

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 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, September 19, 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., Edward Pany, Kenneth Hall, Julia Kutzler and Anthony Pristash. Robert McHale 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 Mr. Pristash, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting held on August 15, 2019.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:**

**Pat Knopf, Farmer's Market Manager, 1385 Stewart Street, Northampton** was present to complain about the inappropriate behavior of kids during the farmer's market. She mentioned teenage kids using profanity and jumping from table to table under the pavilion during the farmer's market. She asked for the help of police and council for next year to monitor the behavior of the kids and take action if necessary.

**Jim Baab, 146 Jeffery Lane, Northampton** was present to follow up about the bullets hitting his home on August 10, 2019. He asked if there was any update on the Borough's end.

Mr. Brobst explained that it is under investigation by the District Attorney's office and we are waiting for an update from them of their findings.

Mr. Baab also stated that he was not there to shut anyone down, he is looking for rules to be enforced regarding gun safety.

Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. suggested that he attend the crime watch meetings and speak with Chief Kadingo regarding the time and place of the meetings.

**Presentation by County Executive Lamont McClure:**

County Executive Lamont McClure will be on hand at Thursday's meeting to present a check that covers both of the successful grant applications filed with Northampton County. The first is for \$8,000 for a community garden in the area of the food bank and the second is for \$85,000 for next year's paving program materials.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 7-19:**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO SET THE BOROUGH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.**

Resolution No. 7-19 sets the Borough's contribution to the non-uniform defined benefit pension plan for fiscal year 2020 at 2.75% of anticipated earnings.

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash

Seconded By: Keith Piescienski

Resolution No. 7-19 passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8-19:**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO SET THE BOROUGH'S CONTRIBUTION RATE TO THE NON-UNIFORMED DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.**

Resolution No. 8-19 sets the Borough's contribution to the non-uniformed defined contribution pension plan for fiscal year 2020 at 3% of anticipated earnings.

Introduced By: Edward Pany

Seconded By: Keith Piescienski

Resolution No. 8-19 passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-19:**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION SETTING THE CONTRIBUTION RATE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES MAKE TO THE POLICE PENSION FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.**

Resolution No. 9-19 sets the Borough's contribution to the police pension plan at \$8,765. This resolution assumes a police contribution rate of 5%.

Introduced By: Keith Piescienski

Seconded By: Anthony Pristash

Resolution No. 9-19 passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-19:**

**TITLE: A RESOLUTUION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO MAINTAIN SNOW AND ICE CONTROL OF STATE HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON FOR A SERVICE CHARGE AND AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH PENNDOT FOR THIS SERVICE.**

Resolution No. 10-19 provides a service agreement with PennDOT authorizing a service charge of approximately \$4,400 each year for a five-year period. This agreement is for the Borough to provide snow and ice control on state roads within the Borough starting with the 2019/2020 winter season.

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash

Seconded By: Kenneth Hall

Resolution No. 10-19 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 Goudsouzian had nothing to report.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. reported that we have been notified by the PA Liquor Control Board that we will be receiving \$2,000 for liquor license fees in the Borough of Northampton.

--Mr. Pany wishes to acknowledge a donation to the museum from Herb Johns, a former employee of both Atlas and Lafarge cement plants. He also received a plaque of the Coplay Cement Co. from Ann Dickman in memory of her husband Frank.

--Mr. Pany has conducted tours for Kirkland Village residents of Bethlehem and the Northampton Exchange Club.

--Ms. Barbara Matuczinski returned to work and we celebrated with a cake!

--Community Planner Victor Rodite has been in contact with a representative of Lafarge Cement regarding the availability of Cement Haul Road. Without quoting a number, Mr. Rodite was told that the parcel could be for sale.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** Councilman Pristash reported that as of this date, Mr. Brobst has one council member committed to the Jack Frost Parade. He is hopeful for more.

--A search has begun for a suitable community Christmas tree. This process becomes more difficult each year.

--Recreation center Director Jason Kremus is preparing for the cheer extravaganza, the single largest fundraiser event of the center. This year's event will be on Sunday, October 27, 2019.

--On Saturday, September 21, 2019, at 1 PM, the Memory Linden Tree will be dedicated in the area of the Wilson Block House in the Municipal Park. All are welcome.

**Code and Police:** Councilman Piescienski reported that code enforcement officer Keith Knoblach has been extremely busy doing rental inspections. To date, he has done approximately 300 inspections.

--Officer Ryan Grube is currently in Maryland training as the new D.A.R.E. officer.

--He also reviewed the police reports for August.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Kutzler reported that Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus has transferred the agreed purchase price of \$350,000 into the Borough's account. They are making arrangements to come and pick up the 2009 aerial ladder truck. Once it has been removed from our premises, it will be dropped from the insurance listing.

--On Saturday, October 5, 2019, the county will hold an electronic recycling event in the parking lot of the Northampton Memorial Community Center, from 9 AM-12 Noon. There will be a fee charged for disposing of electronic devices, cash or checks only. Credit cards will not be accepted.

- The fire department, in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, will hold their Annual Open House on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, beginning at 5 PM.
- The fire department will have their 2nd Annual Block Party at the Alliance Fire Company on Saturday, September 21, 2019, from 4-10 PM, with the parade starting at 5:30 PM.

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilman McHale reported that a meeting was held with Tom Duffy of Gilmore & Associates regarding the sewer plant upgrade.

--We received a letter from the Northampton Council Conservation District regarding the review of our MS4 stream bank erosion proposal. The proposal, in their opinion, was deemed adequate.

--A crew of the public works department continues with the street paving program. It has gone well to date.

--The Halloween decorations will be installed on or about Monday, October 7, 2019.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

The Gospel Chapel is planning their annual Chili Fest and would like to hold it in the Municipal Park on Saturday, September 21, 2019. They are requesting use of Pavilion "A" and the band shell. In addition, The Gospel Chapel is requesting that any and all fees be waived. This event will be open to the community at large.

**Motion:** Mr. Pany moved, seconded by Mrs. Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Gospel Chapel to hold their annual Chili Fest in the Municipal Park on Saturday, September 21, 2019, using Pavilion "A" and the band shell. All fees will be waived.

#### **Consider Approval to Advertise Ordinance Enacting Allen Township Sewer Service Rate Calculation:**

Our solicitor, Steven Goudsouzian, has prepared an ordinance that establishes procedure for calculation of the sewer service rate to be charged to Allen Township. This ordinance is consistent with the procedure used to charge Borough residents for sewer service.

**Motion:** Mr. Pristash moved, seconded by Mr. Piescienski and unanimously passed an ordinance that establishes procedure for calculation of the sewer service rate to be charged to Allen Township.

**Consider Proposal from Gilmore & Associates, Inc:**

Community Planner Victor Rodite and Mr. Brobst met with Mr. Kent Baird of Gilmore & Associates. Mr. Baird has an extensive background in grant applications that are in connection with the sewer system and the MS4 project. He has submitted a proposal to prepare appropriate grant applications with the fee not to exceed \$3,000. Clerical services involved shall not exceed \$2,500 per grant.

**Motion:** Mr. Pany moved, seconded by Mrs. Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission Mr. Kent Baird of Gilmore & Associates to prepare appropriate grant applications with the fee not to exceed \$3,000. Clerical services involved shall not exceed \$2,500 per grant.

**Consider Request of Siegfried Elementary School:**

Throughout the year, the Siegfried Elementary School has several dates where parents are invited to attend during the school day. During these events they need additional parking and have asked that the parents be allowed to park on the north side of Al Erdosy Drive near the ball fields. The requested dates are on the attached email requesting permission.

**Motion:** Mr. Piescienski moved, seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Siegfried Elementary School to allow the parents to park on the north side of Al Erdosy Drive near the ball fields on the requested dates.

**Consider Request of the Borough of Coplay Police Department:**

Coplay Police Chief Vincent Genovese is requesting the assistance of the Northampton Fire Police for traffic control on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, for their annual Halloween Parade. The rain date is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2019. We have provided this assistance during the past several years.

**Motion:** Mr. Piescienski moved, seconded by Mr. Pany and unanimously carried to grant permission to Coplay Police Chief Vincent Genovese, the assistance of the Northampton Fire Police for traffic control on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, for their annual Halloween Parade.

**Consider Request of Emmaus Main Street Partners:**

The Emmaus Main Street Partners submitted a request to use Northampton's band trailer on Saturday, September 21, 2019, from 11 AM until 4 PM. They are also asking that we waive the rental fee.

**Motion:** Mr. Pristash moved, seconded by Mr. Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission the Emmaus Main Street Partners to use Northampton's band trailer on Saturday, September 21, 2019, from 11 AM until 4 PM, with any fees being waived.

**Consider Purchase of a New Pierce Aerial Ladder Truck:**

With the sale of the KME aerial ladder truck, the fire department has checked with Glick Fire Apparatus of Bird in Hand, PA, about the availability of a new Pierce aerial ladder truck. They have guaranteed a price of \$1,443,000 which they will hold until September 28, 2019. The same bank that provided the loan for the last vehicle purchased would provide a 15-year loan that would cost the Borough \$79,848 each year assuming a 20% down payment.

**Motion:** Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to table the request of the fire department to purchase a new Pierce aerial ladder truck from Glick Fire Apparatus of Bird in Hand, PA.

**Approval to Set Trick or Treat:**

Council traditionally establishes Trick or Treat night on October 31, which this year is a Thursday night. Trick or Treat would take place within the hours of 6 & 8 PM.

**Motion:** Mrs. Kutzler moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to set Trick or Treat on October 31<sup>st</sup> within the hours of 6 & 8 PM.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Mayor Reenock** stated that he received an email from the VFW regarding the U.S. Army Howitzer, stating that it must be moved from its current location. Mayor Reenock suggested that it be moved to the Memorial Lot at Washington Avenue.

**Motion:** Mr. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to move the U.S. Army Howitzer from 1204 Main Street to the Memorial lot at Washington Avenue.

Mayor Reenock also commented on the kids at the farmer's market. He said that he agrees with Pat Knopf, that the kids are out of control during the farmer's market.

--**Anthony Pristash** said that the Street Fair was a huge success and has become a valley-wide event. He believes this event had the greatest attendance and most vendors to date. He thanked everyone involved in the preparation for the event.

--**Julia Kutzler** gave kudos to the people involved in "People Standing Up". She stated that the community garden will be great and benefit the entire community. She asked that any updates on the investigation at Tri-Boro be given to Mr. Baab.

--**Edward Pany** thanked Mr. Brobst, Greg Morey and the entire public works department for a great job on the Linden Tree project.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** stated that he loved the idea of moving the U.S. Army Howitzer to the Memorial Lot. He said that it fits there, adding another piece of history.

He also commented on the farmer's market stating that it is a great program that offers great items. He gave kudos to Pat Knopf for doing a great job with Farmer's market.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

--Mr. Brobst stated that after the meeting with the public in regards to the truck traffic in the area of Howertown Road, he said that he would contact the surrounding communities and the front office at FedEx to set up a meeting. He also congratulated Pat Knopf on a job well done with the farmer's market, stating that she did a remarkable job.

**Motion:** Mr. Piescienski moved, seconded by Mrs. Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to give a lateral promotion to make Officer Joseph Kicska detective.

**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 #9A, dated September 19, 2019, totaling \$284,530.88.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary