

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
June 6, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:34 PM on Thursday, June 6, 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, Edward Pany, Kenneth Hall and Robert McHale. Also present were Mayor Thomas Reenock, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and recording secretary Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

Brian King, 404 Buckingham Drive, Northampton was present to complain about the train noise in the area of the crossing and 10th and Main Streets. He said they drove through last night at 3:41 AM and there has been no difference since the last meeting.

Mr. Brobst stated that he did reach out to Adam Horwith by letter and by phone call but at this time has not received a response.

Mr. King gave a petition to Solicitor Goudsouzian with over 80 signatures of residents in the area also complaining about the train noise. He asked what was being hauled in the rail cars and stated that there is a possibility that they may be hauling materials that could be dangerous to the community.

He also asked why the most recent minutes are not posted on our website. Mr. Brobst explained that minutes are not posted until they are approved by Council.

Mr. McHale added that there may be a change in their delivery schedule since there is more activity during late evening, early morning hours.

Paul Sain-Mellner, 326 E. 9th Street, Northampton was present to report on the 2nd Annual Wheels on the Canal. They had 51 vendors and 103 cars in attendance. He said they raised a total of \$3,392.00 which was split between the charities Mission 22 and Blue Star Mothers of America.

Karen Heckman, 1718 Main Street, Northampton was present to ask what items are acceptable to put out for recycling. Mr. Brobst stated that we had recycling pamphlets out in the lobby with specifics on recycling items.

Brittany Dimitrovits, 1028 Hogan Way, Northampton, was present to comment on the illegal fences that were put up in Allen Township on Borough property. She stated that she purchased her home in 2015 with the fence already in existence on the property. She also stated that she and her husband have been maintaining the property since they purchased the home and offered to continue to maintain the property if they were allowed to keep the fence.

Donald Szerencsits, 435 E. 4th Street, Northampton, stated that the railroad at 10th & Main Streets has been in existence for 50 years, before most homes in that area were built. In reference to the train noise complaints, he said that's like moving next to a farm and complaining about the smell of manure.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards:

The Northampton Borough Police Department conducted their fishing derby recently and as a result, have decided to offer two scholarships to worthy recipients. They are Piper Malehorn and Andriana Andrews. Chief Bryan Kadingo was called forward to make the presentation.

Consider suggestion of Northampton Area School District:

Mr. Brobst has been previously informed that a representative of the Northampton Area School District would like to make a presentation about the traffic problems at 9th and Lincoln Avenue in the vicinity of the Franklin Elementary School.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to table the request of a change in the traffic pattern at 9th and Lincoln Avenue in the vicinity of the Franklin Elementary School.

Consider Request to Hold Shredding Event:

The shredding event sponsored by Representative Zachary Mako and the Borough of Northampton was very successful. Representative Mako is requesting that a similar event be conducted on Saturday, April 25, 2020, in the same location.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert McHale, duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to grant permission to Representative Zachary Mako to hold a similar event by conducted on Saturday, April 25, 2020, in the same location.

Consider Approval of Addition to Police Department Procedural Manual (Weapon Mounted Lights Policy):

Chief Kadingo has submitted a Weapon Mounted Lights Police for your review. He wishes to have it included in the Police Procedural Manual.

Motion: A motion was made by Edward Pany, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to Chief Kadingo to include a Weapon Mounted Lights Policy in the Police Procedural Manual.

Consider Request of Becky's Drive-In:

Becky's Drive-In will be hosting the 32nd Annual Benefit Festival & Car Show to benefit Dream Come True on Sunday, October 6, 2019. To date, they have raised in excess of \$334,000 for this event. They wish to use the Borough's portable band trailer and request that the rental fee be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Edward Pany and unanimously carried to grant permission to Becky's Drive-In to use the Borough's portable band trailer, with a waiver of the rental fee to host their 32nd Annual Benefit Festival & Car Show to benefit Dream Come True on Sunday, October 6, 2019.

Consider Request of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church wishes to hold a community worship service in the Uptown Park on Sunday, June 23, 2019. This would be similar to the same event that they held last year. They also requested that any and all fees be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church to hold a community worship service in the Uptown Park on Sunday, June 23, 2019.

Consider Request of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church:

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church wishes to use the Canal Street Park on Saturday, September 28, 2019. As in previous years, they wish to have their parish picnic in the park. They also ask that any and all fees be waived.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church to use the Canal Street Park on Saturday, September 28, 2019 for their parish picnic, waiving all rental fees.

Consider Three Requests of Northampton Fire Department:

The Northampton Fire Department has submitted three separate requests. Each request will be addressed with its own motion.

1. Permission to attend a parade in Mahanoy City on Friday, June 21, 2019. They will provide adequate coverage during their absence.
2. Permission to host their 2nd Annual Block Party on Saturday, September 21, 2019. This event would include a parade and the closure of Washington Avenue between Main Street and 10th Street, beginning at Noon and lasting until 10 PM. No serious problems were encountered with this event last year.
3. In conjunction with the September 21, 2019 event, they are requesting the use of the portable rest room.

Motion: A motion was made by Edward Pany, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to Fire Department to attend a parade in Mahanoy City on Friday, June 21, 2019.

Motion: A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Robert McHale and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Fire Department to host their 2nd Annual Block Party on Saturday, September 21, 2019. This would include a parade and the closure of Washington Avenue between Main Street and 10th Street.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Fire Department to use the portable rest room in conjunction with the request to hold their 2nd Annual Block Party on September 21, 2019.

Consider Summer Meeting Schedule:

At this time, Council should decide on the meeting schedule for July and August. Historically, only one meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month. It should be noted that this year the first Thursday in July is July 4.

Motion: A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall to have only one council meeting on the third Thursday of the month for July and August.

Robert McHale and Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. voted against this motion. Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. reported that included in your packet is a letter from Representative Zachary Mako thanking Borough Council for the opportunity to conduct the shredding event on Saturday, May 11, 2019. He was most appreciative of the help received from the Borough workers and the fire police.

--Wheels on the Canal was held on Saturday, May 18, 2019 and the total raised was \$3,392. Fifty percent of that amount will be donated to Mission 22 and the remainder will go the Blue Star Mothers of America Lehigh Valley Chapter #201. They are considering holding a similar event next year on May 16, 2020, Armed Forces Day.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that Mr. Myles Schoenberger, who completed his Eagle Scout project with the placement of bicycle racks in several places throughout the Borough, had \$200 left over from his donated contributions. As an expression of his thanks for the Borough's cooperation, he has donated the excess to the Borough for recreation use.

--The swimming pool will open on June 8, 2019, barring any unforeseen issues. Pool manager Abraham Gillespie will hold a staff meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2019. Season passes are available at the recreation center only.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on June 13, 2019, at 7 PM, to consider the appeal of ABRA Development 6, LP, who is looking for a number of variances for the property commonly referred to as the VFW building, 1204 Main Street.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler

and unanimously carried to have Solicitor Goudsouzian attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting on behalf of Borough Council to oppose the new use for the VFW.

--I would personally like to commend the police department for sponsoring their fishing derby and providing scholarships to students in the Northampton Area School District.

--We have received the results of the sergeant testing. Three of the five candidates achieved a score necessary to qualify for the oral examination.

--The Civil Service Commission met on Wednesday May 29, 2019 for the purpose of reorganizing and being sworn in by Mayor Thomas Reenock. Anthony Lopsonzski is the chairman, Barry Dorshimer is the vice chairman and Kenneth Richard is the secretary.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the Borough has been notified of a successful LSA grant application in the amount of \$56,867 to purchase a Tomcar Fire/Transport Rescue Vehicle for the fire department. Special thanks should be extended to fire department member Mark Laub for his efforts in preparing the application. We are currently awaiting a contract in the mail. Letters expressing our appreciation were sent to Senator Lisa Boscola and Representative Zachary Mako.

--Enclosed in your packet is the health report that was submitted by Health Officer Ted Veresink.

--Mr. Brobst is waiting for a report from the attendees of the Harrisburg fire show.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman McHale reported that members of the committee will meet with Tom Duffy of Gilmore & Associates on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, to update the main pump station upgrade.

--Once the seasonal employees are on board, we can begin this year's paving program.

--We are still experiencing vandalism in the Municipal Park. We recently had a picnic table broken in half and the rest room still seems to be a prime target. It may become necessary to lock the rest rooms and only open them when someone holds a permit for park use.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

--**Robert McHale** reminded everyone to remember the D-Day invasion 75 years ago.

--He gave tremendous kudos to the entire organization and volunteers involved with Paw Prints on the Canal commended the success of the 11th year. He said they had over 170 vendors and that the turnout was unbelievable.

--**Keith Piescienski** said that this day 75 years ago was a very memorable day. He said hats off to all of the young men who didn't reach the age of 21 and God bless them.

--He said that Paw Prints on the Canal was a huge success and very well attended.

--He said Main Street is still horrible.

--**Mayor Reenock** also said that Paw Prints on the Canal was a very successful event and there were tons of people in attendance. He said it was a beautiful event and the dogs were so well behaved.

--**Anthony Pristash** recognized the 75th Anniversary of D-Day adding that he knows a D-Day survivor. He stated that so many gave the ultimate sacrifice that day.

--**Julia Kutzler** thanked Mark Laub, a member of the fire department, for his efforts in preparing the grant application for a rescue vehicle for the fire department.

--She said she received the code officers report and noted that 32 inspections were done in the month of May. She said that we need to pick up the pace and get more inspections completed.

--**Edward Pany** said that the Atlas Museum had approximately 923 students and teachers visit from several schools throughout the school district. He gave special thanks to Larry Oberly and Sally Ann Madden for their assistance and support with tours and presentations of the museum. He thanked the borough secretaries for their help whenever needed and also gave thanks to Greg Morey, Metro Hucaluk and the public works crew for maintenance work at the museum.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** asked that everyone remember D-Day and everyone that sacrificed their lives. He noted that D-Day stands for Deliverance Day.

--He reminded everyone that Flag Day is on June 14, 2019 and asked everyone to fly their flags proudly and encouraged everyone to visit the memorial at Washington Avenue.

--He also stated that Paw Prints on the Canal was an amazing event with thousands of people in attendance, adding that it's amazing what they do.

--He reminded everyone that Father's Day was approaching and asked that the Dads' be thanked and recognized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst reminded everyone to remember the D-Day invasion 75 years ago.

--He said that Pat Knopf is doing a great job as Farmer's Market Manager.

--He stated that he attended a blight task force meeting today.

--He said that on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, he had a meeting with Coplay bridge construction representatives and PP&L and they are slating completion of the bridge project in June of 2020.

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 #6, dated June 16, 2019 totaling \$205,309.21.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary

