the future. Julia Kutzler said they would schedule another meeting and get together soon.

Trevor Stone welcomed Kelly to the Civil Service Commission.

--He attended Paw Prints on the Canal and said it was very well attended. He said Ken Hall and the fire police did a great job directing traffic.

--He was approached by several 3rd Ward residents about information on noise ordinances at public venues. The Borough does not have an independent noise ordinance. A portion of the zoning ordinance covers noise but only as it pertains to new uses or a change of use on a property.

Solicitor Panella added that as far as noise, the decibel level would have to be measured with a special piece of equipment to determine if the noise level is illegal.

Judith Haldeman congratulated Kelly on her appointment to the Civil Service Commission.

--She attended Paws on the Canal and said it was a great, successful event.

--She said the sewer plant is waiting for an actuator as this has caused problems with the sludge removal. She also voiced her concern with sludge removal for N.B.M.A. (Northampton Borough Municipal Authority). Ronald Glassic expressed his concerns as well adding that we have to look at the problem this is also causing for N.B.M.A. and also the cost.

--She spoke with Greg Morey and is excited about the progress on the pickle ball court at Canal Street.

Ryleigh Tillotson said she is finalizing the parade details with Shawn Murray and will contact Mr. Brobst when they decide on a date.

Bonnie Almond welcomed Kelly to the Civil Service Commission.

--She has noticed a lot of overweight trucks on Main Street lately.

--She was happy to receive the new council photo and was glad to see it was updated on the borough website.

Julia Kutzler said that she visited the pool recently and was very impressed with the staff and manager, Andrew. She gave kudos to him for doing such good job especially this being his first year as manager.

--She reviewed the police reports for May. She said they are working hard and she's very proud of them. She said we need a total of 18-20 officers.

--She gave kudos to Candi Lynn, the organizer of Paw Prints on the Canal, for an outstanding event. She said she's a personal friend and gives so much time and has such a passion for this event. She deserves great recognition for her efforts.

--She stressed the importance of having a training area for the fireman in the borough. She said they are driving almost an hour to a training area.

--She was approached by a few residents from the 600 block of E.19th Street about possibly having the alleys paved in that area.

--She referenced a mattress that had been sitting out on Main Street for a few weeks. Mr. Brobst told her that it has been picked up.

Ronald Classic congratulated Kelly on her appointment to the Civil Service Commission.

--He said that Paw Prints on the Canal was a very successful event. Traffic control was great and everyone involved did a great job. They all deserve recognition.

--He acknowledged the passing of former councilman, Bob Coleman adding that he was a member of his church.

--He said the UGI crew doing the work on 10th Street is doing a great job and he hopes it continues through completion of the project. He asked Mr. Brobst to have Greg Morey look at some of the catch basins on 10th Street before UGI does their final paving. He said they seem low.

--He referenced a property at the corner of 10th & Siegfried Avenue with high grass and weeds.

--He was happy to see the website was updated with the new council members and photo.

--He gave kudos to Mayor Pristash for a great report on the D&L Trail.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. was happy to hear from the Solicitor that things are moving forward on the 107/109 Laubach Avenue property.

--He spoke with Candi Lynn, organizer of Paw Prints on the Canal. He said they had over 140 vendors. It was clarified that there were actually 178 vendors that participated in the event. He said it was and always is a great event.

--He said it would be nice to see the water in the Lehigh. He asked Mr. Brobst to have public works cut the brush along the banks of the river.

--He wants to see more trees in the parks and have the dead ones replaced. He asked Mayor Pristash if he could possibly help with getting this accomplished. He again mentioned the possibility of contacting Seiples Farm about possibly purchasing some of the pine trees they have.

--He congratulated Ryleigh for doing a great job and said she is part of an outstanding class.

--He welcomed Kelly to the Civil Service Commission which he served on for 12 years.

--He suggested a blanket permit for participants to play pickle ball at Canal Street. This will allow fair playing time. He does not want to see the new court ruined.

--He asked when the 7:00 PM start time will begin for council meetings. The first council meeting in September will begin at 7:00 PM.

President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. requested a moment of silence for the passing of former councilman, Bob Coleman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said he was very happy to see the pool running smoothly.

--Mary Ellen is expected to return to work on June 27, 2022.

--He congratulated Kelly on her appointment and welcomed her to the Civil Service Commission.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #6B, dated June 16, 2022, totaling \$254,378.29.

Councilman Glassic questioned the checks payable to Coca Cola, Keycodes Inspection Agency and Bob's Flower Shop.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary