

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 19, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:34 PM on Thursday May 19th, 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., Kenneth Hall, Trevor Stone, Judith Haldeman, Bonnie Almond, Julia Kutzler, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski Sr., and junior council person Ryleigh Tillotson. Also present were Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Mayor Tony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary Meaghan Case.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Judith Haldeman, duly seconded by Trevor Stone, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on March 3, 2022, and Regular Public Meeting held on March 17, 2022, the Public Workshop Meeting held on April 7, 2022, and Regular Public Meeting held on April 21, 2022.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Angelica Griffin, 305 E. 9th Street, Northampton was present to ask on behalf of all NAA sports' mothers and fathers about putting baby changing tables in the restrooms at Canal Street Park and the Atlas Sports Complex. She explained the difficulties that parents have trying to change little ones while attending sporting events at these locations.

Mr. Brobst said we will look into availability and the cost of having them installed.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 6-22:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCILMEN OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA (HEREINAFTER "THE MUNICIPALITY").

Acting on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the adoption of Resolution No. 6-22 would provide Council's approval of the Joint Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan between Northampton Borough and Allen Township. This is one of the requirements of the Department of Environmental Resources.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if this would resolve the outstanding issues and litigation with Allen Township.

Solicitor Panella answered yes. This would end the litigation with Allen Township.

Judith Haldeman and Ronald Glassic asked about future sewer developments. Would this Plan allow the capacity for additional developments, looking past 10-15 years.

Solicitor Panella and Mr. Brobst both said yes, this would accommodate future sewer developments for many years.

Introduced By: Julia Kutzler
Seconded By: Judith Haldeman

Unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 6-22 as written.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pristash reported that he spoke with a structural engineer off the record about 107/109 Laubach Avenue. He is a structural engineer in New York. The gentleman's guess at the restoration cost of the building would be anywhere from \$250,000 - \$400,000. That does not

include the additional, extensive plumbing and electrical work that would be required. He suggested putting up a safety fence around the property to keep the public out.

--He spoke about the D&L Trail beyond the Race Street bridge and the construction on the trails. He mentioned the upcoming connection between North Catasauqua and Northampton. He highlighted the police bike patrol and said he will encourage them to ride along the trails.

--He said he was informed that another group of bankers were looking at the PNC Bank building.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked the Solicitor if the EPA could dictate what would be able to be built on the 107/109 Laubach Avenue property, *if* the borough takes it over and *if* we demolish the existing building. The Solicitor said the short answer is yes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella stated that an executive session was held prior to the meeting and there will be another executive session held immediately following the meeting to discuss personnel matters and legal matters.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that Mr. Brobst participated in the River Central Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The round table discussions and the goals that were the outcome of those discussions were introduced. The process is somewhat difficult because the meetings are virtual. These meetings are available to anyone who has an interest and can be accessed by googling Plan River Central.

--We received our first quarter franchise fee from Service Electric in the amount of \$6,343.81.

--We have been working diligently to cover the absence of our treasurer Mary Ellen Handlon. To this point, we have experienced some small delays but we have accomplished all necessary work.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that if you drive by the swimming pool, you will notice that the bathhouse has received a coat of paint; the color chosen was New Peach. Work continues to prepare the pool for opening, hopefully on Saturday, June 4, 2022. This all depends on staff availability.

--On Monday, May 9, 2022, Atlas Museum curator Edward Pany and I witnessed the installation of an informational sign mounted on the exterior of the former Tama building. This sign has been a long time coming. However, with the cooperation of property owner Dan Donnelly, and at his expense, it has been accomplished.

--Quarry Hills Estates has secured the first building permit for a single-family dwelling, which will be constructed at the corner of Sipos Drive and Howertown Road.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported we have recently been alerted to a practice of an individual or individuals who have been using keys to open postal mailboxes, removing mail and altering checks that they are cashing. Mr. Brobst is not aware of this practice as of yet in Northampton but the public needs to be aware.

--A meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022, with a resident of Stewart Street who has listed several concerns about properties in his neighborhood. Hopefully, this issue can be resolved.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that enclosed in your packet is the health report for March and April from Health Officer Ted Veresink.

--Dependent on Council's action from earlier in the meeting, the fire police will be attending the Fire Expo in Harrisburg on Friday, May 20, 2022.

--Currently, there are four licensed vendors operating at the Farmers' Market and the health department is working with the rest as time provides. We have not yet reached the busy time of the growing season.

--She reviewed the fire police monthly report for April.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that we have received a communication from Representative Zach Mako thanking us for our participation in the shredding event that was held on Saturday, April 30, 2022. A total of 3.7 tons of documents were collected and shredded on-site that day.

--We have discovered a broken sewer lateral connection in the 1300 block of Franklin Street at a depth of 25 feet. Mr. Brobst has contacted the firm of Joao & Bradley, of Bethlehem, to help us do the repairs. This is the same organization that provided excellent service in Line Alley in 2020.

--On Thursday, May 12, 2022, repairs were begun to an activator arm on basin #2 at the wastewater treatment plant. As of this writing, we are awaiting necessary parts for the repair. However, we have two other basins that will meet our needs.

--With the recent bouts of rain, the grass has grown a little quicker than we can keep up with. We ask for everyone's patience, and soon this will be corrected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:**Consider Request of Masonic Lodge:**

The Masonic Lodge is requesting Council's permission to place informative signage throughout the Borough. These signs would identify their organization, as well as meeting times and places. Signage of this nature was once in place, but over a period of time, the signs were removed and not replaced.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to table the request.

Consider Request of First Baptist Church:

We have received a request from First Baptist Church of Allentown to use both Municipal "A" & "B" Pavilions for their Rally Day event. This event is open to everyone and is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2022. They have also requested that any and all fees be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to First Baptist Church of Allentown to use both Municipal "A" & "B" Pavilions for their Rally Day scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2022. Any and all fees will be waived.
Julia Kutzler from this motion.

Consider Request of South Whitehall Township:

We have received a request from South Whitehall Township to use our portable band trailer on Friday, June 24, 2022, and Friday, July 22, 2022. They understand that there will be a delivery and removal fee and they will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough of Northampton as additionally insured. They did not request the portable restroom.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond, and unanimously carried to grant the request to South Whitehall Township to use our portable band trailer on Friday, June 24, 2022, and Friday, July 22, 2022.

Consider Request of Northampton Liederkrantz:

The Northampton Liederkrantz is planning a Bike Night on Saturday, July 16, 2022, from 6-10 PM. They are requesting that Siegfried Avenue be closed between East 9th Street and Plum Alley from 4-10 PM.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilwoman Kutzler, and unanimously carried to grant the request of Northampton Liederkrantz to hold a Bike Night on Saturday, July 16, 2022, from 6-10 PM, closing Siegfried Avenue between East 9th Street and Plum Alley from 4-10 PM.

Consider Request of Northampton Fire Police:

The fire police are requesting permission to use their unit on Friday, May 20, 2022, to provide conveyance to the fire show in Harrisburg.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond, and unanimously carried to grant the request.

Consider Request to Establish No Parking Here to Comer:

Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., has requested that a No Parking Here to Comer sign be placed on the southeast comer of the intersection of West 17th Street and Poplar Street on West 17th Street. Certain residents are parking too close to the intersection, making the entrance to Poplar Street extremely difficult.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic, and unanimously carried to grant the request that a No Parking Here to Comer sign be placed on the southeast comer of the intersection of West 17th Street and Poplar Street on West 17th Street.

Consider Hiring Summer Employees:

Enclosed in your packet is a listing of those persons who have applied for various seasonal positions. They await your approval.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Haldeman, duly seconded by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., and unanimously carried to approve to hire the list of seasonal employees listed.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall stated that the parking lot is overgrown with weeds at the old dress shop on E. 21st Street. He said it's one of the first things you see entering and exiting the borough and asked Mr. Brobst to have the public works department clean it up.

Trevor Stone said he was in support of baby changing tables in all of the park restrooms in the borough.

--He asked Mr. Brobst if UGI has started work in the E. 10th Street areas. Mr. Brobst said they were delayed in starting but they should begin work within the next few weeks.

Judith Haldeman asked if the borough could cut the grass at 107/109 Laubach Avenue. Mr. Brobst said that the public works department can and will cut it. They have been doing this for years. The borough then bills the property owner for the work done.

--She asked if the borough was holding any electronic recycling events. Mr. Brobst explained that electronic recycling events are sponsored by Northampton County and they have them at different locations in the county throughout the year. To his knowledge, there is not one scheduled in the borough in 2022.

--She congratulated Ted Veresink for 45 years of service for his involvement in the health industry with DEP and several municipalities.

--She thanked employees of Republic Services for helping her mother who recently fell outside of her home. She was very appreciative of their kindness.

Ryleigh Tillotson said she is continuing work on the parade details. She said they are leaning towards July 9th for the parade in conjunction with the fireman's parade.

Kenneth Hall said he didn't think it was a good idea to combine the parades because it would take away from recognizing the student athletes.

Bonnie Almond said that on behalf of Kathy Novegratz, she thanked the public works department for delivering dirt and soil for the food bank garden.

--She wanted to give a special thank you to the fire department and police department for helping her 94 year old mother who was recently stuck in an elevator at the Hampton House.

Julia Kutzler said that we have two applicants for the Civil Service Commission. They will be introduced at the next council meeting.

--She said that Monica Hodges attempted to contact Mr. Brobst via email three times to talk about the possibility of a plaque or bench for past pool employees who are no longer with us. Mr. Brobst said they did have a few emails back and forth regarding her request and he will research the cost and availability.

--She and other borough representatives had a meeting with a 4th Ward resident regarding several properties with high grass/weeds, unregistered vehicles and excessive garbage. She said the meeting was productive and these issues will be addressed.

--She said there is a class scheduled for Notice of Legal Update Training on July 28th and 29th. She recommended the code enforcement officers attend this training.

--She thanked the borough police department and the Whitehall Police for conducting safety weight checks on the Cementon Bridge.

--She is hoping to receive a code enforcement report soon. She hasn't received one in almost a year.

--She would like to see an additional police officer added to the borough police department in the month of June. She wants to keep her promise to Chief Kadingo for a 16th officer.

--One July 16th and 17th, they will be having a walk-thru of the Historical Society building.

--She reviewed the police reports for April.

Ronald Glassic suggested that starting in September 2022, we move the council meeting time to 7:00PM. He asked that this be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

--He asked about the status of the council meetings being live streamed. Mr. Brobst explained that Mary Ellen was working on this but suffered a recent off duty injury. Mr. Brobst will look into what needs to be done to make this happen.

--He mentioned the success the code enforcement office had last year sending notices to several property owners for weeds in the sidewalks and gutters. He asked the public to report any properties that have overgrown weeds in the sidewalks. He said we have to continue to stay on this or it will quickly get out of control. He added that cracks and broken sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner.

--He referenced the almost \$600 bill that will be sent to the homeowner of 107/109 Laubach Avenue. Mr. Brobst said that the borough bills the homeowner every time public works has to cut the grass. He also said that it's highly unlikely that we will get paid. He said we have several unpaid bills for this property.

Mr. Glassic suggested that we ask the owners of the many warehouses going up in the surrounding area for donations for our parks and recreation.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. referenced the recent postal mailbox thefts in Councilman Stone's report. He said it makes it very difficult to identify some of the postal workers since USPS did away with uniforms.

--He stressed to the public the importance of not blowing grass clippings into the street. He said it creates havoc in the sewer system. Those individuals caught doing this should be reprimanded and cited if necessary.

--He noted that he recently saw one of the public works employees driving the Kubota tractor in town. He expressed the importance of using headlights and turn signals at all times on all borough vehicles for safety.

--He suggested that any extra money the borough may have should be used for stainless steel sinks and toilets in all of the park restrooms. This may deter destruction and vandalism. He said they are all in need of an upgrade.

--He likes the idea of combining the fireman's parade and student athlete's parade. It's a win/win situation with more going on in the borough which will get more people to attend and enjoy.

--He mentioned the possibility of contacting Seiples Farm about the Christmas trees they have left. He said we should make an offer to buy them and place them throughout the borough parks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst had nothing to report.

Council members entered in to an executive session at 8:40 PM.

The executive session ended at 9:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #5A, dated May 19, 2022, totaling \$209,916.00.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary