

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Public Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:03 PM on Thursday February 20, 2020. The meeting was held in Borough 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, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Robert McHale, Julia Kutzler and Thomas Gehringer. Kenneth Hall was absent. Also present were Mayor Thomas Reenock, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and recording secretary Meaghan Case.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Thomas Gehringer, and carried to approve the Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting held on January 6, 2020 and Regular Public Meeting held on January 16, 2020. Robert McHale and Julia Kutzler both abstained from this motion as they were absent for the January 16, 2020 meeting.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:**

**David Nahf, 336 Howertown Road, Northampton** was present to complain about tractor trailers using “jake brakes” on Howertown Road. He said it is unnecessary for them to use them especially in that area. Mr. Nahf was told that the borough does not have an ordinance regulating them.

**DISCUSSION ON TRUCK TRAFFIC ISSUES:**

Robert McHale summarized his thoughts on the meetings he attended, adding that he was not in attendance for all of them but Mr. Brobst was. He said Mr. Brobst will share any additional information.

There have been five meetings since September 2019 including representatives from several surrounding municipalities. Representatives from FedEx were in attendance for only the last meeting on February 7, 2020. The main purpose of these meetings was to identify why FedEx trucks are traveling on roads they are not supposed to be. A FedEx representative informed them that one of the main things causing this is the driver’s GPS systems, saying that they are given directions using the closest and quickest route. Mr. McHale added a

suggestion for our borough police department to have officers certified to do truck inspections. Chief Kadingo added that he has submitted applications to the PA State Police for his officers to become certified truck inspectors and also set up training for officers for non-federal violations. He has also been in contact with other Chiefs in the area. He hopes within the next few months to send a few officers to weigh master school. Two of his officers are interested.

Mr. McHale also added that FedEx will work with PennDOT to have better signage on Route 22, especially at the Fullerton Avenue exit, to help better route the FedEx drivers. FedEx also mentioned that they were going to contact Google to set up an app for the truck drivers. He said that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission put out a construction schedule for the small bridge on Race Street and they will hopefully be done by summer which will allow the trucks back on Race Street in that area.

FedEx's Manager of Facilities stated that they recognize the issue. They want to be good neighbors are trying to do things to stop the truck traffic. They have also given their drivers step by step instructions for travel. They have a "no right turn" sign at the exit of the facility. They also have a "geo fence", an electronic device that monitors the truck routes. They are speaking to drivers and issuing violations to those not following their guidelines. If necessary, they are also pulling those drivers off the roads. They also have a point of contact at the FedEx facility that police may contact to report trucks on prohibited roads.

Mr. Brobst, who was in attendance for all of the meetings, added that their last meeting on February 7, 2020 was excellent. He said that the FedEx representatives were very responsive. They will work hand in hand with other communities and resolve issues as they arise.

## **ORDINANCES:**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 1213:**

**TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH CATASAUQUA, THE BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA, HANOVER TOWNSHIP, EAST ALLEN TOWNSHIP, THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON AND THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION.**

Ordinance No. 1213 allows Northampton Borough to participate in an Intermunicipal Agreement known as the River Central Intermunicipal Agreement between the Borough and North Catasauqua Borough, Catasauqua Borough, Hanover Township (Lehigh County), East Allen Township and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash

Seconded By: Robert McHale

Ordinance No. 1213 passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-20:**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE WATERSHED RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

Resolution No. 4-20 authorizes the application to the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP). This, coupled with the application already filed by Kent Baird of Gilmore & Associates, should strengthen our position for acceptance.

Introduced By: Robert McHale

Seconded By: Keith Piescienski

Resolution No. 4-20 passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Reenock had nothing to report.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Goudssouzian had nothing to report.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. reported that Mr. Ed Pany reports a donation of \$2,000 to the Atlas Cement Memorial Museum from Holcim Inc. --We are in receipt of the 2019 annual franchise fee from RCN Telecom Services in the amount of \$150,513.65.

--A request to install a street light on Meadow Lane has been submitted to PPL.

This could take approximately 6-8 weeks to be completed.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** Councilman Pristash reported that plans are underway for the annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2020, at 11 AM. An egg stuffing seminar will take place in the Borough office on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM.

--The new Kubota tractor has been delivered and an infield dressing attachment has been added to the order.

--We have received an offer from a Borough citizen to volunteer some of her time pulling weeds. We will refer her through Councilwoman Kutzler to People Standing Up.

--We have received five requests to use our portable band trailer from organizations located outside the Borough limits. I have replied to each that they must wait until the first meeting following April 1, 2020 for Council to take action.

**Code and Police:** Councilman Piescienski reported that repairs to the traffic light located at 21st and Main Streets have been completed. This is the result of an accident that occurred in September 2018. The invoice for the repairs has been turned over to the solicitor, who has been working with the insurance carrier of the truck driver at fault.

--A vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board still exists. Applications are available in the Borough office.

--He also reviewed the police reports for January.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Kutzler reported that members of the fire department spent the week of February 9, 2020 in Wisconsin overseeing construction of the Pierce aerial ladder truck. Mr. Brobst received a report that the temperature at night dropped to 11° below zero.

--The Board of Health will meet on Thursday, February 25, 2020, at 7 PM.

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilman McHale reported that the committee will meet with Tom Duffy of Gilmore & Associates on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 9 AM, to discuss the sewer plant main pump station upgrade as well as other matters.

--On that same day, five candidates for two positions in the public works department will be interviewed. Recommendations should be forthcoming at the first council meeting in March.

--One of the new hires at the wastewater treatment plant began his service on Monday, February 10, 2020. The second new employee has started on February 18, 2020.

**Motion:** Robert McHale moved, seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to have an executive session immediately following the meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Consider Request of The Gospel Chapel:**

We have received a request from The Gospel Chapel to have access to the Municipal Park, Pavilion B, on Sunday, June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2020, between 10:30 AM and 12:45 PM. They wish to schedule family events free to the public.

My only concern is that these are four primary dates at which time families normally schedule graduation parties.

**Motion:** Julia Kutzler moved, seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to The Gospel Chapel to have access to the Municipal Park, Pavilion B, on Sunday, June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2020, between 10:30 AM and 12:45 PM.

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

As in past years, we have been approached by Chris Stamper of the Tri-Boro Youth Soccer Group to utilize the Atlas Sports Complex for the spring soccer season. Their schedule runs from March 16, 2020 through June 14, 2020. In the past, Council has granted their request and required a \$125 fee.

**Motion:** Anthony Pristash moved, seconded by Thomas Gehringer, and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Tri-Boro Youth Soccer Group to utilize the Atlas Sports Complex for the spring soccer season, from March 16, 2020 through June 14, 2020. They will pay a \$125 fee as in the past.

**Consider Request of First Baptist Church:**

We have received a request from the First Baptist Church of Allentown for permission to schedule their Rally Day picnic at the Municipal Park playground on Sunday, September 13, 2020. They would require both pavilions between 3 and 8 PM. They have requested a waiver of fees.

**Motion:** Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Robert McHale, and carried to grant permission to First Baptist Church of Allentown to use both pavilions at the Municipal park for their Rally Day picnic on Sunday, September 13, 2020, with any and all fees being waived. Julia Kutzler abstained from this motion.

**Consider Retirement Request:**

We have received a written request for retirement from Christopher Koval, an employee at the wastewater treatment plant. I will miss him.

**Motion:** Keith Piescienski moved, seconded by Robert McHale, and unanimously carried to approve the request of Christopher Koval to retire at the end of April 2020. Robert McHale thanked him for 40 years of service.

**Approval to Grant Letter of Intent:**

One of the off-shoots of the River Central Intermunicipal Planning Project is to have a joint needs assessment completed of the local fire departments by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services. In order to participate, Council needs to grant their approval of a Letter of Intent.

**Motion:** Anthony Pristash moved, seconded by Thomas Gehringer, and unanimously carried to grant permission for a Letter of Intent, to have a joint needs assessment completed of the local fire departments by the Governor's Center for Local Government Services, required for the River Central Intermunicipal Planning Project.

**Consider Request for No Parking Zone:**

Chief of Police Bryan Kadingo is requesting the creation of a no parking zone on the north side of West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street beginning 137 feet from the intersection of Main Street and continue in a westerly direction to the intersection of West Alley.

**Motion:** Keith Piescienski moved, seconded by Thomas Gehringer, and unanimously carried to approve the creation of a no parking zone on the north side of West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street beginning 137 feet from the intersection of Main Street and continue in a westerly direction to the intersection of West Alley.

**Consider Request for Recreation Center memberships:**

Councilwoman Kutzler is requesting that all active police officers in the Borough, receive a free membership to the Recreation Center.

**Motion:** Anthony Pristash moved, seconded by Keith Piescienski, and unanimously carried to prepare a resolution for the February 6, 2020 meeting for the Borough of Northampton to participate in the River Central Multi-Municipal Program.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

--**Keith Piescienski** said get ready for summer, UGI will be tearing up the roads.

--**Anthony Pristash** said he was hoping for little or no snow this upcoming weekend.

-- He also said he was sad to see the Christmas lights down.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** stated that in his experience, multi-municipal agreements do not work out well. He added that he hopes DEP or the EPA have no involvement in this agreement.

--He said that he is cautiously optimistic and that he's not going to be a cheerleader for this multi-municipal agreement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

--Mr. Brobst stated that the Seattle Seahawks are done and out of the playoffs.

--He said that the auditor will be in our office the beginning of February.

--He added that the total amount of garbage receipts to date is \$251,360.

--He said he hopes everyone has a Happy New Year.

**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 #2A, dated February 20, 2020, totaling \$6,063.00 and A/P Journal #2B dated February 20, 2020 totaling \$158,088.88.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary