

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:30 PM on Thursday, November 4, 2021. 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., Julia Kutzler, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Ronald Glassic, Anthony Pristash, Trevor Stone, Kenneth Hall and junior councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson. Mayor Thomas Reenock was absent. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Todd Csencsits, 102 Candlewycke Ln., Northampton was present on behalf of the Alliance Fire Company to issue a check to the fire department in the amount of \$3,000. He added that since the pandemic, they have done some renovations and re-painted most of the inside to spruce things up. He said that they have their turkey raffle coming up on Sunday, November 7, 2021 and invited everyone to attend. He said the fire hall appreciates the support of the community and they love to give back to the community when they can.

Solicitor Panella informed everyone that due to Vice President, Keith Piescienski's passing, council must appoint someone within 30 days from the date of his passing. He added that the elected individual must live in the 1st Ward for one consecutive year and must be a registered voter. This must be done by resolution. He added that this will be scheduled on the next meeting agenda on November 18, 2021. He said that anyone interested in running for the council position can pick up an application at the borough office. He asked Mr. Brobst if we could have the open position posted on our website.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked the press to advertise that this position will fill the final two years of a four-year term.

RESOLUTIONS:**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES GRANT APPLICATION, LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT - MONROE COUNTY.**

When preparing Resolution No. 10-21, which Council passed on October 21, 2021, the wording was not quite correct, and an employee of the State Keystone Community Grant team suggested acceptable language. So, Resolution No. 10-21 will be stricken from the records.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to strike Resolution No. 10-21 from the records.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-21 STATES THAT COUNCIL APPROVES OF APPLYING FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT THROUGH MONROE COUNTY TO REPLACE THE ELECTRONIC SIGN IN FRONT OF THE FIRE STATION.

Introduced By: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.

Seconded By: Julia Kutzler

Resolution No. 11-21 passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES GRANT APPLICATION, LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT - LEHIGH/NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

Resolution No. 12-21 grants Council's approval to file for a Local share Account for Lehigh/Northampton County to replace the garage bay doors at the fire station.

Introduced By: Julia Kutzler

Seconded By: Kenneth Hall

Resolution No. 12-21 passed unanimously.

Consider Request to Hold Shredding Event:

Representative Zachary Mako's office has contacted me to inquire about the willingness to share a shredding event on Saturday, April 30, 2022, in the parking lot of the Northampton Community Center from 10 AM until 12 Noon. We have done this many times in the past, and the event has always proven successful.

Ronald Glassic asked about holding an electronic recycling event on the same day. Mr. Brobst explained that these events are held separately every year. Combining them would cause confusion and traffic issues entering and exiting the parking lot. He added that these events are run like a well-oiled machine.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to grant permission to share a shredding event with Representative Zachary Mako's office on Saturday, April 30, 2022, in the parking lot of the Northampton Community Center from 10 AM until 12 Noon.

Consider Request of Grace United Church of Christ:

On the north side of 9th Street, between Lincoln Avenue and Ridge Alley, there are two handicapped parking signs that provide parking for the church and for the senior center that operates almost every day. The one sign is a standard handicapped parking sign; the other is for handicapped parking during church services only. The church is requesting that both spaces should be handicapped parking 24/7. Mr. Brobst has discussed this matter with the chief of police, and he is in favor of the request.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. duly seconded by Trevor Stone and carried to approve the request of Grace United Church of Christ, to have both spaces posted handicapped parking 24/7 on the north side of 9th Street, between Lincoln Avenue and Ridge Alley.

Consider Request of New Journey Community Church:

The New Journey Community Church has requested the use of the Uptown Park on Saturday, December 18, 2021, from 6-8 PM. They wish to sponsor a community Christmas caroling evening. They did this last year as The Gospel Chapel and considered the event a success. They also request that all fees be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to New Journey Community Church to use the Uptown Park on Saturday, December 18, 2021, from 6-8 PM for a community Christmas caroling evening, waiving all rental fees.

Ronald Glassic asked about a previous decision to no longer do a waiver of fees for churches. Solicitor Panella clarified that this was for the recreation center.

They will no longer offer free recreation center memberships for church clergy.

Consider Request for 15-Minute Loading/Unloading Zone:

At the last Council meeting, a request for an additional 15-minute parking zone in the area of 1627-1631 Main Street was directed to Chief Kadingo for evaluation. He is agreeable to one additional 15-minute parking zone on the east side of Main Street, which would bring the number of 15-minute parking zones to two for the two commercial establishments.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to approve the request for an additional 15-minute parking zone in the area of 1627-1631 Main Street.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that Mr. Pany reported meeting with Mr. Sam Wilkins, the digital producer of Roadside America, which is based out of Novato, California. Mr. Wilkins will provide a feature of the museum in a future publication.

--We were notified by Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure that we are the recipient of a \$22,000 Hotel Tax Grant to provide a "Landscaping and Marketing Plans Targeting Trail Users, Northampton, PA 2022 to 2025" project.

--Mr. McClure also sent a notice that we were awarded a 2021 Grow NORCO Round 2 Grant Award, which will provide \$34,000 towards a police cruiser and \$10,000 towards Monarch butterfly preservation gardens.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash noted that Mr. Brobst has found an excellent Christmas tree in Coplay. It is on property owned by Joseph and Carol Nederostek. He thinks everyone will be pleased.

--Former recreation center director Robert Weinhofer passed away on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. He was the first director of the recreation center and retired in 2013.

--The Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, November 28, 2021. Festivities will begin around 5:30 PM. We are hoping Santa will arrive sometime near 6 PM.

-- Mr. Brobst will be scheduling a public hearing for Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 7 PM. This is one-half hour before the council meeting. A representative of Michael Baker International, our engineering consultant, will be on hand to explain the grant project that we are undertaking for trail improvement and signage, and he will field questions from the public and council.

Code and Police: Councilman Pristash reported that the Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 7 PM, to consider granting final approval to Mr. Edward Deichmeister. The plan he is presenting is for Quarry Hill Estates Phase V and VI - one single, 12 duplexes and 14 townhomes.

--Even though the office is closed for Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, 2021, the Zoning Hearing Board will meet to consider the appeal of Joshua Deveney and Bernadette Singh. They are seeking relief for a corner lot setback requirements for a fence.

--The Civil Service Commission will meet on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, to review the seven applications they received for the eligibility list for a new patrolman.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the Board of Health met on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Health Officer Ted Veresink also celebrated his birthday on that date.

--She reviewed the fire police for October. She thanked all of the volunteers for their service.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that paving the reconstructed areas of Kingston Court and Barrington Drive were completed on November 4, 2021.

--The Christmas lights will go up some time around November 12, 2021. However, they will not be plugged in until November 24, 2021.

-- Mr. Brobst sent in a request to PPL to make repairs on the lights on Laubach Avenue that were damaged on September 1, 2021, during Hurricane Ida. As of this date, they have not been repaired. Ronald Glassic added that he also called PPL about the lights out on Laubach Avenue. He received a call back stating that they will be installing a wooden replacement pole on Friday, November 5, 2021. He asked Mr. Brobst to confirm when the pole is installed.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall thanked Ronald Glassic for reaching out to PPL about the lights out on Laubach Avenue.

--He thanked everyone for their support and involvement with Keith Piescienski's funeral and memorial service. He said the fire department put on a beautiful show in his honor. He said it was more than he would have wanted. They did an awesome job and he would have been so proud. He added that he will be sorely missed by many.

Trevor Stone thanked everyone who was involved in the parade. He said he received a few complaints about it being too short but he thought it was very well organized and his family enjoyed it.

--He is in agreement with councilman Glassic about installing flashing lights on the stop signs at 10th Street and Howertown Road.

Ryleigh Tillotson said she attended the Jack Frost Parade and it was great.

--She said that the biology club would love to be involved in the butterfly garden at Canal Street Park.

--She brought up a concern about being unable to see when pulling out from the 900 Block of Dewey Avenue on to 9th Street. She asked about the possibility of a stop sign being installed at that intersection.

Julia Kutzler asked the solicitor about the ordinances for tractor trailers on residential streets and also Air B&B's.

Solicitor Panella said that the tractor trailer ordinance will be submitted to Mr. Brobst by next week. They are working on the ordinance for the Air B&B's which will be similar to the rental ordinance but longer.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked about specifics such as how often do they have to be inspected and registered.

Solicitor Panella explained that they are not apartments and the requirements/protocols would be different than what is required for rental properties.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. said that he was approached by residents at the polls by residents asking if the borough could spruce up some of the play equipment at the parks, especially Canal Street. They were asking about the possibility of new play equipment.

Anthony Pristash said that Keith's Piesciensi's funeral service and memorial service was beautiful. He said the fire department went above and beyond and they did an outstanding job. He added that he will be missed.

--He congratulated Trevor Stone, Kenneth Hall, Bonnie Almond and Ronald Glassic on their appointments to borough council. He added that Ronald Glassic's appointment was not official as of yet.

--He noted that Republic Services is doing a much better job with the trash and recycling services in the borough. He also said that he recently saw a brand new Republic Services truck in town.

Julia Kutzler said that "People Standing Up" will need volunteers for the community garden in Spring of 2022. She said that anyone who is interested should contact Kathy Novegratz or Bonnie Almond. They could always use extra help.

--She reviewed the minutes from the health board meeting.

Ronald Glassic commended Kenneth Hall, the fire police and fire department for a great job with Keith Piesciensi's memorial service.

--He thanked Trevor Stone for his help and support for looking at an alternative access

point to the trail from the McKeever Lane area.

--He said the parade was a success and well organized.

--He thanked Ryleigh Tillotson for her input about the concerns of pulling out on to 9th from the 900 block of Dewey Avenue.

--He thanked Todd Csencsits for attending the meeting and for the generous donation from the Alliance Fire Company to the fire department.

--He noted that Republic Services is doing much better with trash and recycling pick up.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. said that the fire department and fire police should be commended for a great job with Keith Piescienski's memorial service. He said he was a leader in the fire department for many years. He said those members are well groomed and they learned from teaching and training from leaders such as Keith Piescienski. He thanked Keith Piescienski for his service and said he hopes he rests in peace.

--He asked about the tractor trailer truck ordinance. He said something needs to be done about the FedEx trucks driving on Howertown Road and other streets in the borough where they do not belong.

--He mentioned that we need more trees in our parks. He noted that there are two dead trees in the area of Canal & Lumber Streets that need to be replaced. He also added that having a tree planted in a loved one's memory gives people comfort. It means something.

--He asked about the status of 105/107 Laubach Avenue. He said that the property is out of control and something needs to be done. He said other things can be done with that property especially for the residents in that area. He said the neighbor is dealing with all sorts of rodents because of the disrepair of the home. He said we need to play hard ball, find him and fine him.

--He informed everyone that Taylor Roasted Coffee House's repairs are almost complete. They are waiting for one more machine and they are hoping to reopen before Thanksgiving. If not, then around the first week of December. He added that they need our support and encouraged everyone to visit them.

Ronald Glassic congratulated Anthony Pristash on his mayoral election beginning in 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst noted his lifelong friendship since grade school with Keith Piescienski. He said it was a privilege to know him. He enjoyed his company when he would come to visit him at the office. He will not be forgotten and missed by many. He commended the fire department and fire police for an amazing funeral and memorial service in his honor. He expressed the highest level of appreciation for them and said it was a pleasure being part of it.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #11, dated November 4, 2021, totaling \$234,571.51.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary