

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING  
APRIL 7, 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, April 7, 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 and Trevor Stone. Ronald Glassic & Julia Kutzler were 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:**

**Victor Rodite, Northampton Borough Community Planner**, was present to review the CDBG grant process and opportunities. He covered several topics.

--He discussed the Act 537 Plan and the sewer lining along Canal Street.

--He mentioned the public park restrooms being vandalized. He mentioned the possibility of a camera system being installed.

--He mentioned the possibility of one or two pergolas being installed near the butterfly garden in the grove area of Canal Street.

--He noted the traffic congestion along Route 329. He said it continues to be an issue and currently he does not have a solution. He will have a proposal at the next council meeting.

--He is working with an engineer consultant on ways to make the D&L and Nor-Bath Trail safer for pedestrians. He is hoping to secure a grant with Mr. Brobst's approval.

--He spoke with Kathy Novegratz. He was told they need volunteers for the garden.

--He informed everyone of an upcoming River Central multi-municipal meeting on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. They will have a round table discussion on emergency services. On April 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM they will discuss how to improve the economy. He encouraged all to attend the meeting. These meetings are still being held virtually.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1221:**

**TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO REGULATE SHORT TERM RENTAL UNITS WITHIN THE BOROUGH AND ESTABLISH PENALTIES AND VIOLATIONS.**

Ordinance No. 1221 establishes guidelines for the creation, inspection and regulating short term rental units. This will be effective January 1, 2023.

Introduced By: Judith Haldeman

Seconded By: Bonnie Almond

Unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 1221 as written.

**OPENING OF BIDS FOR ROAD MATERIALS:**

Sealed bids for road materials will be opened at this time.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to close the bids for road materials.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder pending review and approval by the borough engineer and solicitor.

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND A PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM:**

Health Officer Ted Veresink plans to attend a public health training program on April 25-28, 2022. However, this would be shared with the Borough of Wilson, so the cost to the Borough would be \$125. The training program is important to maintain his technical competence as a public health officer.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to grant permission for Health Officer Ted Veresink to attend a public health training program on April 25-28, 2022 at a cost of \$125.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR 15-MINUTE PARKING ZONES:**

In the past, we had granted four 15-minute parking spaces in the municipal lot directly in front of Affordable Pet Center. Over time, these parking signs have suffered a number of mishaps. The chief is proposing to re-establish four 15-minute parking areas and protect them with parking blocks to prevent any damage.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Bonnie Almond, duly seconded by Judy Haldeman and unanimously carried to grant permission to Chief Kadingo to re-establish four 15-minute parking areas and protect them with parking blocks to prevent any damage in the municipal lot directly in front of Affordable Pet Center

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND INSTRUCTOR COURSE:**

Chief Kadingo is requesting permission to have Officers Erik Schaffer and Geoffrey Perry attend a one- day "Less Lethal Munitions Instructor Course." This course is scheduled for June 13, 2022 and will be held at the Lehigh Township Police Station. The cost of instruction is \$275 per officer.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Bonnie Almond, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to Officers Erik Schaffer and Geoffrey Perry to attend a one- day "Less Lethal Munitions Instructor Course" on June 13, 2022 at the Lehigh Township Police Station.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DELEGATES TO PSAB CONFERENCE:**

Every community that attends the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) annual conference must elect a voting delegate as well as an alternate voting delegate. Mayor Pristash is willing to serve as the voting delegate and President Lopsonzski has offered his service as the alternate delegate.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to have Mayor Pristash serve as the voting delegate and President Lopsonzski to serve as the alternate delegate for the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) annual conference.

**APPROVAL TO HIRE PUBLIC WORKS MECHANIC:**

Following interviews with the public works and sewer committee, Aaron Bortz is recommended for hiring as the Borough mechanic contingent on a physical, drug and alcohol test and background check.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to hire Aaron Bortz as the Borough mechanic contingent on a physical, drug and alcohol test and background check.

**CONSIDER REQUEST OF NORTHAMPTON FIRE POLICE:**

The fire police are requesting permission to serve during the Borough Egg Hunt on April 9, 2022, the shredding event sponsored by Representative Zach Mako on April 30, 2022, and events as needed at the Northampton Memorial Community Center.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Judith Haldeman and unanimously carried to grant permission to the fire police to serve during the

Borough Egg Hunt on April 9, 2022, the shredding event sponsored by Representative Zach Mako on April 30, 2022, and events as needed at the Northampton Memorial Community Center.

**CONSIDER REQUEST OF BECKY'S DRIVE-IN:**

We have received a request from Becky's Drive-In to use our portable band trailer on Sunday, October 2, 2022, to benefit Dream Come True of the Blue Ridge Chapter. Since the onset of this event, they have raised over \$384,000. As usual, they will need to pay a delivery and removal fee and provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Bonnie Almond, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to Becky's Drive-In to use our portable band trailer on Sunday, October 2, 2022, to benefit Dream Come True of the Blue Ridge Chapter. The rental fee will be waived, however, they will need to pay a delivery and removal fee and provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they need a portable restroom.  
Mr. Brobst said they do not need a portable restroom.

**CONSIDER REQUEST OF VERA CRUZ COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:**

We have received a request from the Vera Cruz Community Association to use our portable band trailer for their 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Home Coming event scheduled for Sunday, August 21, 2022. The event will take place in Mystic Chain Park in Emmaus. As a 501(c)3 organization, the rental fee would be waived.

However, they would have to pay for delivery and removal. They will also need to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Judith Haldeman and unanimously carried to grant permission to Vera Cruz Community Association to use our portable band trailer for their 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Home Coming event scheduled for Sunday, August 21, 2022. The event will take place in Mystic Chain Park in Emmaus. The rental fee will be waived, however, they will need to pay a delivery and removal fee and provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they need a portable restroom.  
Mr. Brobst said they do not need a portable restroom.

**CONSIDER REQUEST OF NAZARETH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:**

We have received a request from the Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce to use our portable band trailer on Saturday, June 18, 2022, for their Food Truck Festival. They would be required to pay a delivery and removal fee, as well as provide a Certificate of Insurance

naming the Borough as additionally insured.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce to use our portable band trailer on Saturday, June 18, 2022, for their Food Truck Festival. The rental fee will be waived, however, they will need to pay a delivery and removal fee and provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they need a portable restroom.  
Mr. Brobst said they do not need a portable restroom.

**CONSIDER REQUEST OF GREATER BATH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:**

We have received a request from the Greater Bath Area Chamber of Commerce to use our portable band trailer on Saturday, August 20, 2022, for their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spuds & Suds Festival. They would be required to pay a delivery and removal fee, as well as provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Greater Bath Area Chamber of Commerce to use our portable band trailer on Saturday, August 20, 2022, for their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spuds & Suds Festival. The rental fee will be waived, however, they will need to pay a delivery and removal fee and provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they need a portable restroom.  
Mr. Brobst said they do not need a portable restroom.

**CONSIDER REQUEST OF NAZARETH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:**

We have received a request from the Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce requesting the use of our portable band trailer on Saturday, October 15, 2022, in conjunction with the Nazareth Fall Festival and Nazareth Halloween Parade. They will be required to pay a delivery and removal fee, as well as provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Nazareth Area Chamber of Commerce to use our portable band trailer on Saturday, October 15, 2022, in conjunction with the Nazareth Fall Festival and Nazareth Halloween Parade. The rental fee will be waived, however, they will need to pay a delivery and removal fee and provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as additionally insured.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked if they need a portable restroom.  
Mr. Brobst said they do not need a portable restroom.

**CONSIDER REQUEST OF NEW JOURNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH:**

We have received a request from New Journey Community Church requesting the use of Municipal Park pavilions "A" & "B" on Easter Sunday. They have also requested that any and all fees be waived.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Trevor Stone, duly seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission New Journey Community Church to use Municipal Park pavilions "A" & "B" on Easter Sunday, with any and all fees being waived.

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** Councilman Hall reported that on Thursday, March 31, 2022, Mr. Brobst completed the filing of the AGE-385 report. This used to be a much less complicated process but with the advent and mandate of online filing, it was a task he is glad he only has to do once a year.

--On Tuesday, April 5, 2022, Mr. Brobst will be attending a Council of Governments (COG) meeting sponsored by Superintendent Joseph Kovalchik of the Northampton Area School District. Mayor Pristash and Chief Kadingo have also been invited.

--During the week of April 4, 2022, the interest and penalty billing will be applied to all unpaid garbage bills. As of the close of business on Thursday, March 31, 2022, we have received \$1,099,072.83 in garbage fee payments.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** Councilwoman Haldeman reported that on Monday, March 28, 2022, a meeting was held with Michael Baker International's Chris Stanford, Amanda Ruth, Lori Metz, Mayor Pristash, Councilwoman Haldeman, Victor Rodite and Mr. Brobst. They met to discuss the projects that will be completed along the Canal Street Park corridor. Another meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2022, at which time more formative items will be available to report.

--Mr. Brobst will be speaking with Bryan Cope, superintendent of Northampton County Division of Parks and Recreation, regarding connecting the area of the McKeever Lane cul-de-sac with the Nor-Bath Trail. Mayor Pristash has volunteered to meet with one of the property owners in the area to arrange an easement.

--Mr. Brobst took pleasure in watching the municipal park ballfield being groomed for the upcoming season. It took him back to a time when he was the one doing it.

--Just a reminder-we will need Council's assistance on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, to prepare the eggs for the egg hunt, as well as continued assistance on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at approximately 10 AM in the Municipal Park, to set up for the Easter Egg Hunt.

**Code and Police:** Councilman Stone reported that on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, the Planning Commission will meet to review the updated joint Act 537 Plan between the Borough and Allen Township. With their recommendation, a public hearing would be scheduled, and the document would be made available for public review.

--March 31, 2022 was the deadline for registering rental units. Beginning the week of April 4, 2022, the code office will send out late notices that will include a \$25 penalty for non-compliance.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Almond reported that The Board of Health will not meet during the month of April. There are scheduling conflicts among the members.

--On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Fire Chief Knobloch and department member Mark Laub participated in a webinar addressing various grants available through Northampton County.

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilwoman Haldeman reported that we have learned from a meeting with representatives of UGI that they will begin their 2022 upgrade beginning on April 25, 2022. Their first project area will be East 10<sup>th</sup> Street. One count in their favor is that this year, one company, Great Western, will do the entire project from excavation to replacement of piping to repair of the road surface.

--Members of the public works department had an opportunity to look at a top-of-the-line rough brush cutter. A demonstration model was brought to the garage and while it was an extremely efficient machine, the price tag of \$200,000 is a bit much. We sent out feelers to North Catasauqua to see if they would be interested in contributing towards the purchase. However, at this point in time, they were not interested.

--A walk-through meeting on the D&L Trail construction nearing completion by North Catasauqua will be held during the week of April 25, 2022. The exact date and time have yet to be established. Mr. Brobst plans to attend.

--Scott Gillespie has completed the 2021 Wastewater Treatment Plant Annual Review. A copy is available in the Borough office.

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

**Kenneth Hall** asked about the possibility of getting lifeguards from Catasauqua/North Catasauqua. He also mentioned the possibility of extending a price break for Catasauqua residents to use our pool since their pool will not be open this summer.

--He asked if UGI will complete their paving in certain areas that are unfinished.

**Judith Haldeman** spoke on behalf of Ronald Glassic who was absent due to Covid-19, asking council to consider allowing a one-time call in per year to join the meeting via phone.

**Mayor Anthony Pristash** said he had a great time stuffing eggs on March 16<sup>th</sup> for the

upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

--He said that he recently attended a Mayor's meeting. He added that there was a nice round of applause from everyone for the Roxy Theater.

--He also mentioned a recent meeting he attended with Chief Kadingo and the school district police. He stressed the importance of keeping the communication open between both departments.

**Solicitor Panella** notified the public that prior to the council meeting, there was an executive session to discuss personnel matters and ongoing litigation.

--He also advised council that allowing council members to phone in for meetings can be revisited. Last year council voted on not allowing members to call in for meetings.

**Ryleigh Tillotson** said she has been connecting with students at school getting the word out about needing lifeguards for the pool.

--She is ironing out the details for the athlete's parade. They are targeting the parade for mid-June.

**Bonnie Almond** said she was happy to hear about Canal Street park but asked about monitoring other parks in the borough because of older kids ruining it for the younger ones. Chief Kadingo will bring this to his officer's attention for more police presence in the park areas.

--She asked again about the website being updated with the new council members. The old picture is still on the website because we haven't received the new one from Fella Studio.

**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** mentioned the pruning vehicle for the public works department. He understands it's a high price tag, but it would be a great piece of machinery to have. He said it does the job very well and can be used in many areas of the borough. He asked what we could do and where we could save money to get something like this.

--He expressed the importance of taking care of our parks. He added that residents in town look for those little things.

--He said the 15-minute parking spaces for Affordable Pet Center is a great idea, adding that parking in that area can be a nightmare when people are dropping off and picking up for the dance studio. He added that an elevated parking deck in the Center Street lot would alleviate the parking issues.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Brobst spoke with Keith Knoblach and the current rental registration is at about an 86% response rate. He reminded everyone that the Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> with a rain date on April 10<sup>th</sup>. He added that he needs volunteers to help with the event.



**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 #3C, dated March 31, 2022, totaling \$129,957.26 and A/P Journal #4, dated April 7, 2022, totaling \$281,516.84.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary