

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2021**

**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 April 15, 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., Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Robert McHale, Julia Kutzler, Kenneth Hall and Thomas Gehringer. Vice President Keith Piescienski and Mayor Thomas Reenock were absent. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and recording secretary Meaghan Case.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer, and carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on March 4, 2021 and the Regular Public Meeting held on March 18, 2021. Robert McHale abstained from the motion. He was absent for the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:**

No comments were received from the public.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Reenock had nothing to report.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Panella reported that his office is reviewing the road materials and sewer sludge contracts for final approval. He informed council that he is advising that the developer of the Northampton Townhomes sign off on agreements for the change to one-way streets for West Alley and Station Alley. He said they received a letter of credit for \$911,000 and two checks totaling \$125,000. He also stated that final plans will need to be signed by all entities.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** Councilman Hall reported that we are in receipt of a check in the amount of \$21,900 provided by the PA Department of Transportation to provide a right-of-way claim in conjunction with the replacement of the Cementon Bridge.

--We have received the 2019 Recycling Performance Grant in the amount of \$19,760.49.

--We also received a check from the MRM Trust in the amount of \$12,572.38. This is a dividend for years 2015 through 2019.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** Councilman Pristash reported that we are still accepting applications for the lifeguard position. Results have not been encouraging. We also have noted a shortage of applications for the other positions, namely cashier and bathhouse attendant. Mr. Brobst anticipates meeting with Nate Gillespie, who has been the pool manager for the last number of years and discuss protocol for operation.

--Mr. Brobst spoke with NASD Superintendent Joseph Kovalchik and was told that the locks on the school tennis court have been removed.

--On Tuesday, April 13, 2021, Councilman Pristash, Recreation Center Director Jason Kremus and Mr. Brobst met to discuss some proposed changes to the Canal Street Park.

**Code and Police:** Councilman Pristash reported that Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has informed Mr. Brobst that of the 30 candidates chosen for the MCSAP (Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program) Northampton was fortunate enough to have Officer Erik Schaffer as one of the candidates. Chief Kadingo was grateful for the support provided by Councilwoman Kutzler.

--With the resignation of our last D.A.R.E. officer, Officer Emanuel Torres will take the position. A training program will be offered at Fort Indiantown Gap in October. The exact dates will be specified at a later time for Council's action.

--Enclosed in your packet is a report from the code enforcement officer. They are in the process of sending certified mail to the landlords who did not register for the 2021 calendar year.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Kutzler reported that there are a number of reports included in your packets. They are the Northampton Fire Department March Activity Report, the Fire Police March Monthly Report, the health officer's Summary Report for February 24, 2021 to March 30, 2021, and Minutes of the Board of Health meeting that was held on March 30, 2021. As you can see, both departments have been very busy.

--On Saturday, April 3, 2021, Mr. Brobst heard many sirens coming up the street in front of his house and went out on the porch to see the ladder truck driving along with the Easter Bunny on the back of the truck. Thank you to the fire department for helping to brighten the day for children young and old.

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilman McHale reported that Mr. Brobst is awaiting confirmation from the solicitor's office to notify and award the bid for both road materials and dewatered sludge removal.

--A crew of the public works department is working on site preparation for the MS4 project.

--Grass cutting will soon begin in earnest and continue through the month of October.

--On April 23, 2021, the underground storage tank at the wastewater treatment plant will be inspected by Trammel Testing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Consider Request of Northampton Memorial Community Center:**

Members of the Board of Directors of the Northampton Memorial Community Center will be on hand to make a presentation and a request.

Joseph Serencsits spoke on behalf of the board members of the Northampton Memorial Community Center. They are requesting a waiver of rent paid to the Borough for all of 2020 and 2021. The Community Center has not been operational since February of 2020. They plan to reopen for events in September of 2021. They have also requested that the Borough pay for the electric used by the pool for the 2021 season. For several years the Community Center has paid the electric bill for the swimming pool from May through August.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to waive the rent from the Northampton Memorial Community Center for all of 2020 and 2021. They will also not be responsible to pay the electric bill for the pool for the 2021 season.

**Consider Request of First Baptist Church:**

We have received a request from the First Baptist Church of Allentown to reserve the Municipal "A" and "B" Pavilions on Sunday, September 12, 2021 for their Rally Day event. As a nonprofit organization, they are requesting a waiver of any and all fees.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to First Baptist Church of Allentown to use the Municipal "A" and "B" Pavilions on Sunday, September 12, 2021 for their Rally Day event, waiving any and all fees.

Julia Kutzler abstained from this motion.

**Consider Requests of South Whitehall Township:**

We have received a request from South Whitehall Township for use of the portable band trailer on three separate occasions: Friday, June 11 & 25, and Friday July 23, 2021. They are providing the delivery and setup fee for each occasion and a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough additionally insured. They had originally asked for Friday, July 9, 2021. However, the trailer will be in use for Community Days at that time.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to grant permission to South Whitehall Township to use the portable band trailer on Friday, June 11, 2021. They are providing the delivery and setup fee.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Thomas Gehringer duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to South Whitehall Township to use the portable band trailer on Friday, June 25, 2021. They are providing the delivery and setup fee.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to South Whitehall Township to use the portable band trailer on Friday, July 23, 2021. They are providing the delivery and setup fee.

**Consider Request of Becky's Drive-In:**

We have received a request from the owners of Becky's Drive-In to use the portable band trailer on Sunday, October 3, 2021. This will be in conjunction with their Dream Come True event, which in past years has raised over \$344,000. They would be responsible to provide a Certificate of Insurance and payment of the delivery and retrieval fee.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to grant permission to Becky's Drive-In to use the portable band trailer on Sunday, October 3, 2021. They will be responsible for the delivery and setup fee.

**Continue Discussion on Creation of Stormwater Fee:**

With the proposal submitted by Councilman McHale at the last meeting, Mr. Brobst thought it would be to our advantage to determine if Council approves the creation of a stormwater fee. If so, an opportunity for public discussion would be appropriate. If not, the matter dies.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to add this as an agenda item for the next scheduled council meeting on May 6, 2021 to create a storm water committee.

**Permission to Advertise an Amending Ordinance:**

When Ordinance No. 1218 was adopted creating one-way streets for the Northampton Townhouse project, it did not specify a right turn only onto Main Street while eastbound on Station Alley. I am seeking permission to have the solicitor prepare an amending ordinance to that effect, which will be advertised prior to adoption.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to add this as an agenda item for the next scheduled council meeting on May 6, 2021 to create a storm water committee.



**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Kenneth Hall** said that the roads in town are terrible and UGI continues to cut up more streets.

**Robert McHale** said that black top plants are open. UGI continues to destroy the roads and asked why they do not pave right after the work is complete in one area. Thomas Gehringer said that they are waiting for the entire project to be done. They will have a different subcontractor come back and do all of the patching/paving. Mr. McHale asked Mr. Brobst if he could contact UGI to get a timeline for all this work to be completed. Mr. Brobst will schedule a meeting with UGI.

**Anthony Pristash** said that the condition of the streets in the borough are absolutely terrible.

--He is happy to see the grass being mowed and flowers blooming.

--He said that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual street fair in September and possibly another one in May.

--He had a great time with Mr. Brobst looking at the parks for the possibility of pickle ball courts in the borough.

**Julia Kutzler** said that she spoke with Candi Lynn, organizer for Paw Prints on the Canal. She said they are looking for volunteers for the event.

--She said that "People Standing Up" are always looking for volunteers for the community garden. She reminded everyone that all of the produce is donated to the food bank.

--She informed everyone about the new cupcake business at 929 Main Street, Cakes on Main and the proposed Rita's going in at the upper end of Main Street. She said these new businesses are exciting for the borough.

--She said that the person who was feeding the feral cats in a certain part of the borough has been cited.

--She said there is a new catering company at the Hungarian Hall.

--She reviewed the code enforcement report and said there is an 86.6% compliance rate for rental registrations so far for 2021. She commended the code office on a job well done.

--She said that the next health board meeting will be held on April 27, 2021.

**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** addressed the public stating that grass should not be blown into the street. He said if people are seen blowing grass into the street, they may be cited.

--He said the park restrooms are outdated and suggested that we refurbish the restrooms at all of the parks in the borough. He added they should all be COVID compliant.

--He thanked the community center representatives for all they do for the community.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

--Mr. Brobst said that LookFirst Technologies will be installing computers in the new code office.

--He said the shredding event on April 11, 2021 was extremely successful and thanked everyone who was there to help.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Motion:** Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #4A, dated April 15, 2021, totaling \$302,272.18.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meaghan Case".

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary

# ***BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON***

## **TREASURER'S REPORT ENDING BALANCE March 31, 2021**

### ***Business Accounts***

#### ***General Fund***

Checking	2,497,262.91
Investments-Rec Bldg Fund	85,689.98

#### ***Sewer Fund***

Checking	70,040.74
Investments	3,273,479.12

#### ***Centennial Fund***

Certificate of Deposit	1,207.36
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#### ***Atlas Historical***

Checking	81,093.36
Investments	371,204.65

### ***Pension Accounts***

#### ***Police***

Super Now	100,317.53
Investments	5,503,975.61

#### ***Non Uniform***

Super Now	150,384.71
Investments	5,963,411.50

#### ***Defined Allocation***

Checking	8,230.39
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### ***Grants***

#### ***Liquid Fuels***

Money Market	267,534.19
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***Total***

**\$18,373,832.05**