

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2022**

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 January 20, 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., Vice-president Julia Kutzler, Kenneth Hall, Judith Haldeman, Trevor Stone, Bonnie Almond, Ronald Glassic and Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. Junior councilperson, Ryleigh Tillotson was absent. Also present were Mayor Anthony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and recording secretary Keith Knoblach.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Kenneth Hall, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Special Public Meeting held on December 2, 2021, the Public Workshop Meeting held on December 2, 2021 and Regular Public Meeting held on December 16, 2021.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

David Haberacker, 109 Candlewycke Lane, Northampton, PA 18067 was present to discuss the way meetings are held, only allowing the public to speak at the beginning of the meetings. He said there is no impact from the general public. He humbly requested a change in the structure of meetings.

Tim Teppes, 3224 Center Road, Northampton, PA 18067 was present to check on the status of EDU's for development. He said he has approximately \$1.9 million worth of infrastructure in the ground that can't be used or built on.

Mr. Brobst said that there is a meeting scheduled with Allen Township on February 3, 2022 at the borough office. This is regarding the joint Act 537 Plan with the borough and Allen Township.

Mr. Teppes said that he can't get sewer permits.

Mr. Brobst said they are working on a resolution and asked Mr. Teppes to call him after the February 3rd meeting.

Ronald Glassic asked how Livengood got 50 EDU's.

Mr. Brobst stated that because of the previous agreement the borough had with Allen Township, some, but not all, of those 50 EDU's were accounted for and paid for by Livengood. Livengood filed a private request with DEP for the remaining EDU's needed to complete the development. Therefore, DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) ordered the borough to allow Livengood to use those EDU's in Allen Township to finish the Towpath Estates development.

Mr. Teppes said that according to Scott at DEP, they had nothing to do with it, that Allen Township agreed to the EDU's with Livengood.

Mr. Brobst said he will call Scott at DEP for clarification and confirmation.

Ronald Glassic said that DEP had very pointed letters stating what was expected of both (us), the Borough of Northampton and Allen Township.

Tim Teppes explained how his grandfather started the Teppes Development in 1960. It was then passed on to his father and now lies with him to finish what his family started. He said that he has followed the rules and has done everything asked of him for years. He added that it has cost him over \$180,000 in legal and engineering fees since the agreement between the Borough of Northampton and Allen Township expired at the end of 2016. He said that he and his family have always been good to the community and have given back over the years.

Julia Kutzler apologized to Mr. Teppes for what he's been going through.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pristash mentioned the two recent snowfalls and commended the road crew for a job well done. He also commented on the residents doing their part as well, removing snow from the sidewalks.

He also asked about live-streaming the council meetings.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella reported that a draft of an ordinance has been created restricting tractor trailers on streets in residential areas of the borough.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked about the ordinance for Air B&B's and short-term leasing.

Solicitor Panella said they are looking at creating a fee schedule for Air B&B's and short-term rentals.

Ronald Glassic asked if they could discuss the EDU's.

Solicitor Panella said he would not discuss the EDU's at this time.

Ronald Glassic asked if legal representatives would be present at the upcoming meeting with Allen Township.

Solicitor Panella said no, the solicitors would not be present at the meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that the Northampton Police Department received a check in the amount of \$586.99 from the Northampton County Drug Enforcement Division. This may be used toward equipment purchase/ Sgt. Buchanan orchestrated this transaction.

--As of the close of business on Friday, January 14, 2022, we have received \$294,812 in garbage payments.

Council President Lopsonzski has prepared his committee assignments. They will be introduced during the Council meeting. A tentative list is enclosed in your packet.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that they have not yet received a request to conduct income tax preparation at the recreation center but they generally only begin about mid-February.

--Applications are available in the Borough office for swimming pool and seasonal employees.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. suggested looking into a consortium with Coplay, Catasauqua and maybe even the Catasauqua YMCA to hire and share lifeguards. This will help everyone that may normally experience a shortage of lifeguards throughout the summer season.

Ronald Glassic suggested posting job openings using internet job sites such as Indeed or Monster instead of just advertising in the newspaper.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that we have received a good number of rental unit registrations. Unfortunately, with the code officer out on medical leave, Mr. Brobst did not have exact numbers. Hopefully, they will be available for the next Council report.

--Mr. Brobst met recently with the developer of Quarry Estates and forwarded a number of his questions to our engineering firm and our solicitor. We are working to finalize the improvements agreement and the developer's agreement. Once that is accomplished, activity will commence on the project.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that included in your packet is the December health officer's report. She read and reviewed the report. The Board of Health will meet on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 7 PM.

--The fire department asks the cooperation of residents in the Borough to clear snow and ice away from all fire hydrants. That act could help save your own home during an emergency.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that Mr. Michael Nagle has completed his training and was tested and certified by DEP as a Class A wastewater certified operator.

--We have experienced a high number of COVID-related absences in the public works department, as well as the fire department but the people that remained available have been doing an excellent job keeping everything together.

--The Northampton Borough Municipal Authority experienced a line break on Newport Avenue and just as it was being closed and prepared for paving, another leak occurred in the same area. Members of our public works department provided assistance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Request to Attend Training Seminar:

Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has submitted a request to have Detectives Joseph Kicska and Matthew Bennicoff attend a one-day training seminar conducted by the Lower Saucon Township Police Department. The course immerses the student in intensive instruction in interrogations and interviews. The cost for both attendees is \$598. The event is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2022.

Motion: Ronald Glassic moved, seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant approval for Detectives Joseph Kicska and Matthew Bennicoff to attend a one-day training seminar conducted by the Lower Saucon Township Police Department on Monday, April 11, 2022.

Consider Request to Attend Training Course:

Chief Kadingo has also requested to have field training officer instruction for Officers Ryan Konetsky and Officer Geoffrey Perry. The course would be conducted on February 22-24, 2022 at the Lower Paxton Township Police Department and it is sponsored by the Penn State Justice and Safety Institute. The combined cost for both officers is \$998.

Motion: Julia Kutzler moved, seconded Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant approval for Officer Ryan Konetsky and Officer Geoffrey Perry to have field training officer instruction on February 22-24, 2022 at the Lower Paxton Township Police Department, sponsored by the Penn State Justice and Safety Institute.

Consider Request to Hire a Part-Time Police Officer:

Chief Kadingo has submitted a request to hire Evan J. Medlar as a part-time officer. He has completed Allentown Police Academy training but will require an approximate eight-week training period for his M.P.O.E.T.C.

Motion: Ronald Glassic moved, seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to hire Evan J. Medlar as a part-time officer.

At this time, Mayor Anthony Pristash swore in the newly hired part-time police officer, Evan J. Medlar.

Julia Kutzler asked when his training will start.
Chief Kadingo said that his training will start immediately.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. suggested that he walk the streets collecting the meter money.
This will create a police presence in town.

Ronald Glassic asked what M.P.O.E.T.C. stands for.
Chief Kadingo responded, Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission.

Consider Request of the Central Assembly of God Church:

We have received a request from the Central Assembly of God Church of Bethlehem requesting permission to hold an event using Municipal Park Pavilions "A" and "B" and the permanent bandshell on Saturday, June 11, 2022. This event will focus on outreach to middle and high school aged students.

Motion: Julia Kutzler moved, seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Central Assembly of God Church of Bethlehem to hold an event using Municipal Park Pavilions "A" and "B" and the permanent bandshell on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

Consider Request for Handicapped Parking Zone:

Chief Kadingo has reviewed a request for the creation of a handicapped parking space near 562 East 7th Street and has recommended that the request be rejected. As always, Council has the final decision.

Motion: Julia Kutzler moved, seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to reject the request for the creation of a handicapped parking space near 562 East 7th Street.

Consider Request to Advertise Ordinance No. 1220:

Ordinance No. 1220 would mandate right turn only on eastbound traffic at the intersection of Station Alley and Main Street.

Motion: Bonnie Almond moved, seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to advertise Ordinance No. 1220 which would mandate right turn only on eastbound traffic at the intersection of Station Alley and Main Street.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. thanked the Solicitor for preparing this ordinance, adding that it brought a tear to his eye.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall commented on the recent snow storms. He said that both members of the fire department and public works department were hit hard with COVID. He gave kudos to everyone for doing a great job, even with a limited crew.

--He congratulated the new police officer and Trevor Stone on their new positions.

Trevor Stone congratulated the new police officer on his position. He also congratulated Bonnie Almond and Ronald Glassic on their council positions, Judy Kutzler on her appointment to Council Vice President and Anthony Pristash on his position as Mayor.

Judith Haldeman congratulated Mr. Brobst on his employment of 55 years with the Borough and Barbara Matuczinski on her 40 years of service with the Borough. She asked if council could give commendations when employees reach certain years of service. She proposed that some type of acknowledgement is made congratulating employees on years of service.

Bonnie Almond welcomed Trevor Stone to council and also welcomed the new officer to the police department.

Julia Kutzler reviewed the police reports adding that they were dispatched a total of 480 times in the previous month.

--She welcomed the new officer to the police department.

Ronald Glassic welcomed everyone to their new positions.

--He asked about the status of the convex mirror for 9th Street and Dewey Avenue and the flashing lights for the stop signs at 10th Street and Howertown Road.

Mr. Brobst said that we are still waiting for delivery of these items.

--He gave kudos to NBMA and public works employees for their hard work repairing the water main break and sink hole on Newport Avenue.

--He appreciated the "outside of the box" thinking for possibly hiring and sharing lifeguards for the pool with surrounding communities.

--He thanked residents David and Tim for attending the meeting and speaking. He said it shows their interest and care for the borough.

--He congratulated the new police officer. He likes the idea of more police presence on the streets in town, adding that it will prevent bigger crime from happening in town.

--He congratulated Mr. Brobst on 55 years of service, saying that he looked good considering. He also congratulated Barbara for 40 years of service and for also dealing with Mr. Brobst for that long.

--He asked if Greg Morey could take a look at the Nor-Bath Trail access from McKeever Lane and have the path area cleaned up before Spring. Mr. Brobst said that it is on Greg's calendar and when they weather gets a little warmer public works will take care of it. He added that due to COVID quarantines, they were delayed with some projects.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** congratulated the new police officer, said he chose a good place to work and wished him the best of luck in his new position.

--He asked Mr. Brobst if we received any feedback from Ryleigh in regards to a parade for the high school football team. Mr. Brobst said not at this time. She did send an email asking if there would be any interest. Mr. Brobst added that she has been busy as she is involved in other organizations/clubs at school.

--He asked that residents please clear snow from fire hydrants and storm drains. He expressed the importance of emergency access.

--He mentioned the water main break and sink hole on Newport Avenue. He commended the NBMA and public works employees for working around the clock to make the necessary repairs.

--He gave kudos to the fire department and said how impressive they are to watch. He added that the fire department and public works department were hit hard with COVID and they didn't miss a beat. They worked with the staff they had and moved forward.

--He commended the police department for an excellent job. He said that hopefully when the weather gets nicer, the officers can interact with the public.

--He said that the borough has a lot of qualified people employed.

--He said it was very hard for him to resign from the Civil Service Commission. The rule states that two council members may not serve on the Civil Service Commission. He said that Bonnie and Jeff are doing a great and know what is expected of them in that position. There is one open position for the Civil Service Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

--Mr. Brobst reported that the VFW building will have 15 efficiencies, similar to the Catholic War Vets building. This will be done by Abra Development. They have an agreement with Norfolk Southern for the required off-street parking spaces. This does not have to go before the Planning Commission since this is an allowable use.

--Mr. Brobst spoke with Mike McGuire of PennDOT about the Cementon Bridge Project. The bid opening will happen in June and they will break ground in August. It will be about a 3-year project, including construction of the new bridge and removal of the old bridge. PennDOT may look to lower the weight limit on the current bridge.

--Mr. Brobst sat in on a money rescue seminar sponsored by the United States Treasury Department. They are allowing communities to take a standard allowance of up to 10 million dollars. The borough received about \$500,000.

--The Act 537 meeting will be held on February 3rd.

--Mr. Brobst would like to schedule Marty Fella to take the council portrait on either February 3rd or 17th.

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to have Trevor Stone, Judith Haldeman, Bonnie Almond and Julia Kutzler attend the PSAB bootcamp training course on January 28th and 29th, 2022 in Quakertown, PA.

In the event, that the PSAB January course dates are unavailable, a second motion was made.

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Ronald Glassic and

unanimously carried to have Trevor Stone, Judith Haldeman, Bonnie Almond and Julia Kutzler attend a PSAB bootcamp training course at some point during 2022.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #1B, dated January 20, 2022, totaling \$341,577.62.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary