

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
JULY 7, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by Vice President Julia Kutzler at 7:30 PM on Thursday, July 7, 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, Sr., Judith Haldeman, Kenneth Hall, Bonnie Almond, Trevor Stone, Ronald Glassic and Julia Kutzler. President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. and junior councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson were absent. 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:

Bernie Hahn of 177 W. 29th Street was present to see if there was anything we could do financially for the owners of Main Street Restaurant. One of the owners has been ill and the restaurant has been closed for several weeks. Council members suggested that Mr. Hahn look in to creating a GoFundMe page on Facebook for the family. Unfortunately, the “borough” could not take the lead on something like this, but as individuals we could contribute to a GoFundMe or some type of fundraiser. Councilman Hall suggested contacting 69 News, making them aware of their situation. Councilwoman Haldeman informed everyone that there is a fee for a GoFundMe page. Solicitor Panella suggested he start at a County level to see if there are any business grants available.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 8-22:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING A COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR EIGHT RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS.

Resolution No. 8-22 provides a 3% increase to the retired members of the police pension plan. This will apply to all retirees except Edwin Biondillo, who reached his maximum allocation with the last increase.

Introduced By: Trevor Stone

Seconded By: Bonnie Almond

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. abstained from this resolution.

Resolution No. 8-22 passed as written.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO CONDUCT PAW PRINTS ON THE CANAL IN 2023:

Candace Lynn, who orchestrated Paw Prints on the Canal, has requested that Council set aside Sunday, June 11, 2023, at Canal Street Park, for next year's event. She will present her report at the July 21st Council meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant permission to hold Paw Prints on the Canal on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at Canal Street Park, for next year's event.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM NORTHAMPTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT COUNCIL:

We have received a request from Roy Maranki, the car show director for the 7th Annual NASD Student Council Car Show. The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 30, 2022, with a rain date of July 31, 2022, from 9 AM to 3 PM, at Bicentennial Park West in East Allen Township. They are desirous of having use of our portable restroom. They have agreed to pay the cost of the individual who would have to monitor the generator and have already provided a Certificate of Insurance naming Northampton Borough as additionally insured.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and unanimously carried to approve the request of Roy Maranki, the car show director for the 7th Annual NASD Student Council Car Show, to use our portable restroom on Saturday, July 30, 2022, with a rain date of July 31, 2022.

CONSIDER REQUEST OF THE EXCHANGE CLUB:

We have received a request from The Northampton Exchange Club for permission to conduct the Jack Frost Parade on Thursday, October 20, 2022, starting at 7 PM. The rain date would be the following Thursday, October 27, 2022. If Council considers granting this request, the motion might also include rescheduling the regular Council meeting scheduled for October 20, 2022, to Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and unanimously carried to grant permission to The Northampton Exchange Club to conduct the Jack Frost Parade on Thursday, October 20, 2022, starting at 7 PM. The rain date would be the following Thursday, October 27, 2022. This also includes rescheduling the regular Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022, to Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that Mr. Brobst was pleased to report that our treasurer is back at work and that he has recovered from his tangle with COVID, and things are returning to normal. Mr. Brobst took this opportunity to publicly commend the members of his staff who managed to hold everything together when it seemed most likely to fly apart.

--Interviews continue for the position of assistant to the borough manager. A special thanks to members of Council who provided an excellent format for conducting the interviews.

--We received notification from the Commonwealth Financing Authority that our application under the Local Share Account (LSA) Program for an outdoor LED sign at the fire station has been denied.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that the swimming pool continues to experience a smooth operation and we are hopeful for that to continue. As of June 15, 2022, swimming pool receipts were \$28,355, slightly behind 2021.

--We are falling behind with the maintenance of planted areas throughout the Borough. Over the last 25 years, we have constructed many, many landscaped areas with flowers and shrubbery that we now find difficult to maintain.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Thursday, July 14, 2022, to consider the appeal of Sean and Roseann Frantz of 1814 Northampton Avenue. They wish to construct a six-foot wide porch with a roof onto the front of their home and require a variance for the 25-foot setback.

--Code Officer Keith Knoblach has been receiving numerous complaints about weeds growing in the curb/sidewalk area of many properties He says that they will be turning their attention to notifying some of the more aggressive violators.

Councilman Glassic stated that *all* violators should receive code enforcement notices.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Almond reported that The Board of Health will not meet during the months of July and August unless a special need arises. The members of the board, along with the health officer, met on June 28, 2022, and celebrated a dinner together.

--The Firemen's Parade is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2022. Mr. Brobst's best effort to coordinate an athletic recognition parade at this event seems to have come to an impasse. This is not the fault of Jr. Councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson, who made every effort to see this come to pass.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that work continues on Barrington Drive. We found it necessary to excavate approximately three feet of the roadbed until we found an appropriate base on which to construct the new street.

--The pickleball court being constructed at Canal Park is nearing completion. A resident stopped in the office and suggested that he might attempt to organize a pickleball league. The court surface will be black and orange.

--The repair of the sewer lateral on Franklin Street has been completed. The connection had to be made at a depth of approximately 25 feet, the contractor completed the work and life returned to normal for the property owner.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall asked if the public works department could address the weeds in the parking lot of 2110 Canal Street. He also addressed the weeds and high grass on the Willowbrook property along Howertown Road. He added that it looks terrible driving through that area.

--He asked who is reporting burned out street lights in the borough. Mr. Brobst sends pole numbers and locations to PPL as we receive information. Councilman Glassic asked when PPL is converting the pole lights to LED lights, adding that it will be beneficial to everyone.

Trevor Stone apologized to Mayor Pristash for missing the opening ceremony of Community Days on July 6th.

--He said if a pickle ball league is created, he may be interested in participating.

Judith Haldeman said she received pictures of the pickle ball court from Greg Morey and it's looking great.

--She was pleased to attend the opening night of Community Days on July 6th. She commented on the pictures posted on the Support Northampton Facebook page of the borough police officers playing volleyball with the kids. She said there was a heavy police presence and it was great to see them engaging with the kids and residents.

Mayor Anthony Pristash gave kudos to Chief Kadingo and the entire police force. He said they are doing a phenomenal job and work great together as a team.

--He handed out certificates to those that attended the PSAB conference.

--He said it was great to see so many council members in attendance at the Community Days Fair. He congratulated The Exchange Club for a successful event.

--He said there is a lot of interest in pickle ball in the borough. He added that we will monitor the use at Canal Street and possibly add more courts in the future.

--He and Mr. Brobst spoke to a new resident that recently moved to the borough and she was very interested in playing pickle ball and excited about the new court at Canal Street.

--He thanked the public works crew for their hard work in creating the pickle ball court.

Solicitor Panella said they are nearing completion of the nuisance ordinance and continuing the process of the borough taking over the property at 107/109 Laubach Avenue.

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

Bonnie Almond said that she is very familiar with pickle ball since her brother has been playing for years.

--She attended the opening night of Community Days and said it was great to see the police officers playing volleyball with the kids.

--She referenced two accidents since February at the intersection of 21st and Main Street.

Ronald Glassic gave kudos to Officer Torres, adding that it was the greatest thing to see five kids run up to him at Community Days. He also commented on several officers playing volleyball with the kids.

--He will give Mr. Brobst the direct PPL phone number for reporting burned out street lights.

--He referenced the Code & Police report. He said that any and all code violations for weeds/high grass should be treated equally, not just focusing on the extremely bad ones.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. said he was glad Mr. Brobst was feeling better.

--He suggested contacting older people in the community to possibly volunteer time to help clean up flower beds/areas in the borough.

--He suggested giving the task of creating a pickle ball league to the recreation center director. He mentioned the possibility of tournaments to get all age groups involved.

--He said he received complaints of crumbling sidewalks and curbing. He asked who was responsible to maintain them. Mr. Brobst explained that curbing and sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner/property owner. Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if we could look in to possible grant money to assist with the repairs.

Julia Kutzler thanked Keith Knoblach for the code enforcement reports and said she would like to see them monthly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that he is blessed to be here in this borough. He said that all departments are running smoothly and everyone is doing a great job.

--He said there seems to be a great deal of interest in pickle ball. He said it's something unique we can offer. He suggested creating a calendar of time slots if there is an overwhelming interest. Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. suggested the possibility of another pickle ball court at the 26th Street playground.

--He attended the opening night ceremony of Community Days and said it was a pleasure to be there.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to pay the bills as they come due.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary