

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
JUNE 2, 2022**

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, June 2, 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, Jr., Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Judith Haldeman, Kenneth Hall, Bonnie Almond, Trevor Stone, Ronald Glassic and Julia Kutzler. 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, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

No one spoke from the public.

CONSIDER REQUEST OF NORTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Northampton Fire Department is requesting permission to host the 4th Annual Firefighters Parade on Saturday, July 9, 2022. This will be held in conjunction with Community Days and, tentatively, the school district athletes' recognition parade. The parade route is outlined on their letter of request.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Northampton Fire Department to host the 4th Annual Firefighters Parade on Saturday, July 9, 2022 in conjunction with Community Days.

CONSIDER CHANGING STARTING TIME OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

At the last Council meeting, a suggestion was made to set the starting time for Council meetings at 7:00 PM. At this time, Council will have the opportunity to make that decision.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to approve changing the start time of council meetings to 7:00 PM beginning with the September 1st meeting.

CONSIDER REQUEST OF NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

(NAMI):

We have received a request from a nonprofit mental illness organization, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). They wish to conduct a 10K race on Sunday, August 28, 2022, that would utilize portions of the Nor-Bath Trail in Allen Township and Northampton Borough. The race would go along the trail to a point behind Newhard Pharmacy and then return along the same course to the point of beginning. They did not request any fire police assistance; however, Mr. Brobst thinks it should be provided where the trail crosses Clear Springs Drive.

Motion: A motion was made by Judith Haldeman, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to grant permission to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to conduct a 10K race on Sunday, August 28, 2022, that would utilize portions of the Nor-Bath Trail in Allen Township and Northampton Borough. We will also have fire police assistance in the area where the trail crosses Clear Springs Drive.

Julia Kutzler asked Kenneth Hall if the fire police would be OK with assisting in this event. Kenneth Hall said they should be good with coverage to assist with this event. Both Julia Kutzler and Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. suggested that in the future, the fire police should be contacted for approval to provide assistance during events.

APPOINTMENT TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

We have received two requests to serve on the Civil Service Commission. They will be invited to attend and introduce themselves during Persons to be Heard. The candidates are Mr. Ryan Crawford and Ms. Kelly Milisits.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond.

Ronald Glassic said that he thought both candidates should be here to introduce themselves to council as in the past. Council member agreed the candidates should be present.

The initial motion was retracted.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Trevor

Stone and unanimously carried to table the appointment to the Civil Service Commission until the next council meeting.

CONSIDER ADJUSTING HOURLY RATE FOR POOL STAFF:

Enclosed in your packet is a new rate schedule for paying the employees that work at the pool. This is prepared as a directive from Council to make a correction in the budget. The rate increase will cost an estimated \$9,450 and reflects a 19.22% increase.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjust the hourly rates for pool staff employees as outlined in the new rate schedule.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that Ms. Mary Ellen Handlon has been given permission to work remotely and we have provided her with the tools necessary to comply with that. It does require that someone take her the material she needs and any printing that she needs to do can be done on her network printer.

--We have completed and filed the first report necessary in connection with the American Rescue Plan funding that was received. Mr. Brobst anticipates that in July the second and final installment, approximately \$503,000, will arrive.

--Mr. Brobst will be on vacation the week of June 6, 2022. However, he will contact the office every day to deal with any concerns.

--A classified ad advertising a position as assistant to the borough manager has appeared in the Lehigh Valley Press (all area editions). Applications will be accepted until 4:00 PM on Friday, June 10, 2022. The position was also advertised in all departments of the Borough.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported the swimming pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, June 4, 2022. We are working on scheduling a staff meeting to orient all employees.

--On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, Mr. Brobst met with Bob Daday, who will be promoting a Billie Joel Tribute performance at the Roxy Theatre sometime in October 2022.

--The River Front Garden is being pursued. However, with other more pressing concerns, we have not been able to dedicate as much time as we had anticipated.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that the bicycle patrol is operational throughout the Borough. The office has received several complimentary comments and

we anticipate this will provide a good opportunity for one-on-one contact with our police officers.

--The code officers have been very busy responding to weed and grass complaints.

--As of this date, 26 of the property owners have not responded to register their rental units. The code office will take appropriate action after May 31, 2022.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the Board of Health will meet at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

--Health Officer Ted Veresink wishes to express his gratitude for the allocation he was provided to attend the training session in Hershey.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that with the actuator on one of the basins at the sewer plant out of commission, it has necessitated requesting that the Water Authority haul their liquid sludge rather than send it to the plant for processing. With the loss of the one basin, Scott Gillespie is having great difficulty controlling the ammonia levels, and until the third basin is back online, we run the risk of exceeding the limit.

--A crew of public works has repaired a broken sewer lateral on West 29th Street.

--We have four seasonal employees working with public works and two are new this year. However, Mr. Brobst is certain they will find their niche.

--As time allows, we will begin a limited paving program. We have selected several alleys that will require complete reconstruction.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall had nothing to report.

Trevor Stone had nothing to report.

Judith Haldeman recently attended the PSAB conference in Hershey. She found it to be very helpful and thanked the borough for allowing her to attend. She said the “boot camp” was very informative and a great experience.

Mayor Anthony Pristash also attended the PSAB conference in Hershey. He met new Mayors from all over the state and said it was a great experience and very educational.

--He mentioned the D&L Trail and said the connection between the borough and North

Catasauqua should be done by June 15th and there will be a ribbon cutting at the end of June.

--He mentioned the possibility of one or two charging stations for electric cars in the

borough.

--He gave kudos to Officer Torres for his involvement and participation with the students at Siegfried Elementary. He added how proud he is of the police force and said their success starts with Chief Kadingo.

Solicitor Panella notified the public that immediately following the council meeting they will have an executive session to discuss personnel matters and ongoing litigation.

Bonnie Almond thanked the borough for allowing her to attend the PSAB conference in Hershey. She said it was very intense and she learned a lot. She provided feedback and takeaways from the conferences she attended.

--She gave kudos to the Mayor for attending the conference as well. She said the community likes to see him out and about and appreciates his involvement.

Julia Kutzler also gave kudos to Mayor Pristash for attending the PSAB conference in Hershey.

--She asked Mr. Brobst how many applications were received for the Assistant to the Borough Manager position.

--She asked Mr. Brobst about the possibility of paving 18th Street. She said she was questioned by a few neighbors in the area if there were plans to have it paved.

--She asked if we were having only one council meeting in the month of July. Mr. Brobst said that council will vote on the possibility of one meeting per month in July and August at the next council meeting on June 16, 2022.

Ronald Glassic gave kudos to Officer Torres and said that he is an asset to our police department and community.

--He asked about the borough website being updated with the new council members for 2022. Bonnie Almond added that she recently saw Marty Fella who took the new council photo. He told her that no one from the borough office has contacted him about the new council photo. The photo was taken in February and we still have not received it. Mr. Brobst will contact Marty Fella to check on the status of the new council photo.

--He asked about the status of the McKeever Lane access to the D&L Trail. Mr. Brobst said there was some confusion on exactly where the access should be created. He said they are looking at an alternate path at the other end of McKeever Lane on borough property.

--He asked about the status of the council meetings being live-streamed. Mr. Brobst said that Solicitor Panella will prepare a resolution for the next council meeting and council may vote on the meetings being live-streamed.

--He referenced the weeds in the sidewalks and gutters around town and asked that the code enforcement officers stay on top of this and send notices to the property owners that are in violation.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. said we have one hell of a police department and added that it's because of the great leadership of Chief Kadingo. He said recently there was a horrific accident at 24th and Main Street. He said the police officers and all first responders did a great job at the scene. He said this comes from great training and experience. He said we need to give them every tool and program for them to continue to function at the highest level.

--He would like to see the officers on bicycles patrolling the trails. He said the community needs to see the police presence.

--He asked how far along the process is for a raise for the retired police pension.

--He asked about hiring another police officer. He said that would bring the total to 16 full-time officers.

--He asked Solicitor Panella for an update on 107/109 Laubach Avenue. Solicitor Panella said they are close to securing the property. They are finalizing the lien search process. Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if the borough can go on the property to clean up, specifically everything on the front porch. Solicitor Panella said the public works department could cut the grass and weeds as they have been doing but leave any belongings on the front porch. Those items can be removed after the borough takes ownership of the property.

--He said we need to make sure there are "Park Closed" signs posted at the grove area of Canal Street Park so that the police officers can enforce as necessary.

--He mentioned that the trail area going into North Catasauqua and Catasauqua is very dark and said he heard of assaults occurring in that area of the trail. He asked about the possibility of having lighting installed. He added that he would never take his granddaughter on that area of the trail. He said we need to make sure it's safe.

--He asked everyone to remember June 6th, D-day and remember all who sacrificed everything for our freedom.

Kenneth Hall asked Mr. Brobst if there was any update on the Cementon Bridge project. Mr. Brobst said they expect to break ground sometime in August.

Ronald Glassic asked about the status of Hometown Hero's banners for the borough. Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they can be personalized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that he, Jerry Serensits, Greg Morey and Jason Kremus had a meeting on June 2nd with the pool staff. He said the building looks great and the water is clear.

--He thanked Bonnie Almond for her feedback from the PSAB conference.

Council members began an executive session at 8:35 PM.

Council members returned from executive session at 8:44 PM.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary