

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 7, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 7, 2020. The meeting was held virtually via webex.com 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, Robert McHale, Julia Kutzler, Thomas Gehringer and Kenneth Hall. Also present were Mayor Reenock, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager LeRoy Brobst, Police Chief Bryan Kadingo and Recording Secretary, Meaghan Case.

HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT:

No one spoke from the public.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 5-20:

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR
THE DRY RUN STREAM PROJECT.**

Resolution No. 5-20 provides for the Borough to submit an application for the improvement of the Delaware & Lehigh Nor-Bath Trail connection. The deadline for the application was April 22, 2020 but due to the pandemic, an extension to provide the resolution was granted. This resolution authorizes the Borough Manager to sign on behalf of the applicant.

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash

Seconded By: Thomas Gehringer

Resolution No. 5-20 passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-20:

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION OF THE
NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH D&L-NOR-BATH TRAIL CONNECTIONS
PROJECT.**

Resolution No. 6-20 provides for the Borough to apply for the Dry Run Stream Restoration grant through the Community Conservation and Protection Program. The deadline for the application was April 22, 2020 but due to the pandemic, an extension to provide the resolution was granted. This resolution authorizes the Borough Manager to sign on behalf of the applicant.

Introduced By: Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.

Seconded By: Keith Piescienski

Resolution No. 6-20 passed. Julia Kutzler voted against this resolution.

Consider Request for Permission to File Northampton County 2020 CDBG

Application:

The 2020 CDBG application is available to be completed by the end of May 2020. This year, we would like to apply for funding to continue with the handicapped ramp program. Once the application is authorized, we will have David Lear prepare the necessary extension. We have been successful in the past with a program of this type.

Motion: A motion was made by Thomas Gehringer, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to complete the 2020 CDBG application to apply for funding to continue with the handicapped ramp program.

Consider Swimming Pool Season:

Up to this point, Mr. Brobst is somewhat reluctant to dedicate manpower and materials to preparing the municipal swimming pool for a 2020 opening. Before proceeding, he would like Council's opinion and directive. His recommendation is to keep the pool closed.

Motion: A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to table the motion until the next scheduled council meeting on May 21, 2020.

Consider Hiring Public Works Summer Help:

We do have some applicants for summer employment in the public works department. However, I have yet to prepare a recommendation listing. Pending your approval to proceed, I will prepare a recommendation list for the May 21 meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert McHale, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously were in favor of hiring five employees for the public works summer help. A list of names will be on the May 21, 2020 meeting agenda.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

Administration and Finance: Councilman Hall reported that the traffic accident at 21st and Main Streets in September 2018, the mast arm of the traffic signal was broken off by a tractor trailer making the turn. We are now in receipt of the second installment. The total amount was in excess of \$28,000.

--We have received proposals for the engineering work required by the CIPP grant and the successful proposal was received from Lehigh Engineering. We had also received proposals from Benchmark and Gilmore.

We have received proposals for work involving the Hotel Tax Grant and the accepted bids were from the Countess Company and Paul Fox.

--We have received the first quarterly franchise fee from Service Electric Cable TV in the amount of \$6,370.92.

Building, Land and Recreation: Councilman Pristash reported that we have received notification from the organizer of Wheels on the Canal that they are cancelling their May 16 event. They are targeting May 15, 2021 as their next occurrence. This will be included on a future agenda.

--Park rentals have come to a standstill. Until the Governor relaxes conditions in the Northeast region, pavilions, rest rooms and play areas will remain closed.

--We will, however, open and closely monitor the rest room on days of the Farmers Market. The Farmers Market manager is well prepared to initiate necessary CDC protocol for the event.

Code and Police: Councilman Piescienski reported that Mr. Brobst anticipates a meeting during the week of May 4, 2020 with Bonnie Almond of the Civil Service Commission to begin the process of securing applications for a police officer.

--Zoning Officer Juliann Edelman attended a webinar regarding a virtual planning commission meeting. She anticipates it may be scheduled in June. More details will follow.

--With the relaxation of the Governor's directive concerning new construction, Keycodes Inspection Agency has resumed inspections.

--The code office has now begun handling weed and grass complaints but has not yet resumed rental unit inspections. It is difficult to see when this will be resumed but Mr. Brobst hopes we get back to a normal operation sometime later in June.

--The report prepared at Council's request regarding apartment registrations is enclosed in your packet.

--He also reviewed the permits issued in April.

Fire and Health: Councilwoman Kutzler reported that both the March and April fire police reports are included in your packet.

--We have been able to secure a number of the PPE items by purchasing them. The county will not provide equipment if it can be purchased locally.

--Mr. Brobst would like to offer a special thank you to the volunteer members of the fire department who have continued to serve during this difficult time.

--She added that the fire police responded to 49 incidents during March and April and the fire

department responded to 21. To date they have responded to a total of 175 incidents.

Public Works and Sewer: Councilman McHale reported on his conversation with Tom Duffy of Gilmore and Associates regarding the sewer plant update. They hope to have two pre-bid meetings, one sometime in June and the other at the end of July. Construction will start in August or September and should be done by the end of 2020.

--Mr. Brobst spoke with Brian Sabo of Change on Main and he has offered to have his group do periodic trash pickup on our park grounds.

--We have returned the public works staff back to full steam and will begin construction of the pavilion at the pool and the community garden at 16th and Canal Streets.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Hall said that he's looking forward to getting through this pandemic and told everyone to stay safe.

Robert McHale reviewed the rental registration report and compared the total registrations from last year, stating that this year's total is significantly lower. Mr. Brobst said that he will speak with Keith and report back next meeting.

--He asked if there was an extension for the real estate taxes. Mr. Brobst explained that he was only aware of the borough tax due date being extended until the end of April and wasn't sure about the county and school taxes.

--He referenced Victor's newsletter and asked if Victor was applying for any of the grant opportunities listed. Mr. Brobst explained that two of three grants were prepared and submitted by Kent Baird of Gilmore and Associates. Mr. McHale said that the grant opportunities seem to be good items and would like Victor to put together a matrix for next year.

--Thomas Gehringer agreed that Victor should pursue any and all grant possibilities.

--Julia Kutzler asked what Victor is doing if Kent Baird is preparing and submitting grant applications.

--Mr. McHale added that he would like a phone/conference line set up in council chambers.

--He also asked for an executive session to discuss personnel matters and legal issues.

Solicitor Goudsouzian said that he will look into to the safest and secure approach to have an executive session.

Keith Piescienski said that he hopes everyone stays safe.

--He said that the fire department is doing ok during this time.

--He told everyone to have a good weekend.

Anthony Pristash congratulated Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. and his wife on the birth of their daughter.

Julia Kutzler congratulated Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. on the birth of his daughter.

--She said that the community garden is coming along great and wanted to thank Kathy Novegratz and Brian Sabo of Change on Main for their help with the project.

--She asked why there was not a health report and asked if Ted Veresink has been working. Mr. Brobst said that Mr. Veresink has been working, contacting businesses via phone and email.

Thomas Gehringer congratulated Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. on the birth of his daughter.

Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. congratulated Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. on the birth of his daughter.

--He would like to see "Park Closed" signs posted at Canal Street park. He received phone calls about out-of-towners in the park and in the river.

--He wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

--He would also like to see a conference call phone set up in council chambers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Brobst said that he also received the same calls about several people at Canal Street park. He added that Brian Sabo of Change on Main and a crew have already cleaned up half of Canal Street.

--He said that the open house at the wastewater treatment plant has been rescheduled.

--He said that we received the new truck for the sewer plant.

--Lastly, he said that he sat in on a PEMA briefing on May 7, 2020 and was informed that in order to apply for a grant, you need to have a minimum of \$3,300.00 of Covid-19 related purchases.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion: Mr. Gehringer moved, seconded by Mr. Pristash and unanimously carried to pay the bills as listed on A/P Journal #4E, dated April 30, 2020, totaling \$28,482.58 and A/P Journal #5, dated May 7, 2020 totaling \$168,005.24.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mrs. Kutzler and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case
Recording Secretary