

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
November 29, 2018**

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, November 29, 2018. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The November 15, 2018 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present at roll call were: President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr., Vice-president Keith Piescienski, Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., Anthony Pristash, Julia Kutzler, Robert McHale, Edward Pany, Kenneth Hall. Mayor Reenock was absent. Also present were 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. Hall, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on October 4, 2018 and the Regular Public Meeting held on October 17, 2018. Mr. McHale abstained.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

David Haberacker, 109 Candlewycke Lane, Northampton was present to ask if council considered a second area during meetings for the public to speak/comment.

He also brought up the fence that was put up in the Borough right of way in the area of his residence. Mr. Brobst explained that he spoke with Mike Edelman, zoning officer for Allen Township, and he is sending letters to all residents where placement of fencing is in question.

Jody Sain-Mellner, 326 E. 9th Street, Northampton was present to give a presentation on the Halloween Wheels on the Canal. She said overall, considering the weather, it was a successful event. They had several vendors attend and also many classic cars on display. They made a total profit of \$2,533.00, issuing a check in the amount of \$1,266.50 to both Mission 22 and Blue Star Mother – Lehigh Valley Chapter #201. They are both non-profit organizations who support and offer help to United States Veterans.

She is requesting a 2nd Wheels on the Canal car show/craft & vendor fair be held at Canal Street Park on Saturday, May 18, 2019 with a rain date of Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Motion: Mr. McHale moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to Jody and Paul Sain-Mellner to hold a 2nd Wheels on the Canal craft show and car show on Saturday, May 18, 2019 with a rain date of Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Pat Knopf, 1385 Stewart Street, Northampton was present to ask to see a copy of the 2019 proposed Borough budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Lopsonzski, Jr. reported that the state proposed the creation of a performance-based grant program that it estimated would have delivered up to \$4.5 billion to Amazon over 25 years. The program would have given the company an annual grant for up to 25 years, based on the amount of personal income tax collected annually from Amazon employees. He suggested that we send a letter to Governor Wolf and copy the Senator and our State Representative requesting a portion of the grant money for the Borough.

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 received our annual payment for snow and ice control on the state roads in the amount of \$3,601.83.

--We received the third quarter franchise fee from Service Electric Cable TV in the amount of \$6,068.69.

--Mr. Pany reports that members of the IEEE held their East Coast Conference in Allentown and made a tour of several cement manufacturing facilities in the Lehigh Valley. One of their stops was to tour the Atlas Cement Memorial Museum. Visitors came from not only many of the states but from other countries, such as Brazil, Peru and Mexico. He is most appreciative of the \$500 contribution that was presented to the museum.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that a dance is scheduled at the recreation center on Saturday, November 17, 2018, for 4th and 5th graders only. Dances start at 6:30 PM and end at 8:30 PM. As always, persons willing to serve as chaperones are welcome.

--The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 25, 2018, at the usual location (Main Street and Laubach Avenue). This year's Christmas tree was donated by Borough employee Richard Ackerman. Holiday music will be provided by a group from Good Shepherd Catholic School beginning at 5:30 PM. Santa is expected to arrive at 6 PM, escorted by the Northampton Fire Department. Holiday treats will be provided to all youngsters.

--Rumor has it that there will be a Santa run this year under the direction of the fire department. More information will be supplied as it becomes available.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that Mr. Brobst has been in contact with Servpro, who conducted the initial walk through at Miller's Diner, and is awaiting their determination if another walk through is warranted. If it is, we will need another warrant to enter the property.

--There are two vacant seats on the UCC Board of Appeals. One has already expired as of April 30, 2018 and would be available until April 30, 2023. The second vacant seat is due to expire on April 30 2021. Anyone interested in serving a five-year term should contact the Borough office for an application.

--The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, to discuss the update for the Action Plan of the Borough's Comprehensive Plan.

--Work continues to ensure the implementation of the rental inspection ordinance. While we do not have all of the information entered yet, we have enough to begin the process while the remainder is entered.

--He also review the police reports for October.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the Board of Health will meet on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 7 PM.

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

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman McHale reported that Holiday lighting will be installed beginning November 13, 2018.

--The CDBG paving program is nearing completion. We have paved a sufficient number of streets to account for all of the grant money. We are providing approximately \$30,000 of in-kind manpower services.

--Next year's paving program will be severely limited by the work that is being proposed by UGI in the First, Second and Third Wards.

--We continue to battle the elements as the rainy weather extends even into November.

--He gave an update on the MS4 project stating that the Dry Run Creek restoration is included as part of the permit with DEP. He stated that Gilmore & Associates have submitted forms in preparation for the Borough to submit permits beginning in early 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-18:

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A LOCAL SHARE GRANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A GRANT TO ACQUIRE AN ALL-TERRAIN RESCUE VEHICLE:

Resolution No. 11-18 allows the Borough to formally request a Northampton County Local Share account grant from the PA-DCED to acquire an all-terrain vehicle for the Northampton Fire Department to provide service to trail users. The total cost is not to exceed \$56,900.

Introduced By: Keith Piescienski

Seconded By: Julia Kutzler

Resolution No. 11-18 passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Request to Reduce the Amount of Security for Windward Pass Holdings at 1796 Main Street, Northampton:

Windward Pass Holdings of 1796 Main Street is requesting a reduction to their line of credit.

Motion: Mr. Pristash moved, seconded by Mr. Pany and unanimously carried to grant permission to Windward Pass Holdings of 1796 Main Street to reduce the amount of security by \$15,387.75 in accordance with the recommendation of the letter dated November 8, 2018 from Lehigh Engineering.

Consider Hiring an Additional Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer:

We have received an application from Eugene Kutzler to resume his position as a code enforcement officer. He would work in conjunction with our current code enforcement officer, Keith Knoblach. Two part-time code enforcement officers have been provided for in the 2019 budget.

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Piescienski and carried to grant permission to hire Eugene Kutzler as an additional part-time code enforcement officer. Mrs. Kutzler abstained from this motion.

Consider Request for Northampton County Electronic Recycling Event:

Northampton County was so impressed with the efficiency of our electronic recycling collection event that they are requesting an opportunity to conduct another one on Saturday, October 5, 2019. I have checked with the manager of the Northampton Memorial Community Center and the morning of that date would not present a problem. The event would be held from 9 AM until 12 Noon.

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to Northampton County to conduct another electronic recycling event on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at the Northampton Memorial Community Center from 9 AM until 12 Noon.

Approval of Police Contract:

Enclosed in your packet are the changes to the police agreement as suggested by the Police Committee. The Police Bargaining Unit has agreed to the changes as presented. Once approved, they will be incorporated into the final document.

Motion: Mrs. Kutzler moved, seconded by Mr. Piescienski and carried to grant permission to make the changes to the police agreement as suggested by the Police Committee. The Police Bargaining Unit has agreed to the changes as presented. These changes will be incorporated into the final document.
Mr. McHale voted against this motion.

Presentation of Budget:

The 2019 Budget has been prepared for your review.

Mrs. Kutzler thanked Fire Chief Knoblach for the Fire Department's five-year improvement plan. She asked about a second command vehicle for the Fire Department. Mr. Brobst explained that since the Police Department gets a new vehicle every year, they also retire a vehicle which will be given to the Fire Department as a second command vehicle.

Mr. McHale reviewed several budget line items, mostly looking for clarification on figures. He also suggested that we look into additional companies for inspections. Mr. Brobst suggested that he speak with Juliann, our zoning officer. He also suggested the need for a third licensed operator at the sewer plant and possibly an additional employee.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

--**Ken Hall** wished everyone a Happy belated Thanksgiving. He said that the turkey day football game was great and the tree lighting went well.

--**Robert McHale** commended Fire Chief Knoblach on a very thorough code enforcement report. He asked Mr. Brobst if he spoke with anyone at the High School regarding a junior counsel. Mr. Brobst explained that he will be speaking with Robert Steckel when he attends a school meeting on December 3, 2018.

--He also questioned if the owners of the old Tama and Central buildings will be having an open house for their newly renovated apartment buildings.

--He asked Mr. Brobst if he could provide a sample letter for the rental inspections at the next council meeting.

--**Anthony Pristash** said that the tree lighting was great and he was happy to be there.

--**Julia Kutzler** said that she noticed that there aren't any crossing guards at 17th and Main Street.

--She asked about the "No Parking" sign at the end of Elm Alley.

--She informed everyone of a recently created group in the Borough, "People Standing Up". She said they are people looking to help in the community. Some ideas mentioned were a food truck festival, assisting with crime watch, an organic garden at the food bank, and getting together a student/scouting group. She stated that they meet at the Northampton VFW on the second Monday of every month and encouraged anyone interested to attend.

--**Edward Pany** thanked Mr. Brobst for a no tax increase budget and congratulated him on a job well done.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** stated that he was under the assumption that the former Catholic War Vets building was going to house veterans. He said that he heard that there are no veterans as tenants in the building and that council was sold a string of goods by the owner when the plans and intent were introduced.

--He also said that the light at 15th Street and Washington Avenue should be moved or shifted due to the light shining directly into residents' windows.

--He also suggested that they should consider switching the entrance and exit at 1503 Main Street. He said pulling out on to Main Street is dangerous.

--He also stated that it would be nice if the Borough could get some grant money to put up a parking garage in the Center Street parking lot to eliminate parking issues.

--He said the tree lighting was great and the choir did a great job. He gave kudos to all departments involved for a successful event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst announced that the Santa Run will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2018. Borough residents can drop off gifts on December 12th, 13th and 14th between 6-8 PM at the Fire Department. Mr. Brobst also said the tree lighting was very nice and he was happy to attend.

Motion: Mrs. Kutzler moved, seconded by Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to hold an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Council returned from executive session at 9:26 PM.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #11A, dated November 6, 2018, totaling \$100.00 and A/P Journal #11B dated November 15, 2018, totaling \$282,715.89 and A/P Journal #11C, dated November 29, 2018, totaling \$86,497.73.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary

