

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
JULY 21, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:30 PM on Thursday July 21, 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., Kenneth Hall, Trevor Stone, Judith Haldeman, Bonnie Almond, Julia Kutzler, Ronald Glassic, Anthony Lopsonzski Sr. Junior council person Ryleigh Tillotson was absent. Also present were Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Mayor Anthony Pristash, Solicitor Brian Panella, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary Meaghan Case.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:**

Candi Lynn, organizer of Paw Prints on the Canal, was in attendance to present a check in the amount of \$9,524 to the Northampton Borough Police K-9 Unit. This was their 13<sup>th</sup> annual event. They had a total of 179 vendors, most ever to date. Over the past 13 years they raised a total of \$76,157.55. This is by the far the largest event held in the borough.

Councilman Glassic asked how long it takes to prepare for the event. She said it's about a 6-8 month planning process. Candi Lynn added that this year they had parking passes which made things a lot easier. She added that they are always looking for volunteers, especially for setting up the day of.

All members of council congratulated her and everyone involved in the event. The police department is always very appreciative of this donation to the K-9 Unit.

**Consider Request to Hire a Full-Time Police Officer:**

Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has submitted a recommendation to hire part-time police officer Aaron Koehler to a full-time position as a patrolman for the police department. Officer Koehler is on the Civil Service eligibility list as the next available candidate.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. duly seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to hire part-time police officer Aaron Koehler to a full-time position as a patrolman for the police department.

Officer Aaron Koehler was sworn in by Mayor Anthony Pristash.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Pristash thanked Candi Lynn and everyone involved in Paw Prints on the Canal. He said it's always an outstanding event.

--He commended council members for a wonderful job conducting interviews for the Assistant to the Borough Manager position.

--He acknowledged that the Northampton High School softball team was named Team of the Year. He added that Kiara Zamadics was named Pitcher of the Year.

--He said it's great to see Taylor Roasted Coffee House open after being closed for about two years.

--He mentioned that the Gin Mill experienced a recent accident, out front where the outside dining area is located, destroying their tables and chairs. He noted that they were very busy and so many people came out on July 20<sup>th</sup> to patronize the business.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Solicitor Panella** reported that things are moving forward in the process of taking over the property at 107/109 Laubach Avenue.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** **Councilman Hall** reported that Mr. Ed Pany is proud to report that Lafarge Cement has made a \$2,000 donation to the Atlas Cement Memorial Museum. They have been a strong supporter for 25 years.

--We have received 75% of the 2021 PA Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) surplus in the amount of \$168,488.20. Sometime later this year, we can anticipate receiving an additional \$56,163.

--On Monday, July 18, 2022, Mr. Brobst attended a Zoom freight and transportation webinar conducted jointly by Northampton County and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. He found the meeting informative and lodged one concern - mainly trucks on our local roads. Another meeting will be conducted in the fall of this year.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** **Councilwoman Haldeman** reported that due to a lifeguard staff shortage, we will not be able to operate the pool on Saturday, July 23, 2022, and Sunday, July 24, 2022. This is the first occasion that we have been forced to close this

year. Looking ahead to the schedule, it should be the only time. The last day of operation will be Saturday, August 20, 2022.

--The pickleball court has been completed and is available for use at the Canal Street Park. Dependent on the demand, plans have been created for the issuing of permits with a fee. The overall cost of construction was in excess of \$12,000. This was an unbudgeted expense.

**Code and Police:** Councilman Stone reported that the Zoning Hearing Board met on Thursday, July 14, 2022, to hear the appeal of Sean and Roseann Frantz to construct a front porch on their property that exceeds the front yard setback. Their request was unanimously granted.

--If you have noticed, all of the parking meters throughout the Borough had been removed and were tested by Northampton County Weights and Measures. As of this date, they have been returned and reinstalled.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Kutzler reported that Fire Chief Keith Knobloch reports that the Firemen's Parade held in conjunction with Community Days was a success. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

--Enclosed in your packet is the health officer's report for the month of June.

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilman Glassic reported that enclosed in your packet is a copy of the analysis of the impact of the water treatment plant on the sludge issue at the wastewater treatment plant. This study was completed in December of 2021 and provides an insight to one of the problems we face at the plant.

--Paving is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, on Barrington Drive. There was a problem with the curbing and driveway of one of the properties that had to be corrected, delaying the process.

--A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2022, with NBMA manager Stephen Kerbacher, water treatment plant supervisor Marty Hozza, Steven Urban of the wastewater treatment plant and Mr. Brobst. Discussion will be regarding mutual concerns.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Consider Request of Northampton Area School District:**

We have received a request from the Northampton Area School District to allow the recreation center to be used as a temporary mass sheltering facility for the 2022-23 school year. This is similar to arrangements that have been made for the last decade.

Councilwoman Kutzler suggested they use the Community Center since it's closer to the school.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilman Glassic and carried to grant permission to the Northampton Area School District to allow the recreation center to be used as a temporary mass sheltering facility for the 2022-23 school year.  
Councilwoman Kutzler voted against this motion.

**Consider Request of St. Paul's United Church of Christ:**

St. Paul's United Church of Christ is seeking permission to use Municipal Park Pavilion "A" on Sunday, August 14, 2022, for a service and a picnic. They have also asked that the rental fee be waived for the church.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Almond, duly seconded by Councilman Stone, and unanimously carried to grant the request of St. Paul's United Church of Christ to use Municipal Park Pavilion "A" on Sunday, August 14, 2022, for a service and a picnic, waiving any rental fees.

**Consider Request of Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church:**

We have received a request from Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church located at 14<sup>th</sup> & Washington Avenue to designate the south side of 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Washington Avenue and Line Alley as having restricted parking. The congregation meets on the third Sunday of each month and they would like the signs to read "Church Parking Only Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month from 9 AM to 12 PM."

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilman Hall.  
Council members brought up the concern of this taking away on street parking from an already congested area.

A roll call vote was necessary.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Anthony Lopsonski, Sr.	YES	Ronald Glassic	YES
Kenneth Hall	YES	Julia Kutzler	NO
Bonnie Almond	NO	Judith Haldeman	NO
Trevor Stone	NO	Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr.	YES

Due to a tie vote, Mayor Pristash is the deciding vote. He voted no against this motion. The motion was defeated.

**Consider Request to Conduct Wheels on the Canal:**

We have received a request from the sponsor of Wheels on the Canal to reserve the use of the Canal Street Park, as well as the portable band trailer, on Saturday, May 20, 2023, with a rain date of Sunday, May 21, 2023. This event has been held for the last number of years and benefits two veterans' organizations: Mission 22 and Blue Star Mothers -Lehigh Valley Chapter #201. They have requested that any and all fees be waived.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Councilman Stone, and unanimously carried to grant the request of the sponsor of Wheels on the Canal to reserve the use of the Canal Street Park, as well as the portable band trailer, on Saturday, May 20, 2023, with a rain date of Sunday, May 21, 2023, waiving any and all fees.

**Permission to Enter Into a Sewer Discussion:**

We have received a sewer planning module for the proposed construction of a new school facility in the area of Route 329 and Seemsville Road in East Allen Township. The request is for 13 EDU's, but since the facility is to be located in East Allen Township and underground transmission of the waste passes through Allen Township, an inter-municipal agreement would need to be addressed by East Allen Township, Allen Township and Northampton Borough. Mr. Brobst is requesting permission to enter into discussion to try and establish this arrangement. Members of the public works and sewer committee are also welcomed to participate.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked where these 13 additional EDU's will appear from. Judith Haldeman asked if we could table this until we are sure these additional EDU's can be accommodated.

Mr. Brobst explained that the fees for the EDU's are a set price: \$5,070.00 for the sewer tap in fee and \$25.00 for the permit fee. He is only looking for permission to enter into discussion to try and establish an inter-municipal agreement between East Allen Township, Allen Township and Northampton Borough. Any and all information will be given to Gilmore & Associates, the borough's engineer, for review. They will determine if we can accommodate these 13 additional EDU's.

A roll call vote was necessary.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.	YES	Kenneth Hall	YES
Bonnie Almond	NO	Trevor Stone	YES

Ronald Glassic	YES	Julia Kutzler	NO
Judith Haldeman	NO	Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr.	YES

With a 5-3 vote in favor, the motion passed.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr., and carried to grant permission for Mr. Brobst to enter into discussion to try and establish an inter-municipal agreement between East Allen Township, Allen Township and Northampton Borough for 13 EDU’s for the proposed construction of a new school facility in the area of Route 329 and Seemsville Road in East Allen Township.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Kenneth Hall** addressed the manhole cover on Route 329 in the area of Lincoln Avenue saying that it was not laying properly. Mr. Brobst said it has been fixed and has been properly pinned down.

--He questioned cars parking along yellow painted curbing. Both Chief Kadingo and Mr. Brobst explained that yellow painted curbing is only a “guideline” and is not enforceable as illegal parking. He asked if yellow curbing throughout the borough will be repainted. Mr. Brobst said that public works has started painting in some areas and they will continue as time allows.

--He referenced several alleys with cars parked on both sides, not allowing enough room for vehicles to pass by.

**Trevor Stone** said he was disappointed the pool will be closed on July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. He also received comments of paint chips floating in the pool. Mr. Brobst will speak to the staff and have them vacuum the pool. He also added that the inside of the pool is usually painted every two years. This year the entire outside of the building and the bathhouses were painted. Next year the inside of the pool will be painted.

**Judith Haldeman** said she was disappointed that the pool will be closed on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. She hopes that in the future they can plan better to avoid having to close the pool.

--She referenced several areas in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward and along Main Street with high grass and weeds.

--She suggested installing cameras at the pickleball court. She said it’s brand new and a great asset to the borough. She doesn’t want to see it ruined.

**Bonnie Almond** said she was happy to see another full-time police officer added to the police force.

--She took her grandkids to the pool recently and said they had such a nice time. Her grandkids really enjoyed it.

--She recently toured the Northampton Historical Society and said she was very impressed. She found it interesting and informative and encouraged everyone to visit.

--She asked when the no longer needed "No Parking" signs will be removed on E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Brobst said the request to remove them will be on the next agenda.

**Julia Kutzler** gave thanks and congratulations to Candi Lynn for her efforts and success of Paw Prints on the Canal. She said it helps the budget and the police department is very grateful for the donation.

--She reviewed the monthly police reports for June.

--She agreed with Councilwoman Haldeman in reference to several properties with high grass and weeds. It makes her crazy. She would like the code office to keep up with sending notices to those in violation.

**Ronald Glassic** asked if there was anything we could do to keep the pool open on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Brobst said unfortunately without sufficient staffing the pool can't open.

--He mentioned rolling curbs in the area of 10<sup>th</sup> Street with various heights and asked if they can be looked at before UGI does the final paving after replacing the gas lines. He said UGI started off great but lately the work has been less than satisfactory.

--He referenced several properties with overgrown shrubs out into the sidewalks and high grass/weeds. He would like the code office to keep up with the properties in violation.

--He asked if the sewer plant staff would consider working a 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. He said the actuator that failed has been repaired.

--He asked about the status of live streaming the meetings. Mr. Brobst said it is still a work in progress.

--He commended Candi Lynn and all involved on a very successful Paw Prints on the Canal event.

--He congratulated Officer Aaron Koehler on his full-time position.

--He attended the fundraiser at Rita's for the fire department. He enjoyed it and said it was well attended.

**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** said the public works department did an outstanding job on the pickleball court. He hopes people will be respectful, he does not want to see it destroyed. He likes the idea of passes or permits to keep it regulated.

--He mentioned the deterioration of curbing and sidewalks throughout the borough. He remembers years ago there was funding available to help pay for the repairs. He asked if we could look into any funding or grants currently available.

--He thanked Solicitor Panella for his diligent work on the 107/109 Laubach Avenue property. He would love to see that area turned into a tourist bureau for the borough.

--Since the pool will be closed on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, he suggested having the fire department spray the kids with the hoses on the fire trucks.

--He expressed how proud he is of our emergency services and all departments within the borough. He added that the kids were so excited that several police officers played volleyball

with them at Community Days. He said every organization is only as good as it's leaders and we have many great ones in the borough.

--He also referenced several properties with overgrown bushes blocking parts of the sidewalks. He said the code office needs to take more incentive to correct these violations.

--He said the high school athletes had one hell of a year in every sport and deserve a parade.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Brobst had nothing to report.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Motion:** Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Councilwoman Almond and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #7A, dated July 21, 2022, totaling \$430,313.92.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Councilman Hall, duly seconded by Councilman Stone and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary