

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Pro-tem Anthony Pristash at 7:30 PM on Thursday November 18, 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 Pro-tem Anthony Pristash, Kenneth Hall, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Julia Kutzler and junior councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson. President Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and Trevor Stone were absent. Also present were Mayor Thomas Reenock, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and recording secretary Meaghan Case.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on October 7, 2021 and the Regular Public Meeting held on October 21, 2021.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Mike Tillotson, 910 Dewey Avenue, Northampton was present to follow up on his daughter, Ryleigh's suggestion from the last meeting about the possibility of a stop sign at 9th Street & Dewey Avenue. He said it is extremely difficult to see when making a left on to 9th Street from the 900 block of Dewey Avenue. He mentioned if a stop sign is not warranted in that area, maybe a convex mirror can be placed across the street on the telephone pole, to help see when making a left turn on to 9th Street.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President pro-tem, Anthony Pristash thanked the public works department for getting the borough ready for winter and the holidays. He encouraged everyone to enjoy our trail and parks and take advantage of the recent warmer weather.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Reenock had nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Panella had nothing to report.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that we are in receipt of the second surplus claim fund distribution from the PA Municipal Health Ins. Cooperative (Benecon) of \$103, 867.16. On or about May 3, we received a check for approximately the same amount.

--Mr. Edward Pany had a group from St. Peter's Union Church of Lynnville, PA, tour the museum on Saturday, October 30, 2021. This is their second trip to the museum.

--We are in receipt of the third quarter franchise fee in the amount of \$5,986.41 from Service Electric Cable TV.

--It is Mr. Brobst's intention to have the budget preparation for distribution at the Council meeting on November 18, 2021.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that the community tree will be erected at Main Street and Laubach Avenue on or about Friday, November 19, 2021. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at 5:30 PM. Santa has promised to pay a visit.

--As of this writing, all of the parks have been winterized except Canal Street, which remains open for trail users.

Code and Police: Councilman Hall reported that the Planning Commission met on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 and recommended final approval for the Quarry Hills project.

--The Zoning Hearing Board met on Thursday, November 11, 2021 and granted approval to an appellant requesting a reduced setback for a fence along 23rd Street.

--Letters have been prepared for the seven civil service candidates. Testing will take place on Saturday, December 11, 2021, from 8 AM until 12 Noon. The agility test will be administered beginning at 1 PM on the same day.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the fire department has announced their annual operation of the Santa Run. Parents wishing the child or children to receive a gift from Santa on the fire truck should deliver the gift to the fire department

from 6-8 PM on Wednesday, December 8; Thursday, December 9; and Friday, December 10, 2021. The gift should be wrapped and not bigger than a shoe box. The child's name, address, and phone number should be clearly marked on the gift. Santa will deliver the gifts on Saturday, December 11, 2021, starting at 12 Noon. In the event of inclement weather, delivery will be attempted on the following day, December 12, 2021.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that salt and cinder spreaders are being placed on the trucks in preparation for any inclement weather. We have approximately 500 tons of road salt in our stockpile.

--The paving program for this year has been completed.

--Installation of the Christmas lighting will begin on or about November 15, 2021, and believe it or not, we are probably one of the last communities to get our lights up.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Request to Attend Wastewater Treatment Plant Course:

We have received a request from Scott Gillespie, superintendent of the wastewater treatment plant, to send Christopher Frey and Michael Adams to a course sponsored by the PA Rural Water Association (PRWA) that would be beneficial for their pursuit of an operator's certificate. The course will be held on December 9, 2021, at the Holiday Inn in Wilkes-Barre. The cost is \$140 for each individual.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission for Christopher Frey and Michael Adams to attend a course sponsored by the PA Rural Water Association (PRWA) on December 9, 2021, at the Holiday Inn in Wilkes-Barre.

Consider Granting Final Approval to Quarry Hill Estates "Resubdivision":

The solicitor has prepared a motion for Council's consideration which would grant final approval to the Quarry Hill Resubdivision Plan.

A Motion is made to grant final approval of Quarry Hill Estates "Resubdivison", a plan first submitted on June 22, 2021, revised on September 13, 2021, and last revised on October 22, 2021 subject to the following:

1. Subject to meeting all the conditions and all review letters by Lehigh Engineering, including but not limited to the letters dated October 13, 2021 and November 10, 2021.
2. The payment of all fees including but not limited to recreational fees, sewer fees, tapping fees, and all other fees imposed by the Borough of Northampton.
3. Subject to the approval of all outside agencies.
4. Subject to all the representations and agreements made by the applicant at all Planning Commission and Borough Council meetings.
5. Conditional on the creation of a Home Owners Association to the satisfaction of the Borough Solicitor and the Borough staff if one is necessary.
6. Conditional on the execution of all applicable agreements including but not limited to a Developer's Agreement, Escrow Agreement, posting of appropriate security to the satisfaction of the Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer as well as Borough staff.
7. The developer is granted a waiver of SALDO Section 215-29 B(5)(e)
8. Conditional on Developer entering into agreements satisfactory to the Borough including releases, hold harmless and indemnifications agreements regarding storm water, if at all necessary.
9. Conditional on positing the appropriate security for the necessary conditions set forth in this Motion.
10. It appearing that two sets of seven (7) unit apartment buildings are being built and that the seven (7) individual units for each set are being attached to a single sanitary sewer hook-up, approval is being made conditional on a requirement that in the event that if any unit of the apartment buildings is sold as something other than an apartment building, or in the event an individual unit is sold separate and apart from the remaining other units, or in the event multiple units are sold separately from the remaining units, there shall be a requirement that the purchasing party provide a separate sewer lateral hook-up for each individual unit, with the mode of providing for the requirement approved by the Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer and all necessary fees to be paid.

11. Conditional on execution of any and all necessary and required indemnification agreements as approved by the Borough Solicitor.
12. Conditional to Developer providing all requested cost estimates to be approved by the Borough Engineer prior to final execution of the documents.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant final approval to the Quarry Hill Resubdivision Plan.

Consider Request to Install Stop Sign:

Following his evaluation of a request for a stop sign at the intersection of 11th and Universal Court, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo felt the traffic would be acceptable with the current arrangement. He does not recommend any action at this time.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to accept Chief Kadingo's recommendation to not install a stop sign at the intersection of 11th Street and Universal Court.

Consider Request to Install Stop Sign:

At the last Council meeting, Junior Council Member Ryleigh Tillotson asked the chief of police to evaluate the possibility of placing a stop sign on East 9th Street at 9th and Dewey Avenue. The chief reviewed the area and at this time does not recommend a change.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to accept Chief Kadingo's recommendation to not install a stop sign on East 9th Street at 9th and Dewey Avenue. They will look into possibly adding a convex mirror in that area to help see better when pulling out on to 9th Street from Dewey Avenue.

Consider Approval of Settlement Agreement:

Former police detective Glenn Deist had filed a discrimination suit against the Borough of Northampton claiming that the Borough did not provide accommodations for his physical disability. Our insurance carrier is prepared to settle the claim for \$40,000. The solicitor will be able to answer any questions.

At this time, Anthony Pristash removed himself as President Pro-Tem to make a motion. Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. took over the meeting as President Pro-Tem.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and carried to grant permission for our insurance carrier to settle the claim for \$40,000 for former police detective Glenn Deist.

Anthony Pristash and Ronald Glassic abstained from this motion.

Anthony Pristash took his seat back as President Pro-Tem.

Consider Nomination for Vacant Council Position:

We have received three applications to fill the vacant Council seat created by the passing of Keith Piescienski. They are Sandra Pudliner of 3025 Oakland Drive, Barry Frantz of 102 Jeffrey Lane and Judy Haldeman of 23 W. 27th Street. All candidates have been invited to appear and provide an Affidavit of Residency as a qualified elector with one year of residency in the First Ward.

Solicitor Panella explained to borough council that they have 30 days to fill the seat. If the appointment happens after 30 days, an “Elections Council” would have to decide on the appointment. The elections council would consist of a third party elector, possibly Ronald Spengler of the Vacancy Board and members of borough council excluding Mayor Reenock. If borough council chooses to use the elections council, there will be a Special Public Meeting scheduled on December 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM, prior to the scheduled Public Workshop Meeting at 7:30 PM. Solicitor Panella reminded everyone that this person would be elected to finish out the final two years of Keith Piescienski’s four-year term.

Barry Frantz of 102 Jeffrey Lane, introduced himself to council.

He is a 22 year resident of the borough. He has been married to his wife for 31 years and has two daughters. He is currently an Area Transportation Manager for True Value Company and has 34 years of service with them. He has been with the Northampton Fire Department for six months, previously with the East Allen Fire Department for 34 years.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if he has to travel for work.

Mr. Frantz said he very rarely must travel long distances for work.

Ronald Glassic asked him what his first initiative would be.

He said to continue doing what council has been doing and learn about how everything works.

Julia Kutzler asked what his passion was.

He said working for the fire department. He said they are a commendable group moving in the right direction.

Judy Haldeman of 23 W. 27th Street introduced herself to council. She has been a borough resident almost her whole life. She worked for Northampton County for 38 years. She worked several years as a service coordinator in early intervention and the last nine years she was a casework supervisor. She recently has retired. She is also a recent member of the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority Board.

Ronald Glassic asked what her first initiative would be. Safety would be her first initiative due to a recent break in on her street.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked, with her skills from the County, would she be able to offer guidance to the police department. She would give any assistance needed, possibly sharing contacts for certain situations.

Julia Kutzler asked her, her thoughts on conflict resolution. She finds it challenging but it was extremely necessary for her previous job.

Sandra Pudliner of 3025 Oakland Drive introduced herself to council. She is a life-long borough resident. She previously worked for Hanover Township as their Township Manager and Zoning Officer. She enjoys municipal government and for 30+ years it was her life to serve the community. She retired in 2018.

Ronald Glassic asked her what she is most proud of from her recent position. Land development was what she was proud of most. Making decisions for the good of the township but also the community residents.

Julia Kutzler asked what her passion was. She said zoning is her true passion.

Council members collectively decided to wait until the next meeting date and hold a special public meeting to appoint the new council person due to President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. and Trevor Stone being absent.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. commended Chris Stanford on a great presentation on the D&L Trail connection.

--He suggested we use 105/107 Laubach Avenue as a tourist bureau. He said we could have maps and a visitor's center with a directory for the borough. He also mentioned that the Atlas Cement Museum is the only cement museum in the world. He said we could use the tourist bureau to direct people to places like the museum or a restaurant.

--He said we need to take eminent domain of 105/107 Laubach Avenue sooner than later.

Ronald Glassic said he like the idea of using the QR codes for getting access to information. We are in 2021.

--He gave kudos for the trail presentation and said it was very informative.

--He thanked Mr. Tillotson for the suggestion of a convex mirror at 9th Street and Dewey Avenue.

--He thanked Trevor Stone, Greg Morey, Adam Horwith and Anthony Pristash for visiting the McKeever Lane area to come up with a solution for access to the trail.

--He said he was happy to see the lights working on Laubach Avenue and the damaged pole replaced. He added that 2 lights are currently out.

--He noted that the trash and recycling services are continually improving.

--He thanked Keith Knoblach for having the huge roll of linoleum removed from the sidewalk after several months at Estelle's Catering, old Atlas Hotel.

Julia Kutzler thanked the candidates for coming and applying to be on council.

--She referenced that the police department had 498 incidents in the month of October. She said they are always working hard.

--She said the civil service commission is working hard to get more applicants.

--She asked if and when we are hiring a mechanic.

Anthony Pristash commented on the beautiful card we received from Linda Weinhofer, wife of Bob Weinhofer, our first recreation center director who passed away recently.

--He said we are fortunate to have the D&L Trail in our borough and further connection with the Nor-Bath Trail will keep us moving forward.

--He said the Thanksgiving holiday is coming up and we have a lot to be thankful for. He hopes everyone enjoys time with their families.

Ryleigh Tillotson thanked the applicants for coming and introducing themselves to council.

--She said she forwarded Mr. Brobst's contact information to the high school biology club.

Kenneth Hall thanked all of the candidates for coming to the meeting.

--He is looking forward to seeing all of the lights throughout out the borough.

--He noted a request for fire police service for the tree lighting on Sunday, November 28, 2021.

--He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said to be safe.

--He said that the public works department did a great job paving especially having to work around UGI.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst asked council to make a motion requesting the fire police assistance for the tree lighting on Sunday, November 28, 2021.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission for fire police assistance for the tree lighting on Sunday, November 28, 2021 at the intersection of Main Street and Laubach Avenue.

A request has been received from the developer, Willowbrook - Phase II, for a reduction of the security required by a total amount of \$518,313.07. This has been reviewed and approved by the borough solicitor, borough engineer and borough manager.

Solicitor Panella explained that this is normal procedure for a request for a reduction in the security amount as the project moves forward. This guarantees the borough funds to complete the project should the developer fail to finish the project.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to approve the request of the developer, Willowbrook - Phase II, for a reduction of the security required by a total amount of \$518,313.07.

--Mr. Brobst informed everyone that he and I had a phone conversation with a representative of Republic Services. They would like to change trash collection to five days a week. This will affect only the 4th Ward, changing their trash collection

day from Wednesday to Friday. They will send postcards notifying about 400 residents in the 4th Ward.

--Mr. Brobst gave everyone a copy of the 2022 budget. He asked that they review it and come to the office or call him with any questions. The budget does not include a tax increase for 2022.

Julia Kutzler asked if he met with all of the committees. He put the invitation out there to all committees but did not meet with them, however, he did receive wish lists from each department. He has incorporated those requests in to the budget.

She asked if the police department is getting another officer. He said yes, for 2022.

He said we have an officer on the books that was on worker's compensation for all of 2021. He added that they acquired two officers for 2021. Judy Kutzler and Chief Kadingo said the police department still needs another officer for 2021, due to one officer leaving. Mr. Brobst asked Julia Kutzler to come to the office to meet with him to discuss this. She added that we promised the police department another officer and we owe them one.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #11A, dated November 18, 2021, totaling \$83,144.56 and A/P Journal #11B, dated November 5, 2021, totaling \$2,796.87.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary