

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING  
JUNE 3, 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, June 3, 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., Vice President Keith Piescienski, Kenneth Hall, Julia Kutzler and Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. Robert McHale and Anthony Pristash were absent. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Mayor Thomas Reenock, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:**

**Audrina Smith, 1618 Main Street, Northampton** was present to suggest Hometown Hero's banners be hung throughout the borough. She said that she posted on the "Support Northampton" facebook page to see how many people would be interested in purchasing them. The response was great and so many people were interested. The cost would be approximately \$125 per banner.

Mr. Brobst suggested that she speak with Anthony Pristash since he is affiliated with the Northampton Chamber of Commerce. This idea was already considered by the Chamber of Commerce.

Julia Kutzler thanked her for coming and said that the Hometown Hero banners are a great idea and very special to her.

**Sandra Pudliner, 3025 Oakland Drive, Northampton** was present to introduce herself to council. She is interested in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board. She is a life-long borough resident. She was the Township Manager & Zoning Officer for Hanover Township and is now retired.

**Consider Request for 15-Minute Parking Zone:**

The owner of the newly opened Cakes on Main located at 929 Main Street is requesting Council to create a 15-minute parking zone in the area of her business. The restrictions would occur Wednesday through Friday 9 AM - 4 PM and Saturday 9 AM - 2 PM.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant approval to create a 15- minute parking

zone in the area of Cakes on Main at 929 Main Street. The restrictions would occur Wednesday through Friday 9 AM - 4 PM and Saturday 9 AM - 2 PM.

**Consider Request of U.S. Army Reserve Retirement Committee:**

We have received a request from the chairman of the Retirement Committee of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion 68<sup>th</sup> Armor to use Municipal Park Pavilion "A" on Saturday, September 18, 2021, for an Army Reserve retired soldiers' picnic. They are also asking that the fee be waived. This is similar to what they did last year.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Retirement Committee of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion 68<sup>th</sup> Armor to use Municipal Park Pavilion "A" on Saturday, September 18, 2021, for an Army Reserve retired soldiers' picnic, waiving the rental fee.

**Consider Request of Northampton Area School District Police Department:**

We have been contacted by NASD Chief of School Police Wilfred Williams requesting assistance of the fire police on Friday, June 4, 2021, between 7 PM and 10 PM. They will be having a graduation ceremony on Al Erdosy Field and need traffic control at the intersections of Smith Lane and Pany Drive and Kids Way and Laubach Avenue.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and carried to grant permission for the fire police to assist with the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 4, 2021, between 7 PM and 10 PM. Julia Kutzler voted against this motion.

**Consider Request of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church:**

We have received a request from Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church to use the Canal Street Park on Saturday, September 25, 2021. This picnic will begin their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. They have asked that the fee be waived.

**Motion:** A motion was made Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant permission to Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church to use the Canal Street Park on Saturday, September 25, 2021, waiving the rental fee.

**Consider Request of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church:**

We have received a request from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church to conduct three outdoor worship services in the Uptown Park. The dates requested are Sunday, June 6, July 4, and August 1, 2021. These services will be open to the public and they have asked that all fees be waived.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Julia Kutzler duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously granted permission to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church to conduct three outdoor worship services in the Uptown Park on Sunday, June 6, July 4, and

August 1, 2021, waiving all rental fees.

**Consider Resignation of Zoning Hearing Board Member:**

Mr. Robert Baer has resigned his position as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board. He will be moving out of the area and will be sorely missed. Applications will be accepted for the open seat.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Mr. Robert Baer in his position as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Appointment to Planning Commission:**

We have received a request from Sandra Pudliner to serve on the Planning Commission in the unexpired position formerly held by Robert McHale. His term expires December 31, 2022.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to table the request of appointing Sandra Pudliner to serve on the Planning Commission board. She is interested in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Julia Kutzler thanked her for attending the meeting to introduce herself to council.

**Continue Discussion on Creation of Stormwater Fee:**

At the last Council meeting, discussion on the stormwater fee was tabled. This might be a good time to continue that discussion. Mr. Brobst asked Michael Schwartz of Gilmore & Associates for a rough estimate to prepare an equitable billing fee for all parcels within the Borough and that estimate was \$40,000.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Julia Kutzler duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., and unanimously carried to table the discussion indefinitely on creating a stormwater fee until a council member requests it to be added to a future agenda.

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** Councilman Hall reported that Mr. Edward Pany was visited and interviewed by Vyta Pido of George Washington University, who is doing research for the Library of Congress and the Folklife Center. In addition, Mr. Pany received the annual contribution from Giant Cement Holding, Inc., who oversees the operation of Keystone Cement, of \$2,500.

--During the first full week of June, we will begin preparing the list of delinquent garbage accounts that will be sent to Portnoff Law Associates for collection.

--On Tuesday, June 8, 2021, there will be a virtual meeting of the River Central committee and Mr. Brobst will participate.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** Councilman Pristash reported that the swimming pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, June 5, 2021, weather permitting. The staff is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 2 PM.

--On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, the recreation Center will reopen to full use. Mr. Jason Kremus, the recreation center director, wishes to thank all of the members for their cooperation throughout the pandemic.

--Another sink was broken in the Municipal Park restroom. This is the third occurrence during the month of May. He suggested that we have cameras installed to monitor this area.

**Code and Police:** Councilman Piescienski reported that with the resignation of Robert Baer from the Zoning Hearing Board, there is a vacancy for his seat. Applications will be available at the Borough office.

--The Civil Service Commission is beginning their preparation of a new eligibility list. The office staff is providing assistance as needed.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Kutzler reported that enclosed in your packets are the minutes from the May 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Health meeting and the health officer's report for April-May.

--Members of the fire department are in discussion with members of North Catasauqua Fire Department. Both departments have expressed a desire to work more closely together, not as a merger but as an enforcement of their mutual assistance agreement.

--Health Officer Ted Veresink is currently in his busiest time of the year. The majority of the health inspections occur during June, July, and August.

--She reported that the fire police assisted with 31 events in May.

--She suggested that the school district contact the fire police in a timely manner for assistance with events.

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilman Piescienski reported that Great Western has begun repairing the gas cuts that were created as part of the UGI remediation work. Public Works Supervisor Gregory Morey has been monitoring their work.

--The public works department seasonal help will soon be in full strength, at which time a crew will concentrate on crosswalk and curb painting.

--Public works is still in the process of clearing brush and unnecessary trees from the MS4 project target area. With the influx of seasonal help, this should move along more quickly.

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Kenneth Hall** said that Western Electric started repairs on the UGI street cuts.

--He said cars have seemed to slow down on Station Alley with the roadwork being done.

--He asked Mr. Brobst if the final work is complete at 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Avenue after a sewer line replacement. Mr. Brobst said that the public works department has completed the final repairs in that area.

--He asked Chief Kadingo to have officers keep an eye on the newly posted one-way streets on West and Station Alley. He said he has seen several vehicles not following the signs.

**Keith Piescienski** said that the Main Street is horrible. There hasn't been any improvement.

**Mayor Reenock** asked about the possibility of getting "No Tractor Trailers" signs placed on Dewey Avenue.

**Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr.** said that the Memorial Day service was well attended at the Memorial Lot and said it was very well done. He mentioned that several fire department personnel were in attendance and they had to leave to respond to a fire call. He said several residents had very kind words, complimenting our fire department.

**Julia Kutzler** said that she loves the fire department and commended them for all they do for the community.

--She spoke with Pat Knopf, Farmer's Market Manager. She said that Pat is satisfied with how well it's going.

--She informed everyone that "People Standing Up" will begin planting the community garden on June 6<sup>th</sup> and said that they always need volunteers.

**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** asked that any reporters that were present for the meeting, to note that chairs, buckets, etc. are not allowed to be placed on public streets to save parking spaces. He said that it was a code violation and added that it may warrant a citation. He said if items are seen in the streets, they will be reported and the public works crew will pick them up.

--He asked that anyone requesting fire police assistance for an event, give them plenty of notice so they can prepare accordingly and adequately accommodate the request.

--He asked everyone to remember D-Day, June 6<sup>th</sup> & to remember why we have the freedoms we have.

--He said the fire department did a commendable job cleaning up the Memorial Lot for the Memorial Day service.

--He said our borough has the best police department, fire police, fire department, emergency services and every other department.

Kenneth Hall added that he received a call from Jason Kremus about the cheerleading competition that they are not having this year. He appreciated the heads up.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Brobst said that he will be attending the groundbreaking ceremony under the Copley Bridge for the D&L Trail Connection between North Catasauqua and Northampton.

--He said at the last meeting the Lafayette Technical Team suggested after research in the community and schools, that we consider changing our school mascot. They reported that the name "Konkrete Kids" can be considered racist, specifically citing the "KKK". Mr. Brobst expressed his feelings about the misconception and made it very clear he was not happy about the Northampton Press making it the headline of their article.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Motion:** Anthony Pristash moved, seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #6, dated June 3, 2021, totaling \$273,396.58.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary