

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 5, 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, August 5, 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, Kenneth Hall, Julia Kutzler, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Ronald Glassic and Anthony Pristash. Also present were Solicitor Brian Panella, Mayor Thomas Reenock, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Alexis Soltis, 1901 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton was present to ask some questions. She asked when the Halloween parade was and why it was changed to a Saturday. She also questioned if the route has changed.

Mr. Brobst explained that the parade is sponsored by the Northampton Exchange Club and they decided having the parade on a Saturday was a better option. He explained that they will have a lot more vendors available on a Saturday and that the kids didn't have to attend school the next day. He said there is a possibility of a route change but it has not been confirmed yet by the Exchange Club. Mr. Brobst will check with them.

She asked about a street cleaning schedule and said that it should be consistent. She said if cars are parked in posted areas for street cleaning they should be ticketed. She said everyone should have to follow the rules.

Mr. Brobst said he would discuss her concerns with Chief Kadingo.

She suggested that there should be another plan in place if officers aren't available during street cleaning such as the street sweeper having a camera to show anyone whose car was not moved. They can forward this information to the police department and they can ticket accordingly.

Ronald Glassic added that this was a great suggestion and thanked her for bringing a possible solution to a problem.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. stated that if complaints are filed for certain situations, keep in mind that you may have to appear in court to testify.

Consider Request of Northampton Area School District:

We have received a request from the Northampton Area School District- Siegfried School to conduct a color run on either Sunday, September 12, 2021, or Sunday, September 19, 2021. The race would be run primarily on school property. However, they would need traffic control at Laubach Avenue and Al Erdosy Drive. They have done this in the past. However, this is the first time they have a different race course.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Ronald Glassic and unanimously carried to grant approval to the Northampton Area School District- Siegfried School to conduct a color run on Sunday, September 19, 2021.

Consider Retirement Request:

We have received a written request from the public works mechanic, Stephen Kiss, to retire effective September 30, 2021. He has been a valued employee for 33 years.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Stephen Kiss.

Consider Request of Northampton Fire Department:

The fire department is requesting permission to hold a pool party/training session at the municipal pool on either August 16, 2021, or August 23, 2021, depending on the final operation at the pool. They would begin their festivities at 7 PM and with all of the rescue personnel in the department, lifeguards would not be needed. Alcohol will not be permitted.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission for the fire department to hold a pool party/training session at the municipal pool on August 16, 2021.

Consider Request to Attend Training Course:

We have received a request to have Officer Dennis Smith attend a taser instructor class at Lehigh Township Police Department on Thursday, September 2, 2021. The cost of the course is \$375.00.

Motion: A motion was made by Ronald Glassic, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to Officer Dennis Smith to attend a taser instructor class at Lehigh Township Police Department on Thursday, September 2, 2021.

Consider Resignation of Borough Council Member:

While checking back through the minutes, Mr. Brobst realized that Council never officially accepted the resignation of former Councilman Robert McHale, effective June 30, 2021. To keep the record straight, this should be done at this time.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. duly seconded by Kenneth

Hall and unanimously accepted the resignation of former Councilman Robert McHale, effective June 30, 2021.

Introduction of Potential Council Candidate:

We have received an application to fill Mr. McHale's vacant seat from Mr. Trevor Stone of 405 McKeever Lane. I have invited him to introduce himself to Council and answer any questions that you may have.

Mr. Trevor Stone was present to introduce himself to council. He has been a borough resident since 1995. Julia Kutzler asked him why he wanted to serve on council. He was interested in serving on borough council to better serve the community. He said that it's important to listen to the public so we can come together to find a resolution. Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. thanked him for his introduction.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-21

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON (BOROUGH) APPOINTING A DULY QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF THE THIRD WARD TO FILL A VACANCY ON BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Resolution No. 6-21 will officially appoint the person selected to fill the Third Ward vacancy.

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash

Seconded By: Julia Kutzler

Resolution No. 6-21 passed unanimously.

Swearing In of Newly Appointed Council Member:

Mr. Trevor Stone took his seat on borough council as a third ward councilman after being sworn in by Mayor Thomas Reenock.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that Mr. Edward Pany reported meeting with Ms. Andrea Miller of CNBC who offered to prepare a video presentation to be aired on CNBC reviewing the history of the cement industry in the Lehigh Valley and the Atlas Cement plant in particular.

--The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has prepared a survey for the communities involved in the River Central program. Enclosed in your packet are directions for completing the survey. We have had a poor response to this point in time and for any survey to be effective, it is dependent on a sufficient pool of responses. Please take the time to complete the survey,

--On Wednesday, August 4, 2021, members of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission will be at the Borough office, and Mr. Brobst will conduct them on a tour of those places within the community of which he is most proud and those places that need improvement. The tour will last approximately two hours.

--Treasurer Mary Ellen Handlon has been informed that our application for federal funding through the American Rescue Plan was approved on July 16, 2021. We can anticipate receiving the first half of our allocation within two weeks. The other half will come in July of 2022.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that enclosed in your packet is a flier promoting the Uptown Street Fair that will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Please allow yourself the opportunity to take part in this wonderful annual event.

--As of Tuesday, July 27, 2021, pool receipts were \$69,809. This has been a banner year for the swimming pool despite some early difficulties. The pool staff is to be commended for a smooth operation.

--On Thursday, July 29, 2021, he met with a group of concerned citizens regarding the Canal Street Park situation. Also in attendance were Police Chief Bryan Kadingo, Patrolman Emanuel Torres, and Mr Brobst. Hopefully, this is a starting step towards a resolution of a difficult situation. Mr. Pristash added that he is looking for immediate action and results for the residents of the borough. He said they are also having the Solicitor review and update many of the borough ordinances. Members of the group have reached out to other boroughs/municipalities for feedback on similar situations and also the Fish and Game Commission. Mr. Pristash referenced an email received from the Lehigh Valley Rose Society about them looking for a plot of land to create a rose garden. He said this would be a perfect opportunity to have a rose garden in the grove area of Canal Street Park with minimal or no cost to the borough and maintenance of the garden would be handled by the Lehigh Valley Rose Society.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash duly seconded by Ronald Glassic, and unanimously carried to close the grove area of Canal Street Park until further notice.

He added that a rose garden could be a great attraction to the borough and can be used for wedding photos just like the rose garden in Allentown. He thanked everyone for their participation and involvement in the meetings and research; especially Sue Hall, Jason Donahue and Sal Zangari.

--On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, Victor Rodite and Mr. Brobst participated in a conference call with a representative of Michael Baker International. They reviewed their standard contract and a timeline to proceed.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that the Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, to consider preliminary and possible final approval to Phases V and VI of Quarry Hill Estates. This meeting was originally scheduled for July but was postponed at the developer's request.

--The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Thursday, August 12, 2021, to consider two appeals. The first request comes from Douglas D. Delabar and Jordan M. Jones of 38 Main Street. They are requesting a variance to conduct a home occupation.

The second request is from Richard Yost of RGM Land Holdings LLC for property located at 65 West 21st Street. He is looking for a special use to conduct a construction material recycling yard in an I-2 Industrial District.

--A memo was sent to members of the police bargaining unit outlining the changes discussed with the police committee. Mr. Brobst is awaiting a response to prepare a final contract for their review. The committee is encouraged by the officers' cooperation.

--The Planning Commission still has a vacant seat available. Applications are available at the Borough office.

--On Thursday, July 29, 2021, Mr. David Shields of KeyCodes met with our zoning officer, Juliann Edelman, and Mr. Brobst. The purpose of the meeting was to review our processes and their responses.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that Health Inspector Ted Veresink is continuing his inspections of eating and food establishments. All have satisfactorily met his expectations.

--She also welcomed Rita's and the new antique store, Grandpa's Attic to the borough.

--She added that the fire department had 371 responses/incidents to date.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Glassic reported that Mr. Brobst received a call from township manager Ilene Eckhart of Allen Township offering members of our public works department an opportunity to participate in a flagger workshop to be conducted at the township fire station on Monday, August 9, 2021. He has passed this on to the public works supervisor, Gregory Morey. We will see to the training of anyone who has yet to complete the course.

--The public works department has completed the installation of a storm sewer along East 12th Street.

--The paving crew continues with some of the small jobs that can be easily accomplished. Ridge Alley from Station Alley to East 22nd Street is next on the agenda.

--We have received notification from DEP encouraging us to meet with Allen Township to discuss each municipality's Act 537 Plan. Mr. Brobst spoke with our environmental engineers, who, in turn, spoke with Allen Township's environmental engineer, to facilitate this process. He also informed Allen Township of our progress.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall said that the fireman's parade was a huge success at the Community Days event.

--He asked Mr. Brobst if we could put in a request to have the trees trimmed back at 23rd Street and Dewey Avenue.

--He mentioned that trash collection has not been good as of recent.

--He didn't realize how bad UGI is until they started working in his area. He said it was a complete mess for almost 2 weeks with equipment and pipes everywhere on the street. He is glad the work is almost done in his area. He added that Greg Morey is doing a great job overseeing the work of UGI's contractors.

--He said the speeding on Station Alley has slowed down a little bit but said people are ignoring the "Do Not Enter" sign. Julia Kutzler asked if we could put flashing red lights on the "Do Not Enter" sign.

Mayor Reenock asked if UGI is still working on Route 329. Mr. Brobst said yes, they are. There are three different contracting groups completing three different processes. One does the initial street cut to open up the line, one replaces the old gas line(s) and the last group fills in the trench and puts down a temporary patch.

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

Solicitor Panella welcomed Trevor Stone to borough council.

--He also informed everyone that he and his office are in the process of updating several of the borough ordinances.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. welcomed Trevor Stone to borough council.

Anthony Pristash welcomed Trevor Stone to borough council.

--He talked about Daniel Roebuck's new movie, "Hail Mary". He said their crew shot scenes for the movie at the Alliance Fire Hall. He thanked Todd Csencsits of the Alliance Fire Hall for being a huge help and accommodating their needs. He said they are currently at the Seminary in Lehigh Township and they will be coming to the Northampton Diner to film other scenes of the movie. He said Mr. Roebuck himself actually knocked on neighbors' doors to apologize for any inconvenience while filming the movie.

--He is proud of what has been accomplished so far at the Canal Street grove area and is hopeful it will only get better from here.

Julia Kutzler said that the community garden has produced over 100 pounds of fresh produce for the Northampton Food Bank.

--She loves the idea for a rose garden at the Canal Street grove area. She added that the volunteers at Change on Main would be happy to help.

--She mentioned three properties in the borough that have weeds and accumulation of trash/items. She directed these complaints to Sal Zangari, part-time code officer, who was present in the audience. She also asked him the status of 2424 Dewey Avenue, a property with a rat infestation. He explained to her that Keith Knoblach, and an inspector from

KeyCodes were there to assess the property after obtaining an administrative search warrant. From what the KeyCodes inspector saw from the entrance, he deemed the property structurally unsafe and advised that they do not enter the property. The property owner was sent a letter and a violation notice that they had to obtain a structural engineer within a certain amount of time to assess the property. Mr. Zangari also said that Ehrlich was contracted to set bait/traps at the surrounding properties to kill the rats.

--Mrs. Kutzler also said to Mr. Zangari that there are a lot of properties that need attention in the borough and that Mr. Knoblach needs help addressing these issues. She told him to "get on it". Mr. Zangari said that per Mr. Knoblach, he is to focus on rental inspections and Mr. Knoblach would handle all code complaints.

Ronald Glassic thanked Keith and Sal for their work on the weed complaints. They have written over 300 notices so far.

--He informed everyone that he learned that private pools are being rented out in the borough.

--He said there is lots of work to be done in the borough but we are heading in the right direction.

--He mentioned the possibility of fencing being put around the pump stations for safety.

--He referenced the amount of tractor trailers traveling on Howertown Road. He added that in 3 days he saw 14 tractor trailers.

--He thanked me for answering questions about our trash haulers, Republic Services. They have been inconsistent in picking up trash/recycling on their scheduled days. Per our contract, we can back charge them \$25.00 for every missed pick-up. We also have a 10% bid bond that we may hold if service does not get better in the borough.

--He thanked Anthony Pritash for all of his work on Canal Street. He also thanked everyone involved. He apologized to the residents for having to deal with this for over 10 years. He said we are moving forward and he is hopeful for a resolution to this ongoing problem.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. thanked council members for their increased passion and interest on issues in the borough.

--He thanked Stephen Kiss for his service to the borough, adding he hopes we can find someone as good as him.

--He asked that the "Right Turn Only" sign be placed at Station Alley as soon as possible.

Julia Kutzler added that the sidewalks/concrete are terrible at PNC Bank and asked that the code office send them a letter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that due to staffing issues, the pool will be closed August 10th – August 13th. It will be open on August 14th and the last day will be August 17th.

--He welcomed Trevor Stone and Ronald Glassic to borough council.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #7B, dated July 29, 2021, totaling \$378,755.86 and A/P Journal #8, dated August 5, 2021, totaling \$75,738.60.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary