

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2021

The regular meeting of the North East Borough Council was held on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, 31 West Main Street, North East, PA.

BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT: David Hall, President
Denise McCumber, Vice President
Heather Barnett, President Pro Tem
Bill Beardsley
Deb Wurst
Greg Henning

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Gregory, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Borough Solicitor
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Superintendent
Wayne Yokom, Streets Superintendent
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Superintendent
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Superintendent
Sean Lam, Captain
Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Todd Luke
Jon Triana
Tom Huber
Allen Dalrymple
Robert Belson
Marilyn Belson
Bob Behrens, Jr.
Heather Hinkler
Amber Belson
Ken Snyder
Larry Morton, Sr.
Robert Hoyt, Jr.
Libby Rosequist

CALL TO ORDER:
President David Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES:
♦ **July 6, 2021**
The minutes from the July 6, 2021, meeting were reviewed. D. McCumber motioned to approve the minutes as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**Expense Approval Report**

D. McCumber motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Report as presented. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, commented on the milling and repaving of Eastwood Drive and thanked Mark Hamman for handling any issues and overseeing the paving project. T. Huber stated the neighborhood looks better than it has in twenty years.

T. Huber mentioned the article in the News Journal stating the Borough authorized distribution of \$60,000.00 to the underpass murals and believes the money could be utilized better.

Bob Behrens, Jr., 97 Wall Street, suggested repairing the stairs in the underpass with the \$60,000.00. P. Gehrlein stated the money is from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority with an amount set aside for underpass improvements. The Borough is working with PennDot regarding the infrastructure improvements to this area. P. Gehrlein stated he believes the infrastructure, improved lighting, and improved safety for pedestrians is critical.

B. Behrens stated as a trial run to the Residential Rental Inspection Program, he asked Mark Hamman to walk through one of his units to do an inspection but was told there is currently no checklist for the program. P. Gehrlein stated at the last landlord meeting, it was agreed upon the landlords would meet and comprise an alternative checklist and then have a meeting to agree upon the parameters in which to inspect the properties. Prior to that, P. Gehrlein stated it was inappropriate to start inspections. P. Gehrlein asked the landlords if they would be ready to present and discuss their checklist and parameters at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., prior to the September Council meeting? On behalf of the landlords, Robert Hoyt, Jr., stated they will be ready to present their information at the September 7th meeting.

B. Behrens stated he feels the inspections should include all Borough homeowners as well as businesses.

Robert Hoyt, Jr. asked about the final decision regarding the firemen's request for insurance money. P. Gehrlein stated the firemen will know the final figures from the Drive Thru Cherry Festival by the end of August and are to give an accounting to the Borough of their financial need. R. Hoyt stated he believes the Borough and Township need to support the firemen who provide public safety to all residents. Mayor Gregory stated the Borough must abide by rules set by Borough Code when distributing money.

R. Hoyt, stated there are no building permits posted in the windows of 1-9 East Main Street and 22 South Lake Street. P. Gehrlein stated he will contact North East Area Code Administration who handles the permits.

B. Behrens asked if the main goal for the residential rental inspections is safety or cosmetic? D. McCumber stated as has been discussed many times before, safety of tenants is the main goal.

Amber Belson, 154 South Lake Street, stated she was upset about money being used for the mural in the underpass when the stairs are unsafe and people are using her driveway. She also stated she believes the Borough should help the fire department. She mentioned there are two petitions on Facebook supporting Captain Lam for the Police Chief position as he is doing a great job and is a North East

resident. P. Gehrlein stated an update regarding the outward search for the Police Chief position will be presented to Council members at the August 16th meeting.

B. Behrens requested “Public Comments” be placed at the end of the agenda also.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Jarret Kalicky to Patrolman Fourth – Mayor Gregory

D. McCumber motioned to appoint Jarret Kalicky to Patrolman Fourth as presented by Mayor Gregory.

H. Barnett seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution No. 08022021-1, Modification to “OBO” N. E. Borough’s FY 2019 CDBG Program

This resolution deletes the Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Project and reallocates the funds totaling \$52,457.23 for the Phase II Handicapped Accessible Curb-Cut Ramps Project. D. McCumber motioned to adopt Resolution No. 08022021-1 as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution No. 08022021-2, Modification to “OBO” N. E. Borough’s FY 2020 CDBG Program

This resolution deletes the Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Project and reallocates the funds totaling \$86,194.00 for the Phase II Handicapped Accessible Curb-Cut Ramps Project. H. Barnett motioned to adopt Resolution No. 08022021-2 as presented. G. Henning seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution No. 08022021-3, Application to DCED – Keystone Communities Grant

P. Gehrlein stated this resolution is for street scape and infrastructure improvements on Clinton Street, South Pearl Street and Wall Street, including the underpass. The funding in the amount of \$405,000.00 is in concert with and will be combined with the money received from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority for the overall project. D. McCumber motioned to adopt Resolution No. 08022021-3 as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution No. 08022021-4, Appointing and Confirming North East Sewer Authority Members

B. Beardsley motioned to adopt Resolution No. 08022021-4 as presented. D. Wurst seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution No. 08022021-5, Appointing and Confirming North East Water Authority Members

G. Henning motioned to adopt Resolution No. 08022021-5 as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution No. 08022021-6, Appointing and Confirming North East Planning Commission Members

G. Henning motioned to adopt Resolution No. 08022021-6 as presented. D. Wurst seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution No. 08022021-7, Appointing and Confirming North East Zoning Hearing Board Members

D. McCumber motioned to adopt Resolution No. 08022021-7 as presented. G. Henning seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Barnett	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Greg Henning	<u>Yes</u>	Dave Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson Park Request – Lake View Mennonite Church

Lake View Mennonite Church is requesting use of Gibson Park on Sunday, August 8, 2021, (as well as August 15, 2021-rain date) 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. for a Hymn Sing. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request as presented. D. Wurst seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Gibson Park and Borough Streets – Downtown North East, Inc.

Downtown North East, Inc, is requesting use of Gibson Park and Borough Streets on Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 7:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. for the Wine Fest Stride’ n Stomp. H. Barnett motioned to approve the request as presented. D. McCumber seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

All Borough facility, parks and streets requests have been granted subject to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines at the time of the Borough Council meeting. However, dependent on the coronavirus pandemic, all events are subject to change or cancellation.

Second Monthly Meeting – August 16, 2021

P. Gehrlein stated there will be a second monthly meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Borough Council acknowledged receipt of the following:

Code Enforcement Report

Police Chief's Report

Shade Tree Commission Request

Borough Council received a letter from the Shade Tree Commission requesting money. P. Gehrlein stated he will have more information on the request after the next Shade Tree Commission meeting.

Erie County Fair at Wattsburg

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

P. Gehrlein stated the landlord meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., followed by the September Council meeting.

Mayor Gregory stated a couple concerned individuals asked if we could put our minutes in the News Journal. P. Gehrlein stated the agendas and approved minutes will be posted on our website.

B. Behrens asked why legal ads were not placed in the News Journal. P. Gehrlein stated legal ads have to be placed in a publication of wide consumption and the News Journal does not qualify as it is a free paper. The only publication of wide consumption is the Erie Times.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:48 p.m., G. Henning motioned to adjourn the meeting. H. Barnett seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Anderson (August 3, 2021)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager