

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
March 7, 2019**

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 7, 2019. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present at roll call were: Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., Keith Piescienski, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Julia Kutzler, Edward Pany, Kenneth Hall 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:

David Haberacker, 109 Candlewycke Lane, Northampton, was present to complain about the fences installed on borough property in the vicinity of his home. He stated that this has been going on for a year and a half and there has been no solution. He also asked council to reconsider the format of the meetings so the public can speak during or at the end of the meetings.

Mr. McHale stated that the borough solicitor will look into this from a liability standpoint. He hopes to bring some closure to the situation.

Council President, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., stated that all boroughs/municipalities have different agenda formats. Some have an open comment section at the end of their meetings. He also asked for an executive session before the next council meeting scheduled on March 21, 2019.

Brian Sabo, Program Director of Change on Main, 1830 Main Street, Suite 3, Northampton, was present to introduce himself and the new program that is located in the borough. The program offers help to people in recovery, assisting with things such as access to computers for job searches and resume writing. Mr. Sabo offered volunteer work to clean up the parks in the borough on April 18th, May 4th and May 18th, to give back to the community.

Mrs. Kutzler commended Brian for his amazing work in the community.

John Yurish, 1307 Washington Avenue, Northampton was present to ask who is in the old bridal shop on 21st Street. He also asked how bad the pot holes have to get at the intersection of 21st and Main Street before PennDOT does something to fix them. Mr. Brobst explained that we can't make PennDot do anything. He stated that our public works department has patched and repaired some areas over the last few months but said it is not the borough's responsibility to correct these issues on a state road.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-19:**TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

Resolution No. 5-19 authorizes the application for a traffic signal permit to reactivate two speed monitoring signs and to install two additional signs.

Introduced By: Edward Pany
 Seconded By: Anthony Pristash

Unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 5-19 as written.

Consider Proposal for Electrical Work in Municipal Park:

The Northampton Exchange Club has offered to provide some electrical upgrades in the Municipal Park. In the long run, this would provide better electric services to our guests as well as aid the Northampton Exchange Club with Community Days' celebrations.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Northampton Exchange Club to provide some electrical upgrades in the Municipal Park.

Consider Request of Lehigh Township Fire Company:

We have received a request from the Lehigh Township fire police captain seeking assistance from our fire police on Saturday, March 23, 2019. The Lehigh Township Fire Department is holding their annual Sportsman Night and would need their assistance between 3 and 6 PM.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission for assistance from our fire police on Saturday, March 23, 2019 for Lehigh Township Fire Department's annual Sportsman Night between 3 and 6 PM.

Consider Request of First Baptist Church:

We have received a request from Dr. Charles Reed, the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Allentown. They are seeking permission to hold their Rally Day picnic on Sunday, September 8, 2019 in the Municipal Park. They are requesting a waiver of fees for both "A" and "B" pavilions.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Robert McHale and unanimously carried to grant permission to First Baptist Church of Allentown to hold their Rally Day picnic on Sunday, September 8, 2019, in the Municipal Park, with a waiver of fees for both "A" and "B" pavilions. Julia Kutzler abstained from this motion.

Consider Approvals of Comprehensive Action Plan:

The Northampton Planning Commission is recommending that Council accept Action Plan 2019 to 2023 as listed on the community planner's written report. Accepting the Action Plan by motion establishes all six priorities as they were listed.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert McHale, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to accept Action Plan 2019 to 2023 as listed on the community planner's written report.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. reported that we have been notified by the PA Department of Transportation that our 2019 Liquid Fuels allocation will be \$311,620.65.

--Mr. Pany reports the Atlas Cement Company Memorial Museum received a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Buzzi Unicem USA.

--One month remains before unpaid garbage accounts are subject to a 10% penalty. As of March 1, we have received in excess of \$853,000.

--We have created a sewer investment account with PLGIT in which the funds we received from Allen Township at the close of 2016 will earn 2.5% interest. The account provides two withdrawals per month and can be closed out with no penalty in its entirety should the need arise.

--On Wednesday, February 27, 2019, Community Planner Victor Rodite and Mr. Brobst spoke with Ms. Pat Knopf, who volunteered to serve as the farmers' market manager. Victor will schedule a meeting with her to familiarize her with the operation.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that a dance is scheduled at the recreation center on Saturday, March 9, 2019, for 4th and 5th graders only. Dances start at 6:30 and end at 8:30 PM. As always, persons willing to serve as chaperones are welcome.

--We have several areas of Borough-owned property throughout the town that have sidewalks in need of repair. Once the weather permits, members of the public works department will be making repairs.

--We have made roof repairs at the recreation center to correct a leak that was over the gymnasium floor. During a rain storm, it was noted that the leak still persists. The contractor who made the repairs has been called back to correct the problem.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Thursday, March 14, 2019, to hear the appeal of Mr. Robert Carvajal, to use the former Kaiser Steak House building as an office for his healthcare agency.

--We are awaiting the testing materials for the sergeant position. The test will be administered on Friday, May 10, 2019.

--Rental inspections are continuing at an acceptable pace. Most of the property owners who have responded to date have been completely cooperative.

--He also reviewed the permits for February.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported Health Officer Ted Veresink has enclosed a summary of his activities in recent months with your packet. The Board of Health met on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, to review his activities.

--The Designer Purse Bingo sponsored by the fire department on Sunday, February 24, 2019, was a huge success.

--She also reviewed the fire police reports for February.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman McHale reported the sewer committee will meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 10 AM, to review various concerns.

--Currently, Christopher Koval serves as our certified pesticide applicator and underground storage tank manager. He has indicated to me that he intends to retire in 2020. We will need to replace him in these mandated positions. Mr. Brobst suggests posting the opening within the department as required by our agreement, thus providing time for a person to be trained to meet these needs.

--The Shamrocks are shining brightly for the Luck o' the Irish. It will soon be time to replace them with our Easter decorations.

--We have purchased the minimum amount of road salt as required by Costars' contract. We still have an opportunity to purchase up to the maximum of 770 tons. Mr. Brobst expects that we will fall well within our limits.

--We have prepared a listing of additional manholes that could be lined with our DCED grant. A copy of the prevailing wage for this type of work has been provided to USG, Inc., a Costars vendor who has worked for us in the past. It is anticipated that work will begin at the end of April.

--He stated that Gillmore and Associates are proceeding with design work for the update on the main pump station.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

--**Kenneth Hall** gave kudos to the public works department for a great job plowing. He also stated that there are many abandoned vehicles in the area of his home.

--**Robert McHale** gave kudos to the public works department for a great job on snow removal. He also mentioned that the non-uniform contract is ending this year.

--**Keith Piescienski** said that the pot holes at 21st and Main Street are horrible.

--**Julia Kutzler** thanked Patricia Knopf for her work done for the farmer's market. She also thanked "People Standing Up" for their help. She thanked Mr. Brian Sabo of Change on Main for attending the meeting and gave kudos to him for what he is doing to help several individuals and the community.

--**Edward Pany** congratulated the high school wrestling program and the girls basketball program for their accomplishments.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** reminded everyone to set their clocks one hour ahead on Sunday, March 10th. He wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He also mentioned the plowing on Poplar Street, stating that someone plowed in all of the garages on one side of the street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst stated that there is meeting scheduled at our office sponsored by Northampton County for grant opportunities.

He was contacted by the athletic department at the high school requesting a parade through town on Main Street on Sunday, March 10th if we should have a State wrestling winner.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to give permission to the athletic department of the high

school to have a parade through town on Main Street on Sunday, March 10th if we should have a State wrestling winner.

He stated that at the next council meeting we will have to appoint a delegate and alternate delegate to the PSAB Conference to be held in Hershey in June.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #3, dated March 7, totaling \$167,827.56.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary

