

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 3, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:37 PM on Thursday, March 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 Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Tim Teppes, 3224 Center Road, Northampton, was present to follow up on the EDU's available in Allen Township.

Mr. Brobst said that he spoke with the borough's engineer and the update has been completed for the joint Act 537 Plan and the expansion of the borough sewer facility. He explained that it must go through the proper channels for review.

Ronald Glassic asked what the capacity will be for the EDU's.

Mr. Brobst explained that the update will provide an additional 323 EDU's to accommodate the needs of Allen Township.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-22:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON (BOROUGH) FURTHERING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE JOINT ACT 537 AND THE EXPANSION OF THE BOROUGH SEWER FACILITY.

Resolution No. 5-22 memorializes a motion that was previously made by Council committing to action necessary to update the wastewater treatment plant to provide 323 additional EDUs to accommodate the needs of Allen Township.

Introduced By: Ronald Glassic
Seconded By: Kenneth Hall

Unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 5-22 as written.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND A TRAINING COURSE:

We have received a request from Police Chief Bryan Kadingo to allow Sergeant Michael Buchanan to complete a course in Supervision of Police Personnel. This is an ongoing online course that must be completed between July 25, 2022 and September 23, 2022. The course is offered by Northwestern University Center for Public Safety and the tuition cost is \$1,000.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission allowing Sergeant Michael Buchanan to complete a course in Supervision of Police Personnel.

CONSIDER REQUEST OF THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

We have received a request on behalf of the Whitehall Area Chamber of Commerce and the Borough of Catasauqua to use the portable bandshell for the 2nd Annual Catasauqua StrEAT Festival. This will take place on Saturday, April 9, 2022, between 11 AM and 3 PM. I am aware that non-Borough organizations need to wait until April 1 in order to request a reservation but since Borough Council only meets on April 7 that would not afford enough time for them to make plans. They will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured and a delivery and removal fee.

Julia Kutzler she thought that we were no longer renting the portable bandshell. Mr. Brobst said that the idea was mentioned of not renting it out but that nothing was officially decided and voted on.

Motion: A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and carried to grant permission to the Whitehall Area Chamber of Commerce and the Borough of Catasauqua to use the portable bandshell for the 2nd Annual Catasauqua StrEAT Festival on Saturday, April 9, 2022. They will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured and a delivery and removal fee.

Julia Kutzler voted against this motion.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO HIRE A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER:

Chief Kadingo is requesting that Council consider hiring Robert Lindsay as a part-time police officer. He serves as a paramedic for St. Luke's Hospital and will be available on short notice.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to hire Robert Lindsay as a part-time police officer for the Northampton Borough Police Department.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT A DRIVEWAY:

The owners of property located at 209 East 18th Street are requesting permission to add a driveway on the north side of their property on Evans Street. It meets the required setback from the intersection. The only concern is it would remove, in all likelihood, two parking spaces from Evans Street. However, both of those spaces could be made up on the driveway. Under normal circumstances, parking is not an issue in this neighborhood.

Julia Kutzler asked if Chief Kadingo has looked into this and if the neighbors were notified. Chief Kadingo did not look at this but he doesn't see it being a problem in that area. The neighbors were not notified.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and carried to grant permission to the owners of the property located at 209 East 18th Street to add a driveway on the north side of their property on Evans Street.

Julia Kutzler voted against this motion.

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

We have received an application from Jeffrey Brant to serve as a part-time code enforcement officer. His hire date would need to be contingent on passing a physical and background check.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to hire Jeffrey Brant to serve as a part-time code enforcement officer. His hire date will be contingent on passing a physical and background check.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that we have been notified by Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust that we will be receiving a rebate for the workers' compensation insurance for 2021 in the amount of \$6,955. This rebate will serve as a credit on one of our upcoming monthly payments.

--Representative Zachary Mako will sponsor a shredding event on Saturday, April 23, 2022, between 10 AM and 12 Noon. The event will take place in the parking lot of the Northampton Memorial Community Center.

--Mr. Brobst will not be in the office from March 4, 2022, through March 14, 2022. He will be visiting his daughter and her family in Florida. He will, however, be in contact with the office every day.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that park permits are available starting March 1, 2022, to Borough residents; non-residents must wait until April 1, 2022.

--On Monday, February 28, 2022, Mr. Brobst had an opportunity to sit with Ryleigh Tillotson, our junior council person, and review some of her ideas and suggestions. He thoroughly enjoyed their discussion.

--Mr. Brobst has spoken with Gregory Morey, our public works supervisor, regarding a major piece of playground equipment for the 4th Street Park. It is possible that we could get a grant similar to when we installed nearly \$200,000 worth of playground equipment in three of the other parks.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that the process is under way to install the new software that will provide for both zoning and code applications. Funding for the new software upgrade was provided by the American Care Act. Once it is installed and operational, it will be a cloud-based user-friendly software standard.

--On Friday, February 25, 2022, a meeting was held with the owner of EWMI located on Brick Kiln Court. Plans for his property upgrade were reviewed with his engineer present, as well as the Borough engineer and zoning officer.

--Code Officer Keith Knobloch reports that 292 rental properties have been registered so far. That equates to approximately 56.9% of the rental units. The deadline for registration is March 31, 2022.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that included in your packet is a copy of the minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, as well as the health officer's summary. She added that Estelle's Catering is closed.

--On February 16, 2022, CSI, who monitors and maintains our interior alarm systems, inspected the systems at the recreation center and town hall and found them to be in good working order.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that during the week of February 21, 2022, a sewer lateral repair was affected in the 1800 block of Laubach Avenue that required the crew to be there until 8 PM. The following morning at 4 AM, many of the same employees were back out battling an ice storm.

--Work will soon begin on clearing underbrush along the Lehigh River and along the Hokendauqua Creek.

--Mr. Brobst will be meeting with Reverend Jerry Mraz on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, to continue the discussion on the butterfly garden project along the Canal Street Park.

--He added that Greg Morey and public works employees have started the work for access from McKeever Lane to the D&L trail.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall welcomed Officer Lindsay to the police department.

Trevor Stone congratulated Officer Lindsay and welcomed him to the police department.

Judith Haldeman congratulated Officer Lindsay and welcomed him to the police department.

Mayor Anthony Pristash congratulated Officer Lindsay and welcomed him to the police department

--He received complaints of splinters from some of the playground equipment at the Canal Street Park. Mr. Brobst said he would give a note to Greg.

--He Congratulated Ryleigh Tillotson on her DECA Championship.

--He spoke with Alex of Discover Lehigh Valley about tourism and expanding events to the borough.

Solicitor Panella congratulated Officer Lindsay and welcomed him to the police department.

--He notified the public that prior to the council meeting, there was an executive session to discuss personnel matters and ongoing litigation.

Ryleigh Tillotson welcomed Officer Lindsay to the police department.

--She mentioned a meeting that she had with Mr. Brobst and she set up a Facebook page for the borough.

--She is looking to schedule the parade for the high school athletes. She will meet with the athletic director on March 4, 2022. She asked Kenneth Hall how many people can be involved. Kenneth Hall said that they could have any amount of people participate and that they will get as many trucks as they need.

Bonnie Almond congratulated Officer Lindsay and welcomed him to the police department.

--She asked about the website being updated with the new council members. The old picture is still on the website because we haven't received the new one from Fella Studio.

--She thanked the members of public works for delivering the council packets.

--She wished safe travels to Florida for Mr. Brobst and his wife.

Julia Kutzler reviewed the fire police monthly report. They worked 106 hours.

--She gave a friendly reminder for landlords to register their rental properties. She added that

late fees will be assessed if paid after the March 31st deadline.

Ronald Glassic said that the farmer's market will begin the second Tuesday in May.

--He congratulated Ryleigh on her achievement in the DECA competition. He thanked her for being involved and is impressed with the work she has done.

--He thanked Greg Morey and the public works department for clearing the McKeever Lane access.

--He noted that he didn't realize how expensive the flashing light stop signs were but was very thankful they were put up at the intersection 10th Street and Howertown Road.

--He asked Mr. Brobst if we are having an electronic recycling event in the borough. Mr. Brobst said there is not one scheduled in the borough and added that those events are sponsored by Northampton County.

--He thanked Mr. Brobst for pursuing a grant for playground equipment.

--He thanked Kenneth Hall for having it posted that we are in need of lifeguards on Bill Moyer's digital sign at Palermos. He is hopeful that we have enough lifeguards so that we don't have to close the pool early this summer.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. told Ryleigh that anything goes in regards to the parade. He said the more, the merrier. He mentioned her two-year term as the junior councilperson. He hopes we can find a replacement with as much drive and determination as she has.

--He recognized the planning of the butterfly garden at Canal Street but is worried about having the same problems as in past years. Solicitor Panella reminded everyone that borough council closed the grove area of Canal Street last year and it will remain closed.

--He asked Ryleigh if the school offers lifeguard certification classes.

--He asked about the right turn only sign for West Alley. Mr. Brobst said that the sign was ordered.

--He welcomed Officer Lindsay to the police department and said there is lots to learn. He added that he trained Chief Kadingo many years ago.

--He asked Solicitor Panella where we were the borough taking over 105/107 Laubach Avenue. Solicitor Panella said he will look into the eminent domain process. He said the rules are very tight and the process is very costly.

--He said the access from McKeever Lane to the D&L Trail is important. He also recognized Adam Horwith and the Horwith family for allowing the path to happen. He said they are an integral part of the borough and have been for many years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst congratulated welcomed Officer Lindsay to the police department. He said that he will need to meet with Mary Ellen Handlon to fill out new hire paperwork.

--He said that Victor Rodite will have time at the next council meeting to discuss CDBG grant opportunities.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #2C, dated February 18, 2022, totaling \$200.00 and A/P Journal #3, dated March 3, 2022 totaling \$227,356.31.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary