

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

CALL TO ORDER: A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 19 22, 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, Judith Haldeman, Bonnie Almond, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski Sr. and Trevor Stone and Kenneth Hall. Junior council person Ryleigh Tillotson was absent. Also present were Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Assistant to the Borough Manager, Brian Welsko, Mayor Anthony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary Meaghan Case.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Councilman Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on September 1, 2022, and the Regular Public Meeting held on September 15, 2022. Councilman Hall asked to have him listed on the roll call for the September 22nd meeting minutes.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Reverend Jerry Mraz, Northampton, PA was present to request permission to allow monarch butterfly waystations to be placed in between the trees along the Canal Street trail. The cost for each waystation would be approximately \$600, not including mulch. This would include about 52 annual and perennial flowers, shrubs and stepping stones or pavers. He noted that on the borough's website, it states that we are looking for volunteers to be part of a beautification committee which would help to weed and maintain garden/flower areas throughout the borough. He said he has a list of 68 people for the beautification committee that would be interested in volunteering. He suggested naming it "Konkretetown Beauty Kommittee". He said they will have an organizational meeting in January or February of 2023. He also suggested establishing memorial plots for residents to purchase. Aluminum plaques could also be purchased for each plot. He gave an example of one that would cost

approximately \$302. He added that there are cheaper ones available to purchase. He would like to have one for his wife and granddaughter who passed away six years ago. He would like to donate \$902 for a memorial plot with an aluminum plaque.

Ronald Glassic clarified the cost of the aluminum plaque which is about \$302 and also Reversed Mraz's donation which is \$902.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pristash reported that U.S. Army Pfc. Edward J. Reiter, 17, of Northampton, was accounted for on June 21st; however, his family only recently received their full briefing on his identification. In July 1950, Reiter was a member of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 7th after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army's advance near Ch'onan, South Korea. Through DNA testing, Private Reiter's remains were identified. There will be a service held for him at Reichel's Funeral Home on October 21st from 3-6 PM. Mayor Pristash will be doing a proclamation honoring Private Edward J. Reiter. He asked that the flags be lowered to half staff on Friday, October 21st and Saturday, October 22nd 2022.

--He noted that accepting a proposal for livestreaming was on the agenda. He has been a proponent of livestreaming for two years and fully supports it for the council meetings. He experienced livestreaming at a County level for several years. He added that the communication would be outgoing only. He stressed the importance of transparency to borough residents and also the opportunity for people to view the meetings at a time that is convenient for them.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella said that a draft ordinance has been prepared for the 1 mill fire tax.

--He reviewed and approved the bid from Hendershot Door Systems, Inc. for garage doors for the fire station.

--He said there is continued legal progress on the 107/109 Laubach Avenue property.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that Ms. Barbara Matuczinski and Brian Welsko attended a virtual meeting sponsored by Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) and learned that our medical cost increase for 2023 is among one of the lowest in the group: 2.6%.

--Mr. Brobst had a budget meeting with Jason Kremus and Building, Land and Recreation chair, Judith Haldeman.

--A meeting was held on Monday, October 10, 2022, with Mike Malz, a representative of Morgan Stanley. Morgan Stanley holds the major investments of the pension plans and it was noted that 2022 has not been a banner year.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that we have filed a claim with our insurance carrier to see if anything can be claimed on the leaking roof at the community center building. Following the advice of our engineer, who did an inspection on the roof, ultimately it needs to be replaced. The community center board has arranged for a local roofer to complete the job. The Borough will pay the bill and be reimbursed by the community center.

--A meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2022, with members of the Exchange Club, police department and public works to review procedures for the Jack Frost Parade.

--Mr. Brobst met with members of the committee that are purchasing a bench in memory of Elizabeth Hoffman Mann. The bench has been ordered and paid for by the group and they want it placed in the Municipal Park.

--We have been contacted by the Northampton County Parks and Recreation Department and they have made it perfectly clear that we have two weeks to restore the area that was disturbed by the McKeever cul-de-sac and the Nor-Bath Trail. This will be accomplished.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that the Planning Commission met on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, to hear the preliminary and possible final approval presentation to convert 1204 Main Street into 15 efficiency apartments. A final decision was tabled.

--On Thursday, October 13, 2022, the Zoning Hearing Board met to hear the appeal of Mr. Brandon Cenchitz of 44 West 4th Street. Mr. Cenchitz requested a continuance.

--With the resignation of Stephen Kramer from the Zoning Hearing Board and Cynthia Carman Kramer from the Planning Commission, two vacancies currently exist and will be advertised on our website to be filled. Council members may not serve on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the Board of Health will meet at 7 PM on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Enclosed in your packet are the minutes from their last meeting and the health officer's report.

--The fire station was open to the public on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, as part of the Fire Prevention Week celebration.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that the public works supervisor accompanied our engineer on a camera inspection of the storm sewer system located in Willow Brook Phase 1. This needs to be accomplished to ensure that the system does what it is supposed to do efficiently.

--A crew of the public works department has been very busy assisting the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority with repairs to Hollow Lane that was severely impacted by a water valve failure.

--The cooler weather has not slowed the growth of grass and weeds in our park settings. It seems as if our cutting needs to continue to a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Request of Lehigh Valley Community Benefit:

We have received a request from the Lehigh Valley Community Benefit, a 501(c) 3 organization, to provide traffic control for their 12th annual "**Tucker's Toy Run.**" The motorcycle event will originate at Tri-Boro, travel south on Canal Street to Laubach Avenue and then left to Route 329. At that point, they will make a right turn and exit the Borough. The event is scheduled Saturday, November 5, 2022, with a rain date of Sunday, November 6, 2022. The ride will begin at 12 Noon.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to grant the request of the Lehigh Valley Community Benefit, to provide traffic control for their 12th annual "**Tucker's Toy Run**" on Saturday, November 5, 2022, with a rain date of Sunday, November 6, 2022 beginning at 12 Noon.

Councilman Hall added that there is a marathon scheduled the same day. They may have to redirect the motorcycles to Route 329 from Tri-Boro.

Permission to Advertise an Ordinance Amending Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Pension Plan:

It will be necessary to amend the ordinance that governs the non-uniformed defined contribution pension plan. In the current collective bargaining agreement, Council agreed to a Borough contribution of 4% from 3% and requiring members to contribute a minimum of 4%. The amendment would appear on the November 3rd agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to amend the ordinance that governs the non-uniformed defined contribution pension plan. Council agreed to a Borough contribution of 4% from 3% and requiring members to contribute a minimum of 4%.

Permission to Advertise an Ordinance Establishing a One-Mill Fire Tax:

Mr. Brobst is seeking permission to advertise the ordinance that will create a one mill fire tax.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilwoman Kutzler, and unanimously carried to advertise an ordinance establishing a one-mill fire tax.

Consider Request of Northampton Area Food Bank:

The Northampton Area Food Bank is requesting permission to conduct their Annual Food Bank Walk 2022 on Saturday, October 29, 2022, rain or shine. The walk will begin at 1601 Canal Street at 9 AM. They are requesting the assistance of the fire police for traffic control.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilwoman Kutzler, and unanimously carried to grant the request of the Northampton Area Food Bank to conduct their Annual Food Bank Walk 2022 on Saturday, October 29, 2022, rain or shine.

Consider Resignation of Zoning Hearing Board Member:

We have received a letter of resignation from Stephen Kramer from the Zoning Hearing Board effective October 31, 2022.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond, and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Stephen Kramer from the Zoning Hearing Board effective October 31, 2022.

Consider Resignation of Planning Commission Member:

We have received a letter of resignation from Cynthia Carman Kramer from the Planning Commission, effective October 31, 2022.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilman Stone, and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Cynthia Carman Kramer from the Planning Commission, effective October 31, 2022.

Consider Live Streaming Proposal:

Mr. Brian Welsko has researched the live streaming project. He is recommending accepting a proposal from Heliovue for \$7,600.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilwoman Hall, and carried to accept a proposal from Heliovue for \$7,600 for the live streaming project.
Julia Kutzler, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and Trevor Stone voted against this motion.

Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. said that after 35 years of police work, he is suspect of everything. He does not like the idea at all.

Councilwoman Kutzler asked how beneficial this would be to us. She asked if the people viewing could make outside comments. No, this would be outgoing communication only.

Councilman Glassic asked if there was a warranty on the live streaming. He said the cost seemed lower than what he expected.

Councilwoman Almond asked if we could make it available to borough residents only. No, this would be open viewing for the general public.

Consider Request of Civil Service Commission:

As a result of a background investigation, the Civil Service Commission is requesting permission to vacate the current Civil Service eligibility list. Pending approval of this request, Council, by separate motion, should authorize the commission to create a new eligibility list.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilwoman Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Civil Service Commission to vacate the current Civil Service eligibility list.
Councilwoman Almond abstained from this motion.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilwoman Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Civil Service Commission to create a new eligibility list.
Councilwoman Almond abstained from this motion.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall thanked Reverend Mraz for devoting his time to the butterfly waystation project and thanked him for his generous donation.

--He said this is a busy time of the month for the fire police.

--He said for everyone to have a good time for trick or treat.

Trevor Stone thanked Reverend Mraz for his time involved in the butterfly waystation project.

--He agreed with the decision to have the Community Center roof fixed. Even though it is a costly repair, it has to be done.

Judith Haldeman thanked Reverend Mraz for devoting his time to the butterfly waystation project.

Bonnie Almond commented on the live streaming. She said it will be convenient for people who work second shift or for people who can't physically attend. She asked about outside concerns of residents who are not in attendance at the council meetings. Solicitor Panella said it would be left up to the borough to decide how concerns are brought to council's attention. Councilman Stone suggested that residents contact their respective council representatives. Concerns/questions from residents can be discussed at the council meetings.

Julia Kutzler reviewed the health reports for September.

--She thanked the fire department for the nice letter sent to council members regarding the support and acceptance of the fire tax.

--She was super impressed with the code enforcement report.

--She reviewed the police reports for September. They responded to a total of 593 incidents adding that the department is very busy.

Ronald Glassic thanked Reverend Mraz for his hard work on the butterfly waystation project.

--He thanked Keith Knoblach for the great letter to council members regarding the support and acceptance of the fire tax. He said he appreciates it.

--He said that he was happy to see procedures moving forward at the sewer plant.

--He thanked Mr. Welsko for getting everything together to start livestreaming the meetings.

--He said he was happy to see street lights being repaired.

--He referenced the pole at 22nd Street and West Alley that was requested to be removed over a year ago. Mr. Brobst explained that it is an old Verizon pole, however, PP&L must remove their lines from the pole before it can be removed. This has been addressed with both PP&L and Verizon.

--They will begin street repairs on 10th & 11th Streets.

--He referenced a spotlight along Atlas Lane. He said that it is blinding to drivers and asked Chief Kadingo if someone could ask the property owner to adjust it.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. thanked fellow council members for the "dress down" and said he is taking notes. He also congratulated his son for "dressing down" his father at a public meeting.

--He commended Reverend Mraz for his excellent work on the butterfly waystation project. He said they have been acquainted for a long time. He couldn't say enough great things about Reverend Mraz, adding that he is a steadfast pillar in the community. He wants to see several of these butterfly waystations along Canal Street. He said it will make people want to stop and look. He said it would be great if we could get people to donate and have several of these memorial plots.

--He was with the police department for 35 years and has been retired for 17 years. He admires the police department for what they deal with. He stressed the importance of having good police officers.

--He apologized for being him.

Councilwoman Almond thanked Republic Services and said they are doing a great job.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst thanked Reverend Mraz for his work and time spent on the butterfly waystation project. He was prepared with a list and cost for the project. It's a forward-thinking idea.

He is very thorough and added that Reverend Mraz has been around here longer than him.

Mr. Brobst's biggest concern is that once you build it, you have to maintain it.

--He asked council members that are riding in the parade to meet at the borough office on Thursday night at 5:45 PM.

--Mr. Brobst needs to schedule budget meetings with the police department, sewer department and public works department and their respective chairpersons.

--GO PHILLIES!

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 #10B, dated October 11, 2022, totaling \$65,000 and A/P Journal #10A, dated October 19, 2022 totaling \$273,299.86.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary