

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 6, 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, May 6, 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, Thomas Gehringer, Kenneth Hall, Julia Kutzler and Anthony Pristash. Robert McHale and Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. were absent. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Mayor Reenock, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Robert Hawke, District Magistrate, Walnutport, PA was present to introduce himself to council and asked the public to reelect him as District Magistrate. He reviewed his 37 years of experience, awards he received and several county and local programs he is part of.

Consider Creation of a Study Committee for a Stormwater Fee:

At the last Council meeting, it was suggested that a study committee or subcommittee be organized to study the impact and/or need of a stormwater fee.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to table the motion until the next council meeting on May 20, 2021.

Consider Request of Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce:

The Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting permission to conduct their rescheduled "Uptown" Street Fair on Saturday, May 22, 2021. They are requesting that Main Street be closed between 7 AM and 6 PM. This is normally done between East 17th Street and 21st Street. They are also asking permission for use of the portable bandshell and the portable toilet. They are willing to reimburse the Borough employee that would monitor the generator required to operate the portable toilet.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to The Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce to conduct their rescheduled "Uptown" Street Fair on Saturday, May 22,

2021. Also granting permission for use of the portable bandshell and the portable toilet, reimbursing the cost of the Borough employee that would monitor the generator required to operate the portable toilet.

Consider Requests for Handicapped Parking Zones:

Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has received and reviewed two handicapped parking requests and recommends approval for both, though separate motions should be made. The first one is located at 823 Washington Avenue and the second is at 637 Washington Avenue; however, the parking space would be located on East 7th Street. The person making the request agrees with that location.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission for a handicapped space in the area of 823 Washington Avenue.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission for a handicapped space requested by the resident of 637 Washington Avenue. The handicapped space will be located on E. 7th Street.

Consider Request to Attend a Training Course:

Chief Kadingo is requesting permission to allow Officer Dennis Smith to attend an FBI-LEEDA Executive Development School. Class would be conducted beginning on October 25, 2021 through October 29, 2021, at the Lehigh Township police department. The fee for the course is \$695.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission for Officer Dennis Smith to attend an FBI-LEEDA Executive Development School from October 25, 2021 through October 29, 2021, at the Lehigh Township police department.

Consider Request of Affordable Pet Center:

We have received a request from Affordable Pets to limit parking in the municipal lot adjacent to their place of business. They are looking to celebrate their 15th anniversary on Saturday, May 15, 2021. This would afford their vendors a place to set up safely. They will be responsible for setting up barriers that would be provided by the public works department.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously granted permission to Affordable Pets to limit parking in the municipal lot adjacent to their place of business to celebrate their 15th anniversary on Saturday, May 15, 2021.

Consider Request of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (Nazareth):

We have received a request on behalf of the Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce to use the portable band trailer on Saturday, June 19, 2021. They will be celebrating their Food Truck Festival, which is an annual event. They will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance and a delivery and retrieval fee.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce to use the portable band trailer on Saturday, June 19, 2021. They will be responsible for a delivery and retrieval fee.

Consider Request of the Northampton Exchange Club:

We have received a request from the Northampton exchange Club regarding this year's Jack Frost Parade. They are proposing to hold it on **Saturday, October 23, 2021, with a rain date of Saturday, October 30, 2021, starting at 6 PM.** The chairman of the parade committee, Ralston Coleman, will be on hand to answer any questions.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Northampton exchange Club to hold their annual Jack Frost Parade on **Saturday, October 23, 2021, with a rain date of Saturday, October 30, 2021, starting at 6 PM.**

Consider Hiring Summer Employees:

Enclosed in your packet is a listing of recommended applicants for the various seasonal employment slots.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to approve hiring the seasonal applicants listed for the pool and public works. The pool will open on Saturday, June 5, 2021.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that we have received our first quarter franchise fee from Service Electric Cable TV in the amount of \$6,210.99.

--Northampton County will be holding their 2nd Annual Awards Ceremony and there are various categories for which candidates can be nominated. They are asking each community to recommend someone for each category. A 250-word essay must be submitted with the nomination.

--Delinquent notices have been sent to all property owners who have not paid their 2021 garbage fee. They have 30 days to make the payment, or the account will be submitted to Portnoff Law Associates for collection.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that work continues at the municipal swimming pool. The pool surface has been cleaned of debris, loose paint has been removed, joints have been caulked and paint has been ordered. After the paint has cured for 10 days, filling of the pool will begin.

--We have experienced a great deal of vandalism at the municipal park rest room. On two different days this year, sinks have been smashed. Mr. Brobst has directed the public works department on days when the pavilions are not rented to lock them when they go home at 3:30 PM. We have also had damage to the municipal park bandshell. It would seem we have an individual or individuals who need a new hobby.

--Swimming pool passes will be sold at the recreation center as in past years.

--The Atlas Museum curator has announced that the museum will open its doors beginning with the second Sunday in June. It will be open thereafter on the second and fourth Sundays through September from 1-3 PM.

--The Farmers' Market is scheduled to hold its first session on May 11, 2021, from 3 PM until 6:30 PM in the municipal park pavilions.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that as requested, Code Enforcement Officer Keith Knoblach has prepared a rental unit registration comparison for 2020 vs. 2021.

--The county COVID funding for the cameras for the police vehicles has been put to good use and the project is nearing completion.

--Members of the Lafayette Technical Team will have a place on the May 20, 2021 agenda. They will present an update on their two project assignments. I have scheduled a Zoom meeting with some members of the team, which will happen on Friday afternoon.

--The code officer and his staff have been moved out of the "closet" and have taken permanent residence sharing a room with the community planner. As of this reporting, everything seems acceptable.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the Board of Health met on April 27, 2021. A report from that meeting will be provided as soon as it is received.

--We have been informed that the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) 2% loan application will be reviewed. These activities had been curtailed during the pandemic and we had obtained a \$300,000 bridge loan from Kansas State Bank for the purchase of the aerial ladder truck.

--We have a retention basin in the Wynnewood Development that is surrounded by arborvitae. Over the years since this property has come into our possession, a number of these arborvitae have died, however only in the same area. Mr. Brobst spoke with Health Officer Ted Veresink and through his past connections with the state, he is trying to arrange to have a member of the forestry department visit the site to collect some soil samples and hopefully, offer a solution.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Piescienski reported that on Friday, May 7, 2021, wastewater treatment plant head operator Steven Urban will go to Fleetwood to observe the

operation of an alternate sludge dewater technology. This is something that might provide a solution to our aging and struggling belt press.

--The sludge contract with Waste Management has been executed and the new five-year agreement takes effect on May 1, 2021.

--Mr. Brobst has been asked by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to take part in a special workshop to discuss active transportation plan initiatives. He plans to take part in the workshop.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

Mayor Reenock questioned why his political signs for Mayor were removed from borough property. Mr. Brobst referenced borough code and stated that political signs are prohibited on borough property. Solicitor Panella agreed with Mr. Brobst and added that he will confirm the information.

Anthony Pristash said that he understood that political signs should not be placed on borough property. He added that before placing signs anywhere, residential or business, you should have permission from the business owner or the property owner.

--He mentioned the UGI work being done throughout the borough. He added that after speaking with representatives of UGI, the Public Utility Commission requested that all meters be placed outside of the homes. This adds to the scope of work and certainly lengthens the time of the entire job in the borough. He asked residents to be patient and added that he drives the same roads in the borough and that he is as frustrated as everyone else.

Julia Kutzler reviewed the fire police reports and they had 138 volunteer hours for the month of April. She was impressed with the rental unit registration report comparing compliance for 2020 and 2021. To date there is a 90% compliance rate for 2021. She said that the report was phenomenal and very well done. She added that the average fine is \$500 for those who do not comply with registering their property.

--She said that "People Standing Up" began planting the garden for the food bank. She said that they always need volunteers to help maintain the garden or donate plants. Last year the garden produced over 400 pounds of fresh produce for the food bank.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that the Community Center parking lot was set up as a COVID 19 testing site from April 27th – May 1st. There were only 11 people tested.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Pristash moved, seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #4B, dated April 29, 2021, totaling \$103,850.35 and A/P Journal #5, dated May 6, 2021, totaling \$132,291.09.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary