

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 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, February 4, 2021. The meeting was held via ZOOM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present at roll call were: President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., Vice President Keith Piescienski, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Thomas Gehringer, Kenneth Hall, Julia Kutzler and Robert McHale. Also present were Mayor Reenock, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Bonnie Almond, 1411 Main Street, Northampton, PA 18067 was present to give kudos to the public works department for a great job on the snow removal on Main Street.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 1218

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

Ordinance No. 1218 establishes portions of Station Alley and West alley as one-way streets. Station Alley would be one-way east from West Alley to Main Street and West Alley would be one-way north from West 215t Street to Station Alley.

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash

Seconded By: Robert McHale

Ordinance No. 1218 passed.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. voted against this ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS:**RESOLUTION NO. 4-21****TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO ENTER INTO A PROPERTY SALE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

Resolution No. 4-21 agrees to sell a small area of property to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the sum of \$21,900. Attorney Goudsouzian reviewed the offer and found it satisfactory.

Introduced By: Robert McHale

Seconded By: Kenneth Hall

Ordinance No. 4-21 passed unanimously.

Consider Request to Hire a Full-Time Police Officer:

Mr. Geoffrey Perry is listed on the Civil Service eligibility list and with the retirement of Officer Glenn Deist, Chief Kadingo recommends that he be offered a full-time position as a patrolman.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to approve Chief Kadingo to offer Mr. Geoffrey Perry a full-time position as a patrolman.

Consider Request to Hire a Part-Time Police Officer:

Police Chief Bryan Kadingo recommends that Council hire Ahmed Elkadousy as a part-time police officer. He has already obtained his M.P.O.E.T.C. number and will simply require Borough departmental training.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to approve hiring Ahmed Elkadousy as a part-time police officer.

Approval of the Freepoint Energy Solutions Agreement:

Mr. Brobst is requesting Council's approval of the electric supply agreement that he executed with Freepoint Energy Solutions. In so doing, he followed the same procedure that he and his predecessor, Gene Zarayko, did in the past. In the future, it is understood that this will be reviewed for Council action prior to signing the agreement.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and unanimously carried to approve the electric supply agreement that Mr.

Brobst executed with Freepoint Energy Solutions.

Robert McHale abstained from this motion.

Appointment to UCC Board of Appeals:

We have received an application from Joseph Billy to serve on the UCC Board of Appeals. Currently, there are four vacancies. Mr. Billy would fill one of them.

Motion: A motion was made by Kenneth Hall, duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and carried to appoint Joseph Billy to serve on the UCC Board of Appeals for a five-year term.

Consider Request to Hold Shredding Event:

Representative Zach Mako is proposing to conduct a paper shredding event on April 10, 2021 from 10 AM until 12 Noon, at the Northampton Memorial Community Center. He is also requesting that we pay \$550 towards the event for the truck rental. These events have always been successful in the past and we can apply the tonnage toward our recycling performance credit.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to approve Representative Zach Mako to conduct a paper shredding event on April 10, 2021 from 10 AM until 12 Noon, at the Northampton Memorial Community Center.

Consider Request for No Parking Zone:

Chief Kadingo has prepared a recommendation at Mr. Brobst's suggestion to designate a portion of the west side of Segal Court 85 feet south of West 14th Street as "No Parking Here to Corner." The area already has a limited prohibition for parking. However, it is not enough for the garbage truck to make the turn.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to approve to designate a portion of the west side of Segal Court 85 feet south of West 14th Street as "No Parking Here to Corner."

Approval of Community Center Agreement and Lease Addendum:

You may recall at the last Council meeting Mr. Brobst suggested that with the increase in the premium for building coverage, it was to be charged to the Northampton Memorial Community Center Board of Directors. Perhaps an arrangement could be made to insure the building through the Borough's carrier, MRM, at a savings and have the premium cost reimbursed by the center. The solicitor has prepared an agreement and lease addendum. To enable this to happen would require Council's approval. Exhibit A is a copy of the 2018 agreement, which is 16 pages long. In an effort to save paper, he did not include it. However, the solicitor can verify that the only changes that were made are those as listed on the addendum.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer and carried to approve to insure the Community Center building through the Borough's carrier, MRM, at a savings and have the premium cost reimbursed by the center. This would also approve the agreement and lease addendum prepared by the solicitor between the Borough of Northampton and the Northampton Memorial Community Center.

Julia Kutzler asked who owned the Community Center building. Mr. Brobst said the building is owned by the borough.

Robert McHale asked what the original lease agreement date was. Mr. Brobst said the original lease lapsed some time in 2012 and was updated February 8, 2018. This lease agreement was effective June 1, 2012 until May 31, 2024.

Mr. McHale asked if this was ever presented and approved by council. It was not.

Mr. McHale asked that from this point forward an order of process be followed.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that despite the weather, people continue to make garbage payments.

--The office was closed on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, as a snow day. Traveling from the outlying communities was next to impossible. Mr. Brobst spoke with Council President Lopsonzski and he was in agreement that we should keep the office closed. Everyone returned to work as normal on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

--Mr. Brobst has been informed by a representative of PA DCED that our second grant application for the MS4 project was not considered. However, he told me that we can reapply in May of this year and he felt very confident that our second grant for \$200,000 would be approved. Only time will tell.

--The River Central Committee will meet virtually on Tuesday, February 9, at 5:00 PM. Mr. Brobst plans to dial in.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that Mr. Brobst wanted to thank Fire Chief Knobloch and one of his volunteers, Angel Maury, for removing a dangerous snow and ice overhang from the front of the Borough office. It came down like a regular avalanche.

--The recreation center was closed for a few days through the snow event but is back to a normal operation.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that enclosed in your packets is a letter prepared by our solicitor dealing specifically with the blighted property located in the 100 block of Laubach Avenue.

--We received a letter from a resident in the 1300 block of Newport Avenue regarding handicapped parking.

--The police have been very busy during the past snow storm encouraging the residents to refrain from throwing snow back into the street. Their cooperation is appreciated.

--Enclosed in your packets are the December and 2020 year end police reports.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that enclosed in your packets is an announcement of a virtual roundtable discussion regarding the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine. This event is sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and will occur from 5-6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Registration is free and the website is listed on the announcement.

--Enclosed in your packets are the health officer reports for November/December 2020 and January 2021. Also included are the minutes from the Board of Health meeting that was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

--The Annual Report of the Board of Health has been prepared and submitted as required by the PA Department of Health. Mr. Brobst has a copy in his possession should anyone wish to have a copy.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman McHale reported that THIRTY-ONE INCHES OF SNOW has a way of testing even the most battle-hardened employee. Mr. Brobst thought our crews did a commendable job. Anyone who would disagree never had to drive and manage 2½ feet of snow.

--Work at the main pump station upgrade was slowed somewhat by the weather but as of Wednesday, February 3, 2021, a crew was back on site.

--Enclosed in your packets is an outline for creating a storm water management fee prepared by Councilman McHale. It appears to be well structured and well thought out.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall gave kudos to the public works department for a great job on snow removal.

--He said it was nice to see the lights up for Valentine's Day.

Robert McHale congratulated Officer Perry and welcomed him to the Borough.

Keith Piescienski gave kudos to the public works department for a great job on snow removal. He added that this was one of the worst snowstorms of his lifetime.

Anthony Pristash gave kudos to the public works crew adding that they did a great job with snow removal.

Julia Kutzler said that she spoke with fire chief Knoblach and Ken Hall. She is asking that borough residents and businesses that are able to; shovel snow away from fire hydrants. She added that the fire department reported two significant incidents. Fire department personnel went door to door to check residences in a certain area. No evacuations were necessary.

--She thanked the public works department for their snow removal efforts in the borough.

--She mentioned that she is seeing a lot of criticism about borough departments on social

media. She asked that everyone ignore the comments. She added that all of our borough departments do a great job and are second to none.

--She said that "People Standing Up" will be meeting to discuss plans for the community garden. She asked Mr. Brobst if there were any grant opportunities for the community garden and also asked him to attend their next meeting at Change on Main. Mr. Brobst said he would be happy to attend the meeting.

--She welcomed both of the new police officers to the borough.

--She thanked Robert McHale for his research on the possibility of a storm water fee and said that she would be honored to work with him and be on the committee.

Thomas Gehringer thanked the public works department for a job well done with the snow removal. He also thanked the police department and fire department. He said they all do a great job and thanked them all for their service to the community.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. said that the public works crew did a hell of job with snow plowing. He mentioned that he saw people shoveling snow in the street and asked everyone to spread the word that it's illegal and they could be cited.

--He said we have a great group of workers in the borough in all departments.

--He asked Solicitor Goudsouzian about the status of 105/107 Laubach Avenue. Solicitor Goudsouzian said that he is looking into the legal process of the Borough taking over the property. Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. thanked him and said we need to move forward and get something done with the property, adding that he retired as a police officer in 2005 and the property has been an eyesore since then.

--He suggested that if possible, he would like to see trees planted in areas throughout the borough.

--He asked if there was any finalizing of permits at Canal Street in the grove area. He suggested that a certain area be marked off as rental space and signs should be posted.

--He welcomed Joseph Billy to the Board of Appeals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that he is excited to meet the Director of Change on Main adding that they are a valuable source of volunteer help in the community.

--He sent letters to the residents that may be impacted by the upcoming MS4 Project.

--He said the public works crew did a great job with snow plowing. He said God bless them all. He said he has a soft spot for that job, it's not easy by any means.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. asked Mr. Brobst if public works could possibly remove the "igloos" around the corners at intersections. Mr. Brobst said he will ask them to remove the snow and added that it will have to be done with a smaller truck.

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 #2, dated January 25, 2021, totaling \$38,182.23.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary