

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
December 20, 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, December 20, 2018. 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, Robert McHale, Edward Pany and Kenneth Hall. 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 Mr. Hall, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Public Workshop Meeting held on November 1, 2018 and the Regular Public Meeting held on November 29, 2018. (The meeting scheduled for November 15, 2018 was cancelled due to inclement weather.) Mr. McHale abstained, he was not present for the November 1, 2018 meeting.

**HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:**

No comments were received from the public.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-18**

**TITLE:       A RESOLUTION GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL TO THE 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET:**

Passage of Resolution No. 12-18 will grant final approval for the 2019 Budget.

**Introduced By:**       Anthony Pristash  
**Seconded By:**       Edward Pany

Resolution No. 12-18 passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1208****TITLE: AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON FOR THE YEAR 2019:**

Ordinance No. 1208 fixes the tax rate for the Borough of Northampton for 2019. Adoption of this ordinance will set the tax rate for general Borough purposes at 10 mills on each dollar of assessed value. It also enacts and/or re-enacts under the provisions of Acts 481 and 511 the Earned Income Tax, the Local Services Tax, the Real Estate Transfer Tax, etc., for the year 2019.

**Introduced By:** Edward Pany  
**Seconded By:** Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.

Ordinance No. 1208 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 the Atlas Cement Memorial Trust met on December 3, 2018. The board consists of Edward Pany, Larry Oberly, Sallyann Madden and John Yurish. Minutes of the meeting will be provided when received.

--It has been noted that Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kishbaugh, the owners of the former Central building located at 1503 Main Street, have posted an historical plaque on the building.

--On January 29, 2019, Mr. Pany will conduct a tour of the museum for the vice-president of Hercules Cement. They have promised a substantial donation. The real reason they are coming is to find out firsthand if Mr. Pany has four telephones in his house.

--Terms for the following boards and commissions are expiring as of December 31, 2018 and provide service opportunities for those seeking appointment or reappointment: 1) Board of Health – 1 seat, 2) Zoning Hearing Board – 1 seat, 3) Northampton Borough Municipal Authority – 1 seat, 4) Planning Commission – 2 seats, and 5) as previously noted, the UCC Board of Appeals had one term expire on April 30, 2018. This is in addition to a seat that is currently vacant that will expire on April 30, 2021. Anyone interested in any of these opportunities should submit a request in writing to the Borough office.

**Building, Land and Recreation:** Councilman Pristash reported that a heater at the Canal Street restroom had to be replaced. This is the only restroom that is heated throughout the winter months to accommodate people using the Heritage Trail. This heater was original from the construction of the

facility.

--It has been noticed that a person or persons unknown has been unplugging the holiday lighting at the Canal Street gazebo. The police have been requested to be on the alert for any suspicious activity. In the meantime, the public works department will try to tamper-proof the lights.

**Code and Police:** **Councilman Piescienski** reported that Community Planner Victor Rodite and Mayor Thomas Reenock attended a transportation meeting sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. Mr. Rodite reports that there may be three grant opportunities available. The first would be an opportunity for the Borough to bring our traffic signal technology up-to-date. The other two grant opportunities, while not associated with transportation, might be helpful as we move forward with the wastewater treatment plant update and the MS4 study in the Dry Run Creek area.

--A copy of the activity associated with the street paving CDBG has been sent to the county. We await \$75,000 for the paving program and \$10,000 for the Comprehensive Plan update.

--Arrangements have been made with McCann Associates to conduct the sergeant testing for the police department. A sign-up list will be posted in police headquarters on January 2, 2019.

**Fire and Health:** **Councilwoman Kutzler** reported that the Board of Health will not meet on the last Tuesday of December since it is Christmas Day.

--Many thanks to the members of the fire department who will participate in the Santa Run.

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

**Public Works and Sewer:** **Councilman McHale** reported that the contractor, Utility Services Group, that relined several manholes in the past, is a Co-Stars vendor, which eliminates the need to secure bids for the manhole relining program. Mr. Brobst has an inquiry into PA DCED to ascertain if this program is subject to prevailing wage and if we have sufficient funding, can we expand the project beyond the original scope.

--A new home is being built on Dewey Avenue and a crew of the public works department descended 13 feet to the sewer main to establish a connection.

--We have been offered the services of Appalachian Creations to "winterize" the Uptown Park plantings rather than have the unintentional removal of perennials by the public works crew.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Consider Request for Handicapped Parking Zone:**

A resident in the area of 1220 Main Street has requested the establishment of a handicapped parking space in the near proximity of the address. Police Chief Bryan Kadingo has recommended approval.

**Motion:** Mr. McHale moved, seconded by Mr. Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to a resident in the area of 1220 Main Street, a handicapped parking space in the near proximity of the address.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

--**Ken Hall** wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

--He said that the Santa Run went really well. It was the same day as the Fire Department's Christmas party so it was a very busy day.

--He also stated that Station Alley is a race track again and asked that the public works crew check the alleys in the first and second wards for vehicles blocking the alleys, making some impassable.

--**Robert McHale** congratulated Steve Kiss on 30 years of service.

--He asked Mr. Brobst about the status of the fence in the Borough right of way. Mr. Brobst explained that he spoke with Mike Edelman, zoning officer for Allen Township, and Mike is sending letters to all residents where the fence placement is in question. If they do not respond, the Borough will send certified letters to residents, requesting that the fences be removed within 60 days.

--After reading Victor's newsletter, he questioned who the grants would be from for possible street/traffic improvements and the MS4 program opportunities. Mr. Brobst explained that Victor would be attending the January 3, 2019 meeting and giving a presentation on these grant possibilities.

--He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

--**Keith Piescienski** congratulated Steve Kiss on 30 years of service.

--He suggested we try free samples of black top patching from a company out of Washington State. He learned about this company when he attended a PSAB conference in Hershey. He said that it is a tar mixture that is torched and mixed with rubber and is suppose to last for years.

-- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr.** thanked Mr. Brobst for preparing and sending a letter to the office of the Governor.

--**Anthony Pristash** congratulated Steve Kiss on 30 years of service.

--He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

--**Julia Kutzler** thanked everyone who was involved with Elm Alley. She stated that everyone in that area is happy.

--She asked about the rental ordinance letters and would like to see a sample letter. Mr. Brobst explained that he will have a sample letter for everyone at the next meeting. He also said that the letters would go out in batches of about 300, since there are a total of approximately 1200 rental units in the Borough. Mrs. Kutzler did not agree with that and wanted all of the letters to go out at one time.

--She also mentioned that she wants the police to stop movers and ask for a moving permit. If they do not have a moving permit, they would be directed to our office to complete one.

--She also stated that she spoke with Juliann, our zoning officer, about the light from the old Catholic War Vets building shining in Mr. Knight's windows. Juliann went there herself and did not see where light from the building was shining in any neighboring windows. Juliann has contacted Mr. Knight to meet with him to see what light he is referring to. She has not received a returned phone call.

--She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy and Successful New Year.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** asked if we could send a letter to the Governor asking about construction grants for a parking deck at the Center Street parking lot. He stated that there are limited parking spaces and several businesses and residents in the area. He said a parking deck would eliminate a lot of

problems and benefit the community. The Mayor stated that Victor has already looked into this. The Mayor said he will schedule an appointment to meet with Zach Mako.

-- He congratulated Steve Kiss on 30 years of service.

--He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Brobst congratulated Steve Kiss on 30 years of service.

He stated that Keith Piescienski, Mary Ellen Handlon and himself were going to the Fire Station on December 21, 2018 at 11:30 AM to sign for a \$200,000 loan for the Pierce Enforcer fire truck.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Motion:** Mr. Lopsonzski, Sr. moved, seconded by Mr. McHale and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #12A, dated December 17, 2018, totaling \$119.41 and A/P Journal #12B dated December 20, 2018, totaling \$89,147.15.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary

