

**BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Public Workshop Meeting of the Northampton Borough Council was called to order by President Anthony Lopsonzski, Jr. at 7:35 PM on Thursday, October 3, 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, Kenneth Hall and Robert McHale. Edward Pany was absent. 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:**

**Bonnie Almond, 1411 Main Street, Northampton** was present to thank Borough Council for allowing her to attend a Civil Service training class stating that it was very informative. She also stated that she wanted to add some information about children's disruptive behavior at the farmer's market. She said that while in attendance she witnessed a group of older kids jumping from table to table under the pavilion. She also said that the smaller kids are intimidated by the older kids adding that there were several older kids walking and climbing all over the playground equipment. She had pictures that were passed around to the members of council.

**Consider Adoption of Ordinance No. 1211:**

Ordinance No. 1211 establishes a procedure for the calculation of sewer services to be charged to Allen Township. In the proposed format, Allen Township will be responsible to pay 95% of the water charge applied by the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority, which is what Borough residents currently pay.

**ORDINANCE No. 1211:**

**TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ENACTING PROCEDURE FOR CALCULATION OF SEWER SERVICE RATES CHARGED TO ALLEN TOWNSHIP TO BE CONSISTENT WITH PROCEDURE FOR CALCULATING RATES CHARGED TO BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON RESIDENTS.**

Introduced By: Anthony Pristash  
Seconded By: Julia Kutzler

Unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance No. 1211 enacting procedure for calculation of sewer service rates charged to Allen Township to be consistent with procedure for calculating rates charged to Borough of Northampton residents.

**Consider Request of JHF Properties LLC:**

JHF Properties LLC is constructing a home at 1799 Canal Street. Currently, none of the neighboring properties have curb or sidewalk along Canal Street. The contractor is asking that the requirement for curb and sidewalk be waived for this new construction.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr., duly seconded by Robert McHale and unanimously carried to defer the requirement of curb and sidewalk for the new construction property located at 1799 Canal Street, Northampton, PA 18067.

**Consider Request of Northampton Assembly of God:**

We have received a request from the Northampton Assembly of God to conduct a church-organized event on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at the 26th Street playground, Pavilion "B." Their event would take place between 2-3 PM and is open to the community. They have asked that the park rental fee be waived.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Julia Kutzler, duly seconded by Anthony Pristash and unanimously carried to grant permission to the Northampton Assembly of God to conduct a church-organized event on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at the 26th Street playground, Pavilion "B" between 2-3 PM and is open to the community, waiving the park rental fee.

**Consider Request of Allen Township:**

Allen Township is desirous of prohibiting truck traffic on Hollow Lane and Walker Drive. Therefore, they are requesting permission to install the proper signage on Hollow Lane at Horwith Drive and on Walker Drive at Howertown Road. They would install and maintain the signage.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Kenneth Hall and unanimously carried to grant permission to Allen Township to install the proper signage on Hollow Lane at Horwith Drive and on Walker Drive at Howertown Road, prohibiting truck traffic.

**Consider Request of North Catasauqua Borough:**

We have received a request from the North Catasauqua Betterment Committee to use the portable band trailer on Sunday, October 13, 2019, with a rain date of Saturday, October 19, 2019. They are willing to pay the delivery fee but ask that and rental fees be waived.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Keith Piescienski, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and carried to grant permission to the North Catasauqua Betterment Committee to use the portable band trailer on Sunday, October 13, 2019, with a rain date of Saturday, October 19, 2019, waiving the rental fees.

**Consider Request of Northampton Regional Emergency Medical Services:**

The Northampton Regional Emergency Medical Services is installing a generator at their headquarters at 1525 Canal Street. The permit fee is \$485. They are requesting a waiver for the permit fee.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Julia Kutzler duly seconded by Keith Piescienski and unanimously carried to approve the request of Northampton Regional Emergency Medical Services to waive the permit fee of \$485 to install a generator at their headquarters at 1525 Canal Street.

**Consider Retirement Request:**

Long-time employee Frederick Stubits is requesting permission to retire on October 31, 2019. He has served the Borough exceptionally well for 39 years. He will be missed.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Julia Kutzler and unanimously carried to approve the request of Frederick Stubits to retire on October 31, 2019.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Administration and Finance:** Councilman Lopsonzski, Sr. reported that Mr. Pany reports receiving a cash donation for the museum from Drew and Penny Strine. Mr. Strine is a former Lehigh Cement employee.

--A meeting was held with Mrs. Kutzler, Fire Chief Keith Knoblach and Mr. Brobst to review the budget recommendations from the fire department. Chief Knoblach's requests were found to be acceptable. Pending any Council decision, a new ladder truck was not included.

--Meetings with the other department heads and the appropriate committee chairperson are being scheduled.

**--Just a reminder-the next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 7:30 PM.**

**Building, Land and Recreation:** Councilman Pristash reported that there is still room for additional Council members to ride in the Jack Frost Parade. Please contact me.

--A dance is scheduled at the recreation center on Saturday, November 16, 2019, for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Memorial Linden Tree dedication was well attended and well presented. Fellowship followed at the Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church.

**Code and Police:** Councilman Piescienski reported that the Northampton Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 7 PM for a sketch plan review of Willow Brook Farm - Phase 2.

--The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 7 PM, to hear the appeal of Shawn and Meaghan Case, 423 East 8th Street. They are seeking a variance on the setback restrictions for a fence.

--Through the efforts of Councilwoman Kutzler, a connection has been made through the state police barracks to afford a future opportunity for PA Municipal Police North American Standard Level 1 training. As you may recall, we were turned down because we do not have enough accidents.

--Mr. Brobst is currently working on a meeting with community managers and a representative of Fed Ex in an effort to express some of the concerns of truck traffic on local roads.

--He also reviewed the permits for September.

**Fire and Health:** Councilwoman Kutzler reported that the 2009 KME aerial ladder truck was taken by the new owner on Wednesday, September 25, 2019.

--In conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, the fire department will hold its Open House on October 9, 2019.

--The fire committee met on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 7:30 PM, with representatives of the department.

--The fire department conducted their 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Approximately 31 fire apparatus from various departments in the area participated. A good time was had by all.

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

**Public Works and Sewer:** Councilman McHale reported that the 2019 paving program is proceeding on schedule, including paving in North Catasauqua as part of the agreement for their contribution towards the purchase of the paving machine.

--The planning for the upgrade of the main pump station at the sewer plant has been expanded to include the electrical design necessary to accomplish the project.

--On Saturday, October 5, 2019, a county-sponsored electronic recycling event will be held in the parking lot of the Northampton Memorial Community Center. County residents may drop off electronic devices between 9 AM and 12 Noon. There is a fee that must be paid for with cash or check.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Anthony Pristash, duly seconded by Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr. and unanimously carried to go in to an executive session immediately following the council meeting.

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

--**Kenneth Hall** said that fall is finally here. He also stated that residents should not be blowing leaves onto the streets.

--**Robert McHale** stated that it sounds like there are major safety issues in reference to the older kids walking on the roof of the pavilions at the Municipal Park.

He specifically referred to the picture of the electrical line running along the top of the pavilion roof.

--He asked for an update on the fences in Allen Township on Borough property. He said it sounds like we are closer to a resolution on at least one property in question.

--He asked if there was any additional information on the railroad complaints. Mr. Brobst said at this time, there was not any additional information received.

--**Keith Piescienski** stated that the condition of Main Street seems to be getting better and he didn't lose any fillings while driving.

--**Julia Kutzler** said that she and Mr. Brobst met with the fire committee and discussed the possibility for a new ladder truck for the fire department, stating that she is all for a new ladder truck. They also discussed the possibility of mutual aid from the surrounding areas. She said it was a very positive meeting.

--She said that a woman on E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street was complaining about Jake brakes on Route 329.

--She thanked Keith for the report on the rental inspections.

--**Anthony Lopsonzski, Sr.** thanked the Northampton Press for their reporting of accurate information.

--He stated that there is a significant decrease in volunteerism and stressed the importance of volunteers.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Brobst stated that he and Victor met with Lorraine of Lafarge on October 2, 2019 to discuss property that may be available for purchase.

He said that he is looking forward to working on the 2020 budget.

He said Go Seahawks!

Council members entered in to executive session at 8:26 PM.

Council members returned from executive session at 8:48 PM.

### **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 #9B, dated September 26, 2019 totaling \$16,132.88 and A/P Journal #10 dated October 3, 2019 totaling \$290,954.43.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Piescienski, duly seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Case  
Recording Secretary