

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:34 PM on Thursday February 17, 2022. 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 Julia Kutzler, Kenneth Hall, Judith Haldeman, Trevor Stone, Bonnie Almond, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. Junior councilperson Ryleigh Tillotson was absent. Also present were Mayor Anthony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and recording secretary Meaghan Case.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting held on January 3, 2022, and Regular Public Meeting held on January 20, 2022.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:**

**Samantha Finnigan-Liggio, 89 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Northampton, PA 18067** was present to talk about the community garden for the Food Bank. She stated that in the first year they grew 396 pounds of produce and the second year they grew 550 pounds of produce they were able to give to the Food Bank. She said that they are always looking for volunteers to help maintain the garden. They currently have a handful of people that water and weed the garden on a regular basis. They had a few girl scout troops help in the past. She also mentioned Brian Sabo of Change on Main. Brian and people from his group were a tremendous help in maintaining the garden. She asked borough council to consider allowing them to add about 25 garden beds outside of the fenced area. She said this will allow for more growing space. Last season they experienced overcrowding of several vegetables and also a rabbit's nest in the tomato plants. She also asked them to consider a small greenhouse. They would like to improve composting in the future as well. She is reaching out to the community for larger plant donations for the garden. She has estimated that the cost of the greenhouse and the foundation would be about \$2,000-\$10,000. They are asking for rain barrels with an estimated cost of \$500-\$2,000. The estimated cost for the additional garden beds is \$5,000-\$10,000. They are asking the borough to fund most of the costs.

**Veronica Laroche, Northampton Area Public Library**, was present to introduce herself as the new Director of the Library. She is excited to be here, expand upon programs and find new initiatives to help the community. She asked council members to reach out to her if they need anything.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Pristash reported that he and Chief Kadingo met with representatives of the High School in hopes to have better relations between the borough police department and the school police.

He spoke with Tina Smith at Northampton County. He said that the borough has received about \$625,000 in grant money from the County over the years. He added that there is County grant money available for certain projects and encouraged the borough to explore any possible grant opportunities.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** **Councilman Hall** reported that as of the close of business on Monday, February 14, 2022, we have received \$851,975.83 in garbage fee payments.

--Auditors from Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits LLC began the 2021 financial review on Monday, February 14, 2022.

--We have received the annual franchise fee from RCN in the amount of \$134,705.26.

--Mr. Brobst received a letter from Ilene Eckhart, township manager of Allen Township, which was also addressed to Alice Rehrig, the manager of Lehigh Township, regarding PennDOT requirements to perform a study to determine the appropriateness of a truck prohibition. Our office has received numerous complaints of truck traffic in the area of Main Street north of East 21st Street going toward Route 248. They are inviting us to participate in this venture.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** **Councilwoman Haldeman** reported that appointments are required at the recreation center for tax preparation. Just call 484 282-0767.

--At some point in the future, a representative of Michael Baker International will once again ask to make a presentation at a borough council meeting. This has to do with trail signage and other opportunities along the Nor-Bath and D&L Trails.

**Code and Police:** **Councilman Stone** reported that Code Enforcement Officer Keith Knoblach reports that as of February 14, 2022, 48.5% of the landlords have registered their rental properties. The deadline for registration is March 31, 2022.

--Newly hired police officer Joseph Britt was in our office and met those persons who will arrange the administrative portion of his employment.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Kutzler reported that Mr. Brobst received a communication from Senator Lisa Boscola's office informing us that a grant of \$15,000 has been provided to the Northampton Fire Department. This is made possible by the 2021-22 Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service (FCEMS) Grants, which are administered by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC).

--The Board of Health will meet on Tuesday, February 28, 2022, at 7 PM.

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilman Glassic reported that Saturday, February 12, 2022, into Sunday, February 13, 2022, produced a nasty little snowfall. Our crews, however, had everything under control by noon, including clearing of sidewalks.

--A crew is preparing to provide egress through a portion of land at the end of the McKeever Lane cull- de-sac. This will allow a connection to the Nor-Bath Trail.

--On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Victor Rodite and Mr. Brobst will have a virtual meeting with Amanda Ruth to consider our next step in the grant that was received to provide enhancements along the D&L Trail.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1220:**

**TITLE:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 1218, DESIGNATING PORTIONS OF STATION ALLEY AND WEST ALLEY AS ONE-WAY STREETS.

Ordinance No. 1220, having been duly advertised, is presented for adoption. This ordinance provides for "Right Turn Only" for eastbound traffic on Station Alley as it intersects Main Street.

Introduced By: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.

Seconded By: Kenneth Hall

Unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 1220 as written.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Consider Request to Attend Training Session:**

Mr. Scott Gillespie has requested permission to have Christopher Frey attend a one-day training session on electric motors for energy efficiency on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

The cost of the event is \$175 and will be held at the Kalahari Resorts & Convention Center in Pocono Manor.

**Motion:** Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to grant approval for Christopher Frey to attend a one-day training session on electric motors for energy efficiency on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

**Consider Request of Northampton Exchange Club:**

We have received a request from the Northampton Exchange Club seeking permission to hold the Northampton Community Days Fair in the Municipal Park beginning on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, and continuing through Saturday, July 9, 2022. As has been the custom in the past, a fireworks display will conclude the event on Saturday evening at 10:35 PM.

**Motion:** Trevor Stone moved, seconded Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to grant approval to the Northampton Exchange Club to hold the Northampton Community Days Fair in the Municipal Park beginning on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, through Saturday, July 9, 2022.

**Consider Request of Tri-Boro Youth Soccer Club:**

We have received the annual request from the Tri-Boro Youth Soccer Club seeking permission to use the Atlas Sports Complex between Saturday, March 12, 2022, and Sunday, June 12, 2022. They will not need the use of the restroom or snack stand and will provide their own port-a-potty for team use. In the past, they paid \$125 for the use of the field.

**Motion:** Judith Haldeman moved, seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to grant permission to Tri-Boro Youth Soccer Club to use the Atlas Sports Complex between Saturday, March 12, 2022, and Sunday, June 12, 2022.

**Consider a Short-Term Rental Ordinance:**

The solicitor has prepared a draft short-term rental ordinance for Northampton Borough. It is provided for your review and Mr. Brobst is asking for authorization for it to be advertised for adoption.

**Motion:** Julia Kutzler moved, seconded by Bonnie Almond and unanimously carried to grant permission to advertise a draft short-term rental ordinance for Northampton Borough for adoption.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Kenneth Hall** gave kudos to the public works department for clearing the streets after the recent snowfalls.

--He said the lights in town look great, changing from Valentine's to St. Patrick's.

--He asked if the public works department could have the path cleared out by the falls so you can see the flood gauge across the river near the pump station.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. agreed adding that the area has not been cleared out for years. He also asked for the brush to be trimmed at the turn by the 10<sup>th</sup> Street bridge.

**Trevor Stone** said he recently received a complaint from Mr. Wolfel of 433 McKeever Lane about people going through his yard to access the Nor-Bath Trail. He gave kudos to the public works department for starting the process of clearing out a path to access the Nor-Bath Trail from the McKeever Lane area.

**Judith Haldeman** asked for a status update on the butterfly garden at Canal Street Park. Mr. Brobst said that he and Mayor Pristash had a meeting with Lori Metz of Carriage House Landscape Design. She will be doing the project at Canal Street. Mr. Brobst said that we received a \$10,000 grant for the project.

Judith also asked about lifeguards for the pool. Mr. Brobst said that he received an email from someone at the high school who is involved with the swim team. They will be offering a swimming course at the high school. He asked her to refer those students who complete the course to our office.

**Bonnie Almond** had nothing to report.

**Julia Kutzler** said she was pleased with the completion percentage of rental unit registrations. She urged all landlords to register their properties as soon as possible.

--She reviewed the police activity for January. This included 393 dispatches, 88 incidents, 20 accidents and 19 traffic citations.

--She noted the "disruptive conduct" clause in the short-term rental ordinance. She was happy to see that included.

**Ronald Glassic** asked that Ryleigh contact Greg Morey to be involved in the placement of the convex mirror at the 900 Block of Dewey Avenue.

--He noted that the flashing stop signs were installed by the public works department at the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Howertown Road. He said he has noticed people are seeing them and stopping at the stop signs. He thanked Greg Morey for getting them installed.

--He thanked Judith Haldeman for bringing up the pool applications. He asked that we post that pool applications are available at the borough office. He asked that it is posted on our website, any social media pages and also asked the new Director of the library to post it there as well.

--He noted a sinking sewer drain on 10<sup>th</sup> Street between Atlas Lane and Howertown Road. He asked if the public works department could take a look at it.

--He thanked the volunteers for their work on the community garden, commending their efforts for donating hundreds of pounds of produce to the food bank. He suggested that they reach out to larger businesses such as Lowe's or Home Depot for possible donations of rain barrels. Kenneth Hall added that he will ask to have it posted that we are in need of lifeguards on the Community Center sign and the sign at Palermo's.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** congratulated Ronald Glassic and Trevor Stone in their efforts to create a path to the Nor-Bath Trail from the McKeever Lane area.

--He asked if the farmer's market is changing locations.

Mr. Brobst explained that on March 15<sup>th</sup> he participated in a River Central Committee meeting. It was specifically about the farmers in the area attending farmers' markets. He said that farmers are discouraged because a lot of work is involved in attending, however, it is not a profitable venture. He said there are less farmers attending smaller markets such as ours. He asked if anything is happening with the police pension. Mr. Brobst said that he should have a report for the next meeting. He said Beyer Barber is now Foster and Foster. If there are any changes in the police pension, they will be retroactive back to January 1, 2022.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

--Mr. Brobst reminded everyone about the upcoming PSAB conference from May 22<sup>nd</sup> - May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Hershey Lodge. He said possibly at the next council meeting, a voting delegate and alternate voting delegate must be chosen. In the past, the voting delegate was the Mayor but council may choose who they want.

Bonnie Almond asked what the voting delegates do. Mr. Brobst said they gather separately from the others. They vote on things such as resolutions that are created by PSAB.

Ronald Glassic asked about the status of hiring a mechanic.

Mr. Brobst said that there is one more interview scheduled for the position.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Motion:** Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Trevor Stone and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #2B, dated February 17, 2022, totaling \$255,959.76.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary