

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
AUGUST 18, 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 August 18, 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., Trevor Stone, Judith Haldeman, Bonnie Almond, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski Sr. and junior council person Ryleigh Tillotson. Also present were Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Mayor Anthony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Linda Homishak, 442 McKeever Lane, Northampton, was present to question the access to the D&L Trail from McKeever Lane. She said she was very frustrated that she and other residents of McKeever Lane no longer have a path access to get to the D&L Trail. She said it was used for so many years and it's a big concern for several neighbors in the area.

Mr. Brobst explained that the old access path is no longer available for use over a year ago when the land was subdivided and a new home was built. The current property owner does not want anyone walking on his property to access the trail. Mr. Brobst also stated that another access path was attempted on the other end of McKeever Lane, however, this path is unable to be used as well. The property owner does not want people walking on her property. The public works department attempted to create a path but because of the steepness and erosion, the path will be put back to its original state.

Councilman Glassic added that it's his property and you can't make him allow access.

Marie Novegratz, 435 McKeever Lane, Northampton, was there about the path as well. She said there are bigger concerns. Recently, it has been blocked off with fencing and boulders were added in areas down the hill because of erosion. She said kids are still using this access

on bikes and she is concerned someone is going to be injured. She said it is very steep and unsafe.

Mike Homishak, 442 McKeever Lane, Northampton, was present about the path as well. He said he was here a year ago about an access path. He's very disappointed that he and his neighbors no longer have a path to the trail after having one for so many years. He said the borough tried to create the path that didn't work and since March, left orange fencing that he has to look at every day. He said we broke it, we should fix it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pristash said that he has sent out about 20 Hometown Hero banner forms. He said the first round of banners will be for military service, however, would eventually like to add fire and police service as well. He thinks there will be a lot of interest and is excited to get the process started.

--He recently presented a mayoral proclamation to an Eagle Scout.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella had nothing to report.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. reported that four candidates were called back for a second interview for the position of assistant to the borough manager. All those involved presented themselves exceptionally well.

--Mayor Pristash is spearheading the Hometown Heroes panel program. Response to date has been encouraging and enthusiastic. Panels are available in two sizes and costs - \$200 and \$250.

--Treasurer Mary Ellen Handlon and Mr. Brobst met with Jonathan Rossi of PNC Bank to discuss ongoing banking procedures. With the closing of the 21st Street office, we now use the PNC branch located on Fullerton Avenue in Whitehall.

--Just a reminder-the Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2022, will **begin at 7:00 P.M.** This is a permanent change to the starting time of both monthly meetings.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that Mr. Brobst has met with the new coordinator for the Jack Frost Parade, Judy Ackerman, and to this point, she seems to have everything under control. We will provide assistance as available.

--Swimming pool receipts are trailing last year's income somewhat. In all likelihood, that is because we were one of the few pools that operated last year. We have received some comments that the pool paint is peeling. The pool is scheduled to be sandblasted and painted next year.

Code and Police: **Councilman Stone** reported a zoning hearing was held on Thursday, August 11, 2022, to hear the appeal of Daniel Mantz of 1630 Washington Avenue requesting a variance on a fence setback distance, which was granted unanimously.

--Mr. Brobst received a request from Northampton Area School District Superintendent Joseph Kovalchik regarding their need for crossing guards. They currently have none and will need to utilize their school police to handle traffic in the area between 16th and 18th Streets on Laubach Avenue. He had suggested that perhaps members of our police department could or would be available. Mr. Brobst discussed their need with Chief Kadingo and he will check with the staff to see if anyone would be interested.

--Code Officer Keith Knoblach and his trusted crew are still very busy with grass and weed complaints. He has begun preparation for notifying all rental unit owners of the need for a 4-year inspection beginning in 2023. This will be in addition to the normal registration fee.

Fire and Health: **Councilwoman Almond** reported that enclosed in your packet is the health report for the month of July from health officer Ted Veresink.

--The Department of Health representative visited our municipal pool on Thursday, August 11, 2022. This was the first inspection conducted since 2012. Their organization had experienced a staffing furlough. All in all, our pool passed the inspection with a list of suggested corrections that can be and will be accomplished.

--We had advertised for bids to replace the doors of the fire station with money provided through a grant. We had asked that bidders provide a 10% surety bond. We received no bids. On the advice of Solicitor Panella, we will advertise again with the requirement of a 10% bid bond removed.

Public Works and Sewer: **Councilman Glassic** reported that Steven Urban reported on their trip to Saratoga Springs, New York, as guests of Kappe Associates. He said they found the visitation, along with Tom Duffy of Gilmore & Associates, very informative and helpful. Councilman Glassic would like more details on the next report.

--Public Works Supervisor Gregory Morey has made a suggestion to eliminate the spring water that comes onto Laubach Avenue in the area of East 18th Street. Mr. Brobst has prepared a letter and a draft of the plan and sent it to Superintendent Kovalchik explaining our proposal. He awaits his reply.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Request of Saint John The Baptist Church:

We have received a request from Saint John The Baptist Church located in Whitehall, PA, for the use of our portable band trailer on Sunday, September 4, 2022. They have also asked that

the rental fee be waived. They will need to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming Northampton Borough as additionally insured. They have not asked for the use of the portable restroom.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to grant the request of Saint John The Baptist Church for the use of our portable band trailer on Sunday, September 4, 2022, waving the rental fee.

Consider Request to Remove Two No Parking Signs:

We have received a request to remove two "No Parking" signs on East 18th Street near Northampton Avenue. They were placed some time ago to facilitate entrance to a private driveway. The former owner of this property no longer lives there.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and carried to grant the request to remove two "No Parking" signs on East 18th Street near Northampton Avenue.
Councilman Stone asked if we spoke to the current owner. Mr. Brobst said no.

Consider Request of The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce:

We have received a request from the Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce to use the portable band trailer and also to conduct the 33rd Annual Uptown Northampton Street Fair on Saturday, September 10, 2022. They also have requested to use the portable restroom.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilwoman Haldeman, and unanimously carried to grant the request of the Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce to use the portable band trailer, the portable restroom, and also to conduct the 33rd Annual Uptown Northampton Street Fair on Saturday, September 10, 2022.
Councilwoman Almond asked where the portable restroom will be placed.
Mayor Pristash said it will be placed behind Wells Fargo Bank.

Consider Request of Northampton Area School District:

As in past years, the Northampton Area School district is requesting the use of the pool parking lot for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. The first day of use would be Monday, August 22, 2022, and depending on the weather, the last day would be Friday, June 2, 2023.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic, and unanimously carried to grant the request of the Northampton Area School district to use the pool parking lot for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. The first day of use would be Monday, August 22, 2022, and depending on the weather, the last day would be Friday, June 2, 2023.

Councilman Glassic asked when the pool opens. Mr. Brobst said the pool opens on the second Saturday in June.

Consider Request of Northampton Fire Department:

The Fire Department has been asked to participate in the Pen Argyl Firemen's parade scheduled for Labor Day, Monday, September 5, 2022. Adequate protection will remain in the Borough.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic, and unanimously carried to grant the request of the Fire Department to participate in the Pen Argyl Firemen's parade scheduled for Labor Day, Monday, September 5, 2022.

Consider Request to Hire Public Works Laborer:

Please consider this Mr. Brobst's recommendation to hire Andrew Laub as a full-time laborer for the public works department. Andrew has worked as a seasonal employee for the last three years and has always exhibited the qualities that will make him an excellent selection. His effective date of hire will be Monday, August 29, 2022.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilman Glassic, and carried to grant the request to hire Andrew Laub as a full-time laborer for the public works department. His effective date of hire will be Monday, August 29, 2022.

Councilwoman Almond abstained from this motion.

Council President, Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. congratulated Andrew and welcomed him aboard.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Trevor Stone congratulated Andrew Laub on his full-time position.

--He referenced the school needing crossing guards asking why the school police can't do it.

--He referenced several areas on Main Street with weeds in the street. He asked if public works can take of these areas and seal cracks if necessary.

Judith Haldeman asked if there was any update on the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Brobst explained that DEP recently requested a report that was not previously required. That report was submitted.

--She referenced an upcoming PSAB leadership conference on infrastructure being held on October 15, 2022 in Gettysburg. She thought it would be beneficial for some borough staff/council members to attend.

--She welcomed and congratulated Andrew on his full-time position with public works.

--She asked Mr. Brobst if committee members could start scheduling meetings with department heads sooner than later for budget requests.

--She referenced the pool and the need for it to be painted. She asked if we should consult someone about the process. Mr. Brobst said that we paint the inside of the pool every two years. This year the exterior of the building was painted. Public works has always followed a process of sandblasting, primer and then painting the pool. He did mention that the last time the inside of the pool was painted they sprayed it instead of using rollers. He said that using rollers is more effective and lasts longer as opposed to spraying it. That most likely explains the peeling paint in the pool.

Councilman Glassic asked if Andrew could provide feedback from what he experienced over the summer at the pool. Specifically things that can be done to make the pool better. He thanked him for doing a great job running the pool.

Councilman Stone also commended Andrew on a job well done.

Bonnie Almond congratulated Andrew on his full-time position with public works. She also said he did a wonderful job on running the pool. She added that her husband would volunteer as a pool monitor next summer.

--She thanked Mayor Pristash for heading the Hometown Heroes Banner program.

Ryleigh Tillotson said she would also like to see improvements with the pool for next year.

--She spoke with Reverend Mraz recently about getting a volunteer group together for the butterfly garden.

Ronald Glassic asked about the status of live streaming the meetings. Mr. Brobst said it is still a work in progress.

--He asked if we could put the need for crossing guards at the school on our website.

--He thanked Andrew for a job well done at the pool and said he would love his feedback and any suggestions to make the pool better.

--He thanked Councilwoman Haldeman for suggesting scheduling the meetings with department heads for budget requests.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. commended the fire department and all departments involved in the spray event for the kids. He suggested we should do this more often. He said it was well attended and the kids enjoyed it. He said they had a very short time for preparation and they made it happen.

--He said it's been a long, hot summer and asked if the water was turned on at the Uptown Park. He said it's not looking too good and everything is extremely dry. He asked if someone could water the grass and plants.

--He congratulated Andrew and welcomed him aboard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst welcomed Andrew aboard and said he will do great things.

--He said that Main Street Restaurant reopened on August 17th and is so happy to see them open and operating again.

Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. said there is an upcoming Eagle Scout Fundraiser on August 29th at Rita's. He encouraged everyone to attend.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #8A, dated August 18, 2022, totaling \$173,282.35.

Councilman Glassic questioned the bills paid to DMR Tools and Ehrlich.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilwoman Haldeman and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary