

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 1, 2021**

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 Thursday, April 1, 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., Vice President Keith Piescienski, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Thomas Gehringer, Kenneth Hall, Julia Kutzler, Anthony Pristash, Robert McHale and Mayor Reenock. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Dawn Whittman, 1375 Washington Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067 was present to ask about the public use of the tennis courts across the street from the high school. She said the gates are locked and she and others would like to use them. She stated that she has contacted the school and a few coaches and added that every other sport is operating. Mr. Brobst said he would contact Joseph Kovalchik, Superintendent of NASD.

Melissa Gogel, 4015 Wood Drive, Walnutport, PA 18088 was present to introduce herself to council. She is running for District Magistrate. She is a veteran police officer and has 18 years of service.

Kristin Soldridge, 3874 Holly Drive, Danielsville, PA 18038, was present to introduce herself to council. She is running for Northampton County Council. She grew up on the Lorah Farm, her family's farm in Lehigh Township, PA.

Presentation by VFW:

Members of the VFW will be on hand to make a presentation for the Police Department.

Bruce Miller, Post Quarter Master of Post 4714 VFW Northampton was present to give a check to the Northampton Police Department in the amount of \$5,000 for body cameras and equipment. He thanked borough council for their time.

Post 4714 VFW was formerly housed at 1204 Main Street, then moved to 2108 Canal Street. The building was sold and would no longer accommodate them. They are now working out of 2650 Howertown Road, Suite 3, Northampton, PA.

Opening of Bids for Road Materials:

Any and all bids were opened for 2021 road materials. This includes materials estimated by the Borough and the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to close the bids for 2021 road materials.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to award the contract for the 2021 road material to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc., pending Solicitor review.

Comment on Bids for Dewater Sewer Sludge:

At 10 AM on April 1, 2021, bids for the Disposal of Dewatered Sewer Sludge that had been signed with PENNBID will be opened and reviewed by Thomas Duffy of Gilmore & Associates. We anticipate that he will be able to provide a recommendation that can be accepted by Council contingent on review by the solicitor.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to close the bids for the disposal of dewatered sewer sludge.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert McHale duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to award the contract for the disposal of dewatered sewer sludge to the lowest responsible bidder, pending Solicitor review.

After speaking with Steve Urban and Tom Duffy of Gilmore & Associates, Robert McHale suggested possibly considering extending to a five-year contract as opposed to a three-year contract due to the possibility of other landfills closing around the area and having significant increases over the next five years.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. agreed with Robert McHale's suggestion.

Appointment to UCC Board of Appeals:

We have received an application submitted by David Nahf to serve on the UCC Board of Appeals.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to appoint David Nahf to serve on the UCC Board of Appeals for a five-year term.

Appointment to Civil Service Commission:

With the passing of Barry Dorshimer, a vacancy exists on the Civil Service Commission. We have received two applications. They are from Jeffrey Brant and Charles Hower.

Motion: A motion was made by Thomas Gehringer, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler

and carried to appoint Jeffrey Brant to serve on the Civil Service Commission for the remainder of Barry Dorshimer's term which expires on 12/31/2025.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. voted against this motion.

Consider Resignation of Full-Time Police Officer:

Patrolman Ryan Grube has submitted a letter of resignation from the Northampton Borough Police Department effective March 19, 2021.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Patrolman Ryan Grube from the Northampton Borough Police Department effective March 19, 2021.

Consider Request to Utilize Band Shell:

We have received a request on behalf of barre3 Lehigh Valley to utilize the permanent band shell in the Municipal Park on Saturday, May 12, 2021. They wish to host a 45-minute class either at 9 AM or 10 AM to introduce themselves. The presentation would be open to the public at no cost. They ask that all fees be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to grant permission to barre3 Lehigh Valley to utilize the permanent band shell in the Municipal Park on Saturday, May 12, 2021 to host a 45-minute class either at 9 AM or 10 AM to introduce themselves. They are required to pay a minimum of \$150.00 rental fee.

Consider Request of Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce:

The Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce is participating in the Catasauqua StrEAT Fest and is requesting use of the band trailer on Saturday, April 10, 2021. They had received permission for this event last year; however, it was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. They will be responsible for a delivery and setup fee.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce use of the band trailer on Saturday, April 10, 2021 to participate in the Catasauqua StrEAT Fest. They will be responsible for a delivery and setup fee.

Use of Community Center for COVID Testing:

The county, in coordination with the PA Department of Health, is looking for sites to be used as COVID testing sites. The exact details would have to be worked out. However, in the past, this location was suggested as a test site. I would like Council's input.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to allow the Community Center as a location for a COVID testing site.

Consider Request to Hire a Full-Time Police Officer:

With the resignation of a full-time police officer, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo is requesting that John Shoemaker, the last eligible listing on the most recent Civil Service testing, be hired as a full-time officer.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to Police Chief Bryan Kadingo to hire John Shoemaker as a full-time officer.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to grant permission for the Civil Service Commission to create a new civil service eligibility list.

Consider Request to Attend a Training Course:

Chief Kadingo is seeking permission to allow Patrolman Erik Schaffer to attend a three-day training course on Criminal Interdiction. The course will be held in Chambersburg from May 4-6, 2021. The cost is \$599 per student. There will be additional costs for lodging and meals.

Motion: A motion was made by Thomas Gehringer duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to allow Patrolman Erik Schaffer to attend a three-day training course on Criminal Interdiction in Chambersburg from May 4-6, 2021.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, Mr. Brobst took part in a virtual meeting with Northampton County Council of Governments. A presentation was made about the new Lehigh Valley Hospital campus that will be just off Hecktown Road. Several county officials made presentations. This was the first such COG meeting that was held virtually since the last in-person meeting that occurred prior to the pandemic.

--On Thursday, March 25, 2021, Mr. Brobst took part in a virtual meeting that reviewed the American Rescue Plan Act. Representative Susan Wild and a member of her staff as well as a representative of Senator Mario Scavello, a representative of Senator Boscola and a representative of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey were on hand to field questions and provide input. With one interesting point of discussion, it seemed that Representative Wild was of the opinion that the entire distribution of the assistance money would be a one-time distribution. Previously, we had been led to believe that it would occur with one-half within 60 days of the announcement and the other half one year from that date. She promised to research this question. It would appear that while we must strictly account for this money, the limitations may be less severe than originally anticipated. Although we know this money is coming, by and large, it is still a wait and see process.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that in response to the request of the KIDS Swim Club, Mr. Brobst spoke with Superintendent Joseph Kovalchik and learned that the organization is not sponsored by the school district. However, our conversation left me with the impression that they were willing to allow the club use of the facilities with strict CDC protocol.

--As of this date, we have received one lifeguard application. Our operation is dependent on a sufficient number of lifeguards. However, preparation is underway by the public works department to prepare the pool to be opened.

--Park pavilion rentals continue at a slower pace than usual. Mr. Brobst recalls a time when the first two hours of offering the permits to the public, we had more written than we have to this date after a full month.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that on Thursday, March 25, 2021, we took delivery of the new Chevy Tahoe that was ordered last year. The decals were applied on Monday, March 29, 2021, and the light bars will be installed at a later date. The radio has approximately a five-week waiting period because there is a shortage of semi-conductors.

--The code office will be following up on non-responding landlords. Currently, we have had a 75.7% response.

--We have run cable from our network server to the community planner's office and ordered an additional computer workstation and laser printer for the code department. Once everything is delivered and installed, the three members of the code department will be moved out of the "closet."

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the Board of Health will meet at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 30, 2021. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers.

--The impound lot being constructed on the fire department grounds is well underway. It will be ready soon to host its first guest.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman McHale reported that Mr. Brobst reviewed the playground equipment with Public Works Supervisor Gregory Morey that would help spruce up our parks and we have ordered several tot lot amenities that will make a child's visit more memorable.

--Public works has begun site preparation for the MS4 project. Some trees and underbrush clearing should facilitate the process.

--Most of the ballfields have received some initial attention. Their use will increase during the month of April.

--We have purchased playground bedding to surround the play equipment in the lots.

--He gave an update on the sewer plant pump station upgrade.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Robert McHale addressed Dawn Whittman in reference to the school tennis courts being opened. He said that Mr. Brobst can work his magic with the school district and speak with

Mr. Kovalchik.

--He congratulated Officer Shoemaker on his employment and thanked him for his service.

--He announced that he and his family will be moving to North Carolina sometime in June and will be submitting a letter of resignation from Borough Council and the NBMA board.

Keith Piescienski congratulated Officer Shoemaker on his employment.

--He said that the roads are terrible on Main Street.

Solicitor Panella wished everyone a Happy and safe Easter.

--He congratulated Robert McHale on his future move to North Carolina.

Anthony Pristash congratulated Robert McHale on his future move. He said that Mr. McHale offered a wealth of knowledge while being a councilman over the years and will be hard to replace. He added that he will be missed.

--He addressed the borough residents not cleaning up after their dogs. He said those people should be ashamed of themselves. He added that we care about our town. He asked residents to please do better and get it together.

--He wished everyone a Happy Easter and said God Bless.

Julia Kutzler said that she would be really upset if the pool does not open. She suggested putting an ad in the paper for lifeguards.

--She asked Chief Kadingo if he contacted Nazareth Pallet about their trucks driving on Dewey Avenue. Chief Kadingo has not reached out to them yet but will follow up.

--She thanked Melissa and Kristin for introducing themselves and attending the council meeting.

--She welcomed Officer Shoemaker to the police department.

--She announced that the fire department will be taking the Easter Bunny around town on Saturday, April 3rd from 12PM to 4PM.

Thomas Gehringer welcomed Officer Shoemaker to the Police Department.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if there was any update on 105/107 Laubach Avenue.

Solicitor Panella said they have not received a response and did not have any new updates at this time.

--He suggested that the recreation committee concentrate on the beautification of our parks. He suggested that we create a type of berm in the area of Canal Street so residents in that area don't have to worry about flooding.

--He congratulated Officer Shoemaker on his employment with the police department.

--He was stunned by Robert McHale's announcement of him moving out of state. He said that he would be hard to replace because of his extensive knowledge of so many areas of the borough. He thanked him for his work and efforts on borough council and his dedication to the borough and community.

--He agreed with Keith Piescienski, stating that Main Street is terrible, especially in front of Rite-Aid. He asked Mr. Brobst if public works could possibly fill in some of the huge holes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst congratulated Officer Shoemaker on his employment with the police department.

--He was also stunned by Robert McHale's announcement of him moving out of state. He said that he offered a ton of knowledge in several aspects as a councilman and he will be hard to replace. He added that he loved that they agreed to disagree.

--He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

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 #3B, dated March 21, 2021, totaling \$39,650.00 and A/P Journal #4, dated March 31, 2021, totaling \$143,619.79.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary