

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by Vice President Julia Kutzler at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 1, 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: Vice President Julia Kutzler, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Kenneth Hall, Bonnie Almond, Trevor Stone and Ronald Glassic. President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. and Mayor Anthony Pristash were absent. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case
Junior councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson arrived at 7:06 PM.

Vice President Julia Kutzler requested a moment of silence for the passing of former police detective, Robert “Whitey” Lindenmoyer.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Nicholas Dotter, 1300 Block of Newport Avenue, Northampton, was present to complain about 1374 Newport Avenue. He said that the property is tenant occupied and every night is a party with loud music, drug activity and people coming and going all hours of the night. He added that the police have been there multiple times for different complaints. He said people that rent have no respect. He mentioned that Slatington Borough has something in place to evict tenants after police have responded to so many calls at one residence. He asked how long he and his neighbors have to deal with this. He added that he was at the borough office recently to report these issues.

Vice President Julia Kutzler suggested that he schedule an appointment with Keith Knoblach, our code enforcement officer.

Donna Moser, 1375 Newport Avenue, Northampton, was also present to complain about the same property in the 1300 block of Newport Avenue. She questioned if the borough/police

department had a protocol in place that if the police department receives three calls with complaints at the same residence then the landlord/property owner is notified and they could possibly face eviction. She agreed with everything Mr. Dotter said and added that there is always a houseful of people partying at all hours of the night.

Jason Nelson, 1373 Newport Avenue, Northampton, also reiterated the same complaints. He asked why there isn't more of a police presence patrolling the area. He said he regrets buying a house here two years ago. His wife does not want to take their four and seven-year-old children out front for fear of any interaction with the people at 1374 Newport Avenue. He said people in the neighborhood are bullied by them. He added that this is not a code issue, this is a police matter. These people are causing problems with all of the surrounding neighbors and nothing is being done to stop them.

Cheryl Ossa, 439 McKeever Lane, Northampton, was present to clarify a recent conversation with Mayor Pristash. She stated that she never said that she is not allowing access to the trail next to her property. She saw it posted on social media that she was against people walking on her property to access the path to the D&L Trail. She said she spoke with employees of the public works department. They have removed trees from the side of the path and have placed big boulders on the path to deter people from using it. Mr. Brobst said that the intention is that the public works department will put the path back the way it was with no access.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 9-22:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON FOR THE CONVERSION OF STREET LIGHTING TO LED LIGHTING FIXTURES.

We have received a street light service agreement from PPL whereby they will convert the street lighting from high pressure sodium to LED lighting. Approval of Resolution No. 9-22 authorizes this action.

The agreement will be signed by council president.

Introduced By: Kenneth Hall

Seconded By: Ronald Glassic

Resolution No. 9-22 passed unanimously as written.

CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTEND A TRAINING SEMINAR:

Police Chief Bryan Kadingo is requesting permission to have Detectives Joseph Kicska and Matthew Bennicoff attend a one-day training seminar on "Social Media and Open Source Investigations." The course will be held on Friday, September 16, 2022, at the Lower Saucon Township Police Department. The cost is \$225 per attendee.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilwoman Haldeman and unanimously carried to grant permission to have Detectives Joseph Kicska and Matthew Bennicoff attend a one-day training seminar on "Social Media and Open Source Investigations." on Friday, September 16, 2022, at the Lower Saucon Township Police Department.

CONSIDER CERTIFICATION OF POLICE PENSION PLAN:

The Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2022 police pension plan has been calculated to be \$129,881. It is anticipated that the state aid for this plan will be \$117,000, leaving a shortage of \$12,881.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Stone, duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and carried to approve the certification the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2022 police pension plan for the Borough of Northampton. Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. abstained from this motion.

CONSIDER CERTIFICATION OF NON-UNIFORMED DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN:

The Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2022 non-uniformed defined benefit pension plan has been calculated to be Zero. It is anticipated that the state aid for this plan will be \$63,000, leaving a surplus of \$63,000.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to approve the certification the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2022 non-uniformed defined benefit pension plan for the borough of Northampton.

CONSIDER CERTIFICATION OF NON-UNIFORMED DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLAN:

The Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2023 non-uniformed defined contribution pension plan has been calculated to be \$34,942. It is anticipated that the state aid for this plan will be \$57,500. The overage of \$22,558 will be applied to the police pension plan and the non-uniformed defined benefit pension plan as directed by the state auditor.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to approve the certification of the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2023 non-uniformed defined contribution pension plan for the borough of Northampton.

CONSIDER HIRING ASSISTANT TO THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

Following a series of interviews, Council is ready to appoint an assistant to the borough manager.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilman Glassic, duly seconded by Councilman Stone to hire Brian Welsko as the assistant to the borough manager.

Solicitor Panella suggested a roll call vote.

Roll call vote:

Bonnie Almond	YES	Trevor Stone	YES
Ronald Glassic	YES	Judith Haldeman	YES
Julia Kutzler	YES	Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.	ABSTAIN
Kenneth Hall	ABSTAIN		

With a vote of five in favor, Brian Welsko was named the assistant to the borough manager.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that on the September 15 agenda, a resolution will appear to apply for a Local Share Account (LSA) Grant in the amount of \$24,900. The grant will be used for the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras, monitors and digital video recorders (DVR) for the borough park system, various borough- owned structures and livestreaming.

--Enclosed in your packet is a timeline for the preparation of the 2023 budget. Mr. Brobst is looking forward for the opportunity to work on this budget with his new assistant. Meetings will be scheduled with the various department heads and the chair of that associated committee sometime between September 23 and October 14, 2022.

--Mr. Edward Pany, the Atlas Museum Cement Company museum curator, reports receiving a \$1,000 donation from Buzzi Unicem USA and a smaller monetary gift received from visitors.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilwoman Haldeman reported that a comparison with last year's receipts at the swimming pool: 2021 receipts totaled \$75,141 and the 2022 receipts totaled \$69,413, a drop of \$5,728. Mr. Brobst is not disappointed. It is very, very seldom that the pool shows a profit and we offer it as a recreational service to our citizens.

--All of the comments our office has received regarding the pickleball court have been favorable and very supportive. We have not yet found it necessary to enforce any time limit restrictions. It seems that the players have managed to cooperate and share.

Code and Police: Councilman Stone reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 7 PM. Earlier this year, Sean and Roseann Frantz of 1814 Northampton Avenue, had requested a variance on their front porch setback. Since that time, they have determined it would be in their best interest to extend the porch for the entire frontage of their house. They are returning to seek the additional variance.

--Code Officer Keith Knobloch and his wife Angela have welcomed a beautiful addition to their family, a bouncing baby girl Ryleigh.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Almond reported that some of the firemen reported a problem with mice at the fire station. A call was placed with J.C.Ehrlich. They are coming on Monday, August 29, 2022, to offer an opinion.

--Northampton County is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Residential Collection event. This will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 2 PM, rain or shine. Details are available on the flyer enclosed in your packet, which is posted on our bulletin board and the Borough's website. Drop-off is by appointment only; registration opens 30 days prior to the event date.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported a sewer lateral repair was completed in the area of 10th Street and Howertown Road.

--We have discovered that a good number of the catch basins located on Michael Court, Frank Drive and Jeffrey Lane appear to be of poor quality construction. A crew of public works has been remediating them so that they are much more functional.

--Work continues installing the storm water collection project on Osborne Alley.

--We have begun the process of removing dead trees and dead limbs along Laubach Avenue. This process will continue as long as we have the opportunity. We have already targeted several trees in the area of the swimming pool.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall said he was happy to that the borough signed the agreement with PP&L to convert the street lights to LED lights.

--He said that he received a complaint from Dennis Haas that 26th Street is being used as a major cut through and vehicles are flying up and down the street.

Trevor Stone said that all of the candidates were great for the assistant to the borough manager position. He said that selecting a candidate was one of the hardest decisions he had to make since being on council.

--He thanked Buzzi Unicem USA for their contribution to the Atlas museum.

Judith Haldeman said that the interviewing process was hard for the assistant to the borough manager position, adding that all of the candidates were great.

--She received a picture of the tree that collapsed and landed on the pavilion roof at Canal Street. She noticed that public works will be handling fixing the damaged roof.

--She said the orange fencing around the grove area at Canal Street looks bad and asked that public works look at it. She also referenced the split rail fence that runs along Canal Street. She said that there are several pieces that need to be replaced.

--She asked if there were any updates on the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Brobst said he hasn't received any updates.

--She noted that she was happy to see the meetings with the department heads for the 2023 budget will be scheduled soon.

Julia Kutzler thanked all of the candidates that interviewed for the assistant to the borough manager position.

Bonnie Almond congratulated Brian Welsko on his position as the assistant to the borough manager. She said it was a very difficult decision and all of the candidates were great.

--She thanked the road crew for starting the process of cutting down dead trees throughout the borough.

--She noted abandoned vehicles in Line Alley. Keith Knobalch is aware and looking into the situation.

--She said the two "No Parking" signs are still up in E. 18th Street that were to be removed. Mr. Brobst said that he gave Grey Morey the directive to remove them. He will follow up on this request.

Ronald Glassic said that the interview process was very hard for the assistant to the borough manager position. He said everyone did an outstanding job. He congratulated Brian Welsko

on his new position. He thanked the candidates that applied and interviewed.

--He referenced the sewer lateral repair that was completed in the area of 10th Street and Howertown Road. He asked Mr. Brobst why we wouldn't hire an engineer to look at situations like this. Mr. Brobst said that these repairs have always been handled in-house and noted it could be extremely costly to have engineers involved for these similar situations.

--He noted a hole that was made by the group doing the work for UGI at the area of 10th Street and Atlas Lane. He said it's a safety issue and we should have someone from the borough look at it.

--He said we have to look into how we can increase revenue at the pool.

--He thanked Mr. Brobst for finalizing the contract with PP&L for the conversion to LED lighting. He also thanked him for setting up the meetings with the department heads for the budget.

--He asked about the status of livestreaming. Mr. Brobst said that he will continue to pursue options for livestreaming. It is still a work in progress.

--He thanked the sewer plant employees for their hard work.

Ryleigh Tillotson said she would like to see the pool become a much bigger part of the borough. She said the potential is there to make it great and be a place where kids her age want to go.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. was shocked to hear about the passing of former police detective, Robert "Whitey" Lindenmoyer. He said that he worked with him for several years and he was one of the good ones. He will be missed by many.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

He reminded everyone that the police department will be doing Child Safety ID cards at the Uptown Fair on September 11th.

--He commented on the passing of Robert "Whitey" Lindenmoyer. He knew Whitey since his childhood and has many memories with him. He said he was a great person and will truly be missed by many.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Councilwoman Stone and unanimously carried to pay the bills listed on A/P Journal #9 dated September 1, 2022 totaling \$225,901.21.

Councilman Glassic questioned the payment to R&S Flooring and TuWay Communications.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary