

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
January 17, 2019**

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, January 17, 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: President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., Vice-president Keith Piescienski, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Julia Kutzler and Edward Pany. Robert McHale and Kenneth Hall were absent. Also present were Mayor 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 Mr. Pristash, duly seconded by Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr., and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on December 6, 2018 and the Regular Public Meeting held on December 20, 2018.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Attorney Ronald Corkery, Corkery & Almonti, 352 Fifth Street, Suite A, Whitehall, PA 18052 was present regarding the letter sent to the Borough of Northampton dated January 4, 2019 on behalf of MGMJ Holding Company, requesting a reduced rate on the sewer connection fees for 1464 Washington Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067.

Kathy Novegratz, 1728 Main Street, Northampton was present to question Attorney Ronald Corkery and Munhel Makhoul, to verify that the residents of 1464 Washington Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067 are veterans. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that this time was for comments or questions from the public directed to Borough Council, not questions to people in the public audience.

Victor Rodite, Borough Community Planner, met with “People Standing Up”, a group of residents of the Borough. They are willing to help volunteer with the farmer’s market. He also met with students of the senior class at the high school where six students prepared marketing presentations for the farmer’s market. He said they were all wonderful.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. had nothing to report.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Reenock had nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Goudsouzian had nothing to report.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. reported that Mr. Pany reports that a contribution of \$150 was given in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Oberly, Jr., by members of the Oberly family in recognition and support of their community service.

--The Borough of North Catasauqua will hold an Open House on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 6:30 PM. The purpose of the Open House is to share community updates and the status of a number of projects. The meeting will be held in the lower level of 1066 Fourth Street in North Catasauqua.

--On Wednesday, February 20, 2019, Northampton County DCED will hold a grant workshop here in our Council Chambers. The workshop will be from 8:30 until 10:30 AM and is one of four conducted throughout the county.

--The Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association will hold an informative meeting on February 4, 2019, followed by subsequent meetings on the first Monday of each month at the Lappawinzo Fish and Game Hall. This could provide some insight and input into our own MS4 project.

--As of close of business on January 10, 2019, \$188,274 has been collected in garbage payments.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that a person or persons unknown caused considerable damage to one of the pieces of playground equipment in the Municipal Park. We received a proposal from George Ely Association, from whom we purchased the equipment, to buy parts to effect the repair to the tune of \$5,735. Mr. Brobst submitted the paperwork to our insurance carrier to hopefully recover some of the cost.

--We have not yet heard anything from DCED regarding our grant application for a pavilion and accessory items to be installed at the swimming pool.

--Mr. Brobst spoke with Peter Paone, the president of North Catasauqua Borough Council, and the February 6 Open House will partially focus on the connecting trail between Northampton and North Catasauqua.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that members of the Northampton Police Department are most appreciative of having received a generous \$500 donation from Reichel Funeral Home for the Police Equipment Fund.

--Chief Bryan Kadingo has informed me that the Crime Watch Organization has been reactivated and they will be meeting on the second Wednesday of every month in the fire station training room. Anyone interested should circle February 13, 2019 on their calendar.

--The rental inspection ordinance is in effect. Responses have been mixed. The first two inspections were conducted on Wednesday, January 9, 2019; one passed and one failed.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that Health Officer Ted Veresink reports that the Main Street Scholars Learning Center at 2022 Main Street has been licensed by the state and the Board of Health and is now open and operating. The facility can accommodate up to 45 children.

--The Board of Health will meet at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman Pany reported that it has been determined that the grant opportunity for hazard mitigation in the Dry Run area did not meet the sufficient criteria required for the FEMA application. Mr. Kent Baird of Gilmore & Associates was in agreement and has curtailed his pursuit of this particular grant opportunity. He was hopeful that there may be other similar possibilities.

--The majority of the Christmas decorations have been stored until next year. In a short time, the Valentine hearts will appear.

--We have arranged for all of the new generators at the pump stations to be inspected and serviced. In the event of a power failure, this equipment is vital.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Acceptance of Action Plan Recommended by the Planning Commission:

Community Planner Victor Rodite has prepared a series of motions to facilitate the acceptance of the Action Plan prepared and recommended by the Borough Planning Commission. You may wish to act on them individually or to simply summarize all of his recommendations into one motion.

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Borough of Northampton to recommend traffic improvement projects on the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) 20+ year plan, the PennDOT 12 year plan, and their short term transportation improvement project list. This is listed as Motion #5 on Victor's list of action recommendations on the "Action Plan 2019-2023".

Consider Request for Handicapped Parking Zone:

A resident in the area of 1510 Laubach Avenue submitted a request for a handicapped parking space. Police Chief Bryan Kadingo reviewed the request and recommends that it be rejected.

Motion: Mr. Pany moved, seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to reject the request of a resident in the area of 1510 Laubach Avenue for a handicapped parking space.

Consider Request of MGMJ Holding Company:

A letter was received from the attorneys representing MGMJ Holding Company, the owners of 1464 Washington Avenue. This building was recently refurbished to provide eight efficiency apartments and they are seeking relief from the charges that were applied for the tap-in fees paid for seven units. It is the Borough's policy to charge the full tap-in fee for each residential unit. Borough Council may consider this but the Borough Manager's recommendation is that it be rejected.

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to table the request of MGMJ Holding Company, the owners of 1464 Washington Avenue. They will discuss and revisit this request and list this as an agenda item at the next meeting scheduled for February 7, 2019.

Consider Request of Northampton Area Band Parents:

Northampton Area Band Parents are requesting the use of Municipal "A" and "B" pavilions on Saturday, August 24, 2019, to host their Annual Band Parent Picnic. They have also requested that any and all fees be waived.

Motion: Mr. Pristash moved, seconded by Mr. Pany and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Northampton Area Band Parents use of Municipal "A" and "B" pavilions on Saturday, August 24, 2019, to host their Annual Band Parent Picnic, with any and all fees being waived.

Consider Request to Hold Shredding Event:

State representative Zachary Mako wishes to stage a shredding event similar to the one he had last year. The event would occur on Saturday, May 11, 2019, between the hours of 10 AM and 12 Noon. It would be held, once again, on the parking lot of the Northampton Memorial Community Center. He asks that we cover half of the cost, which is \$275. The event is open to anyone within the 183rd District.

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to State representative Zachary Mako to stage a shredding event similar to the one he had last year on Saturday, May 11, 2019, between the hours of 10 AM and 12 Noon. It will be held on the parking lot of the Northampton Memorial Community Center. The Borough will cover half of the cost, which is \$275. It was suggested that the same traffic pattern be used, like the most recent recycling event.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

--**Keith Piescienski** stated that he hopes Main Street does not get torn up from the snow.

--**Anthony Pristash** gave kudos to the Borough Public Works crew for a great job with plowing and snow removal.

--**Julia Kutzler** informed everyone that the Fire Department will be holding a purse bingo on February 24, 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst stated that total garbage money collected to date is \$264,213.00. He also stated that our office is experiencing an increase in phone calls with questions about the rental ordinance, rental licensing and inspections.

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 #1A, dated January 17, 2019, totaling \$206,390.99.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Piesciensi, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary

