

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President pro-tem Anthony Pristash at 7:30 PM on Thursday September 16, 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. (via phone), Anthony Pristash, Kenneth Hall and Trevor Stone, Ronald Glassic and junior councilperson, Ryleigh Tillotson. Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Keith Piescienski and Julia Kutzler 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 Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on August 5, 2021 and the Regular Public Meeting held on August 19, 2021.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Mike Homishak, 442 McKeever Lane, Northampton, was present to respectfully request a secure access to the Nor-Bath Trail from the McKeever Lane area.

For the past 20+ years, residents and children were using a trail that was previously on an empty lot. Last year, the lot was sub-divided and a home was built on the property accessing the path to the trail. The new owner of the property does not want people trespassing on his property.

David Novegratz, 435 McKeever Lane, Northampton, was present to request that the borough create an access to the D&L Trail from the McKeever Lane area. He said that a lot of people and children used that access to safely cross the railroad tracks. He understands that the old access is on private property and hopes the borough will create a new access for everyone to use. He said it would be a great thing for the entire neighborhood.

Anthony Pristash added that he hopes council can come up with a resolution for the next council meeting which is scheduled for October 7, 2021.

Cesar Arcos, 446 McKeever Lane, Northampton, was present to introduce himself to council as the property owner off 446 McKeever Lane. He explained that he is having issues with people

trespassing on his property to use a path to get to the trail. He mentioned trash and dog feces being left on his property. He has posted “No Trespassing” signs on his property. He also stated that it is a safety issue for his family as people are accessing this path at all hours of the night. He has a family with small children and is concerned for their safety.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Reenock had nothing to report.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella reminded council members that previously there was a motion passed to not allow council members to phone in as opposed to being present during council meetings. There was an exception to allow council members to phone in, only in the case of an emergency. President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. participated via phone for the meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported budget preparation will begin during the week of September 20, 2021. Mr. Brobst anticipates a challenge. However, he does not expect a tax increase.

--Some council members will need join via ZOOM for the Council meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021, due to an emergency.

--On Tuesday evening, September 14, 2021, Mr. Brobst participated in a virtual meeting of the River Central Committee. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that this year's income from the swimming pool was \$74,880. Expenses as of August 31, 2021 were \$82,058, showing a net loss of \$7,178. He does not consider this terrible because with the shutdown from the year before, there was a good deal of extra work that needed to be done.

--Mr. Brobst is still waiting for Council members to notify him if they wish to ride in the Jack Frost Parade. The registration deadline is nearing.

--Please be advised that the Jack Frost Parade will have a different route this year to start the parade. Laubach Avenue will **not** be available because of a huge banquet being held at the community center. The parade will go north to 19th Street on Washington Avenue. The date is set for Saturday, October 23, 2021 starting at 6:00 PM.

Code and Police: Councilman Pristash reported that Mr. Brobst has verbal confirmation from a member of the police bargaining unit that they are in agreement with the proposed 2022-23 contract. Once he has written acknowledgment, he will prepare copies for Council's review.

--The Planning Commission met on September 8, 2021 to hear a presentation by Yost Hauling concerning their property located behind the CVS drug store. The commission will continue this hearing at a later date.

Fire and Health: Councilman Stone reported that the Board of Health will meet on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 7 PM.

--The fire police monthly report for August is enclosed with your packet. They report a total number of calls at 40, with 195 responders.

--Just a reminder - Fire Prevention week will start on Sunday, October 3, 2021, until Saturday, October 9, 2021. The department will hold their Open House on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that the meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, 2021, with Allen Township regarding the Act 537 Plan was postponed and they met on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 3 PM. He added that the meeting was very encouraging and they are moving in the right direction.

--We are fortunate to have had minimal damage from the storm associated with Hurricane Ida. The sewer plant staff maintained the status quo at the treatment plant, and the Canal Street playground area experienced loss of playground mulch.

--The street sweeper has been out of service for repairs. It was back on the road September 15, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 7-21

TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO SET THE BOROUGH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

Resolution No. 7-21 eliminates the Borough's contribution for the 2022 non-uniformed defined benefit pension plan.

Introduced By: Ronald Glassic

Seconded By: Anthony Pristash

Ordinance No. 7-21 passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-21

TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO SET THE BOROUGH'S CONTRIBUTION RATE TO THE NON-UNIFORMED DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

Resolution No. 8-21 sets the Borough's contribution rate for the 2022 non-uniformed defined contribution plan at 3% of payroll.

Introduced By: Trevor Stone

Seconded By: Ronald Glassic

Ordinance No. 8-21 passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-21

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SETTING THE CONTRIBUTION RATE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES MAKE TO THE POLICE PENSION FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

Resolution No. 9-21 sets the police contribution rate at 5% and the Borough's contribution for the 2022 police pension plan at \$22,462.

Introduced By: Kenneth Hall

Seconded By: Trevor Stone

Ordinance No. 9-21 passed unanimously.

Consider Requests for Handicapped Parking Zones:

We have received two requests for handicapped parking designations and motions should be made on them separately. The first is a request for a handicapped parking area at 415 East 8th Street. Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has rejected the request because there is a garage at the rear of the property. As always, Council has the final determination.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to reject a request for a handicapped parking area at 415 East 8th Street.

Chief Kadingo also received a request to designate a handicapped parking area near 47 West 17th Street. He has rejected this request because there is an existing handicapped parking sign in the block and the opposite side of the street is designated for no parking. Again, Council makes the final determination.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to reject the request to designate a handicapped parking area near 47 West 17th Street.

Consider Request of Northampton Soccer Team:

We have received a request from parents of the Northampton soccer team to use Municipal Park Pavilion "B" on Sunday, September 26, 2021. With this request they are asking that the fees be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to parents of the Northampton soccer team to use Municipal Park Pavilion "B" on Sunday, September 26, 2021, waiving the rental fee.

Consider Request of the Borough of Coplay Police Department:

Chief of Police Vincent Genovese of the Coplay Police Department has respectfully requested the assistance of our fire police for their Halloween Parade. The parade is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2021, with no rain date.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to Chief of Police, Vincent Genovese of the Coplay Police Department for the assistance of our fire police for their Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

Approval to Set Trick or Treat.

Historically, Council schedules Trick or Treat from 6-8 PM on October 31. This year that is a Sunday evening.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. and unanimously carried to set Trick or Treat from 6-8 PM on October 31, 2021.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall asked Mr. Brobst if Andrew Marzen spoke with him about fire police assistance for a bike ride on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Mr. Brobst was unaware of any requests.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission for the fire police to assist with a bike ride on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at the intersections of 21st and Main Streets and 21st Street and Laubach Avenue.

--He was happy to see UGI cleaned up at 21st Street and Main Street.

Trevor Stone said that he and councilman Glassic will visit the area at McKeever Lane and discuss an alternate solution to access the D&L trail from that area.

Anthony Pristash said that the street fair on September 11th was a huge success. He said it was nice to see such great community spirit. He thanked the fire police, fire department, police department and public works for their help with the event. He also gave special thanks to Reverend Jerry Mraz for the monarch butterfly garden he had set up at the street fair. He said it was a big hit and the kids loved it. He has seen the process from start to finish and said it's an incredible thing to see. He added that he also started a list for future garden club/assistants and he received 45 signatures supporting it. He commended Reverend Mraz for his dedication at 81 years old. Mr. Pristash hopes to incorporate a butterfly waystation at the future garden area at Canal Street Park.

Ronald Glassic thanked all departments for their work and support at the street fair. He said it was great to see the people from all departments interacting and talking with the residents. He added that it was a beautiful day and great to see that in our town.

--He mentioned the meeting with Allen Township on September 15, 2021 to discuss the Act 537 Plan. He said it was an encouraging and productive meeting.

--He referenced the street sweeper and suggested that we look into adding a trimmer and blower to it. He said this would be great to get some of the bushes trimmed around corners and weeds while running the street sweeper. He spoke with public works supervisor, Greg Morey and he loved the idea.

--He asked that we post the council meeting agenda on the outside bulletin board. This follows the guidelines of "Roberts Rules of Order".

--He thanked Mr. Homishak for bringing his concerns about the path to the council meeting. He also thanked the Mayor and Mr. Stone for their involvement in trying to find an alternate path in the area of McKeever Lane.

Ryleigh Tillotson said that she reached out to a school guidance counselor about having the newspaper club help with a digital community newsletter. Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, there is no longer a newspaper club at the high school.

--She suggested the possibility of an upgrade to the borough website to make things more easily accessible.

--She mentioned that the biology club would love to help with anything for the upcoming garden in the grove area of Canal Street.

Anthony Pristash asked about the possibility of live streaming the council meetings. He said more boroughs and municipalities are doing that and he would like to see it done here in the borough.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

--Mr. Brobst informed everyone of some issues we are having with our trash hauler. He said we are keeping track of missed pickups and penalties will be assessed. He said they have dropped the ball several times and their service has been terrible.

--He said that he and others met with Allen Township on September 15th to discuss the Act 537 Plan, adding that it was a very productive meeting.

--He mentioned the possibility of creating a sewer authority with one or more boroughs or municipalities in the area.

--He said that the street fair was very successful. He said the weather was great and the streets were packed with people.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Ronald Glassic moved, seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #9A, dated September 15, 2021, totaling \$541.00 and A/P Journal #9B, dated September 16, 2021, totaling \$272,246.81.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary