

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 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 Monday, January 3, 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, Julia Kutzler, Kenneth Hall, Bonnie Almond, Trevor Stone and Ronald Glassic. Also present were Mayor Anthony Pristash, Solicitor Robert Eyer, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Tim Teppes, 3226 Oakland Road, Northampton, was present to follow up on the EDU's available in Allen Township. Solicitor Panella informed him that at this time there are no changes and an agreement between the borough and Allen Township has not been finalized.

FORMAL GROUP PORTRAIT

Mr. Martin Fella of Fella Studios took a formal group portrait.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-22:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON (BOROUGH) REMOVING CHRISTOPHER FREDERICKS FROM HEART AND LUNG.

Officer Christopher Fredericks was injured while on duty in August of 2019. Since that time, he has been under a doctor's care under our workers' compensation policy. It has been determined that he will not be able to return to full duty. In order for him to receive a settlement through the insurance carrier, he will first need to be removed from the Borough's heart and lung policy.

Resolution No. 4-22 will accomplish that end.

Introduced By: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.
Seconded By: Julia Kutzler

Unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 4-22 as written.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND A TRAINING COURSE:

We have received a request from Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Scott Gillespie to send Michael Nagle to a continuing education class as part of his operator's certificate. The cost is \$140 and will take place on March 16, 2022.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to send Michael Nagle from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to a continuing education class as part of his operator's certificate on March 16, 2022.

PRESENTATION OF ELIGIBILITY LIST:

The Civil Service Commission has completed the interviews and testing of all applicants and have prepared an eligibility list that lists three potential candidates.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO HIRE A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER:

Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has been involved with the Civil Service Commission in interviewing and testing eligible candidates. At this time, he respectfully requests that the top-ranking candidate, Joseph Britt, be hired as a full-time officer for the Northampton Borough Police Department.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to hire top-ranking candidate, Joseph Britt, as a full-time officer for the Northampton Borough Police Department.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO HIRE A PART-TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

It has come to my attention that our current part-time code enforcement officer is desirous of giving up his position. He said, however, that he would continue until we found another candidate. We have received an application for that position from Jeffrey Brant, who currently serves on the Civil Service Commission. He has an extensive background as a claims adjuster in homeowner damage estimates.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to table the request to hire Jeffrey Brant as a part-time code enforcement officer.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that through a series of unfortunate occurrences, we were unable to meet the publishing deadline for the ordinance requiring a right turn only from Station Alley onto Main Street. It will be published on Thursday, February 10, 2022, which will allow approval by Council on February 17, 2022.

--We are in receipt of the fourth quarter franchise fee from Service Electric Cable TV in the amount of \$5,860.10.

--As of close of business on Monday, January 31, 2022, the total receipts collected for garbage payments are \$570,213.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that tax preparers associated with AARP have visited the recreation center and will soon begin the process of tax preparation. Although clients will not be allowed to congregate within the lobby of the recreation center, they will be invited in when it is their turn. Appointments are required. You may call 484-282-0767 on Mondays from 9AM-1PM to schedule an appointment.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that Code Officer Keith Knoblach reports that 514 rental renewals were sent in the first week of January. To date, 199 or 38.7% have been returned. The deadline for returning the renewal is March 31.

--The police car that was ordered in spring of 2021 will be delivered on February 3, 2022.

--A meeting was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, with Chief Kadingo, members of an entertainment promotion group and Mr. Brobst. The group is interested in having a Billy Joel tribute band appear at the Roxy Theatre on Saturday, October 15, 2022. This could be a very interesting event.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, a representative of the firemen's workers' compensation coverage will be at the fire station to conduct an inspection and a review of safety procedures.

--The firemen have had a new gadget added to their telephone system at the fire station that will allow callers to connect with key members of the fire department.

--The fire department has completed their 2021 annual report. The book is quite voluminous but extremely thorough. Mr. Brobst has a copy if anyone would wish to see it.

--Included in your packet is a copy of the minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, as well as the health officer's summary.

--She reviewed the Board of Health minutes.

--She reviewed the police reports for January.

--She thanked all of the volunteers for working in all types of weather.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that a meeting with representatives of Allen Township, the Department of Environmental Protection and Northampton Borough will take place on Thursday, February 4, 2022. This is a continuation of a meeting that occurred last fall with regard to a combined Act 537. Environmental engineers representing both communities will also be present.

--We had the misfortune of having a manhole cover in the intersection of Route 329 (East 21st Street) and Lincoln Avenue become dislodged, hit by some unknown large vehicle and break into two pieces and fall into the manhole, leaving a 28½-inch hole in the street. A public works crew, and police and fire department personnel quickly responded securing the area to prevent anyone from driving into the abyss. It took nearly a day to find a manhole lid the exact size that we needed. It is an unusual dimension.

--The crew has recovered from the illnesses that befell them and they have returned to full strength. An interview for the mechanic position will take place on February 1st.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall asked who handles residents not shoveling snow. He noticed several areas where sidewalks were not shoveled.

The police department would be responsible for addressing these issues.

Trevor Stone congratulated Officer Britt on his position with the police department.

Judith Haldeman had nothing to report.

Mayor Anthony Pristash met with County Executive, Lamont McClure. They discussed the borough police force. He was informed that Northampton County is covering 25% of the lighting for the Cementon Bridge Project.

--He visited Good Shepherd Catholic School on February 2, 2022 for Catholic Schools Week and spoke to over 250 students and faculty. He mentioned that he saw a particular student, Alexandra Serensits. He told her that he knew both her Uncle and Grandfather very well. He added that he received so many great questions from the students and enjoyed his time there.

--He also met with Senator Boscola, adding that he worked with her for years. He said that we may lose her as Senator due to redistricting. He said that she has served us well for many years. He said the County may have grant opportunities and encouraged the borough to explore them.

Julia Kutzler asked if the redistricting will affect Zach Mako's position here in the borough. Mayor Pristash said he did not believe it would have any affect on State Representative, Zach Mako's position.

--He thanked Chief Kadingo for spending time with him and introducing him to the operations of the police department.

--He welcomed Officer Britt to the police department.

Solicitor Panella asked that council make a motion to upgrade the sewer plant in conjunction with the Act 537 Plan to accommodate an additional 323 EDU's for Allen Township.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to grant permission to upgrade the sewer plant in conjunction with the Act 537 Plan to accommodate an additional 323 EDU's for Allen Township.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. welcomed Officer Britt to the police department and told him to stay safe.

--He also commended Republic Services on their significant improvement in the trash and recycling services in the borough. He asked that we email their representatives letting them know they are doing a great job.

Ryleigh Tillotson said she was glad to be back. She has been very busy with school activities and sports. She has sent a message to the volunteer club asking about any interest in helping with the food bank garden.

--She proposed that the Borough have an Instagram account, adding that she will be the administrator for the page and provide updates. She said it's one of the easiest ways to communicate events/happenings on social media. She will set up a meeting with Mr. Brobst to discuss the specifics.

--She added that she will be going to Hershey, PA with the DECA program and possibly Atlanta depending on how they do.

Bonnie Almond welcomed Officer Britt to the police department and said he will be in good hands. Chief Kadingo is great to work with.

Julia Kutzler welcomed Officer Britt to the police department.

--She said the fire & health committee will be getting together with the members of the fire department to thank them personally for what they do for the community. She invited Mr. Brobst to attend the meeting.

--She reminded residents to remove snow from fire hydrants for emergency access.

--She referenced cracked and crumbling sidewalks in the business district on Main Street. She asked who was responsible for maintaining them. Mr. Brobst explained that the maintenance of sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owner. She asked to have these concerns forwarded to the code enforcement office.

--She said that the fire department recently sent out a mailer. She asked everyone to please consider sending a donation to the fire department.

Ronald Glassic congratulated Officer Britt on his position with the police department.

--He mentioned that one officer was recently injured on the job. He commended all of the police officers for what they do.

--He wanted to make sure that the borough office had applications for lifeguards and summer help at the pool. Mr. Brobst said they are available at the office.

--He was happy to hear that we received the new stop signs for the intersection of 10th Street and Howertown Road and also the convex mirror for the area of the 900 Block of Dewey Avenue.

--He also commented on receiving complaints about residents not removing snow from their sidewalks. He would like to see this as a priority and also see police action taken if necessary.

--He asked council to consider a 7:00 PM meeting start time as opposed to 7:30 PM.

--He asked where we stand with Canal Street. Mr. Brobst stated that the grove area at Canal Street will stay closed until further notice. He added that we requested a second round of proposals for the landscaping and design of the project. We have received a \$10,000 grant for materials.

Bonnie Almond added that the orange fencing around the grove area may need to be replaced or secured.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. welcomed Officer Britt to the police department. He mentioned the current situation our world and police officers are dealing with makes him very angry. He said there is just no respect for the law. He said we must do something to assist our police department such as investing in officer safety. He suggested hiring more police officers. He added that there are plenty of incidents happening in our borough, they are just not as publicized. He wants the police department to know that “we” have their back.

--He said Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Groundhog's Day.

--He asked that the borough look into possible grants for a parking deck in the Center Street lot. He suggested asking County representatives how we can obtain these grants. He mentioned that surrounding cement companies can donate materials for the project.

--He asked Ryleigh if she reached out to anyone on the football team about their interest in a parade. Ryleigh thinks a parade for these athletes would be very well received by students. She is feeling more comfortable in her position as a junior councilperson. She said she may have some volunteers to help residents with shoveling snow. Julia Kutzler suggested she give the volunteer list to the borough office.

Anthony Pristash added that he spoke with Kelly Luderschmidt of the Northampton Press. He will have one column per month concentrating on a specific department in the borough. He also added that he has a Facebook page, “Mayor Tony – Northampton, PA” where he will post events and updates happening in the borough.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst congratulated welcomed Officer Britt to the police department. He said he is in good hands and that Chief Kadingo is very dependable and easy to work with.

--He informed everyone that for Catholic Schools Week, we received 2 large bags from Good Shepherd Catholic School containing goodies and treats for the office staff and public works department. They also sent handmade cards done by students from kindergarten through 8th grade thanking different departments for their service to the borough. Mr. Brobst said they were very creative and he enjoyed reading every one of them. Their kind gesture was

very much appreciated by everyone.

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 #2, dated February 2, 2022, totaling \$40,000.00 and A/P Journal #2A, dated February 3, 2022 totaling \$221,924.72.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary