

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 6, 2021

The regular meeting of the North East Borough Council was held on Tuesday, July 6, 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
Greg Henning

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Gregory, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Borough Solicitor
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Superintendent
Wayne Yokom, Streets Superintendent
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Superintendent
Sean Lam, Captain
Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Todd Luke
Joseph Schneider
Stephen Haeseler
Brent Johnson
Shane Vincent
Bob Behrens, Jr.
Ryan McGregor
Amber Belson
Mark Kaday

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:
♦ **June 7, 2021**
The minutes from the June 7, 2021, meeting were reviewed. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the minutes as presented. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:
Expense Approval Report
D. McCumber motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Report as presented. H. Barnett seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

B. Behrens, Jr., 97 Wall Street, asked if the Borough was giving the Fire Department \$40,000.00 they requested. P. Gehrlein stated after a meeting with representatives from Crescent Hose, Fuller Hose, the Township and Borough Council, it was decided to entertain the proposal after an accounting of all the proceeds were completed from the Cherry Festival.

B. Behrens asked why North East has two fire fighting companies and not just one. B. Behrens stated they should merge and sell the excess equipment. P. Gehrlein stated the fire companies have completed a feasibility study which indicates the potential to merge the two companies is great since they are basically functioning as one fire company now. However, the fire companies need to decide on how to proceed if both companies agree to merge.

B. Behrens asked why the dates on the bills changed. N. Anderson stated the dates now listed on the bills are the actual read dates. The old software would not permit us to change the dates. The new software permits us to use the actual read dates and then be able to bill for the usage. N. Anderson also stated if a landlord requires a final read, we can still perform that function.

B. Behrens asked about the vacant Police Chief position. P. Gehrlein stated at the motion of Council, the Borough has advertised for the Police Chief position both locally and nationally. B. Behrens asked why the Borough is pursuing applications when Captain Lam is eligible and capable of doing the job. P. Gehrlein stated this is an opportunity to look outside as well as inside the department and the Borough is not discounting Captain Lam’s performance and work during this time frame. B. Behrens stated he would encourage Borough Council to strongly consider filling the Police Chief position with Captain Lam.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Year Ending December 31, 2020, Annual Audit and Financial Statements

- ★ North East Borough
- ★ North East Sewer Authority
- ★ North East Water Authority

P. Gehrlein stated 2020 was an odd year. Besides a pandemic, we had a software conversion which did not encompass a complete year. From January 1, 2020 until May 1, 2020, we were utilizing our legacy system which was hard to extract the data into a usable format when it wasn’t a complete year. Utility billing converted to the new software in September, so we could not close out the year due to extrapolating information. We have been in contact with the auditors, reviewed our processing and everything is in line. The auditors can actually do a “view only” of our monthly processing which is very helpful. The auditors are pleased with the new software and how we get the information to them.

D. McCumber motioned to accept the North East Borough Year Ending December 31, 2020, Annual Audit and Financial Statement. 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>		

G. Henning motioned to accept the North East Sewer Authority Year Ending December 31, 2020, Annual Audit and Financial Statement. 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>		

B. Beardsley motioned to accept the North East Water Authority Year Ending December 31, 2020, Annual Audit and Financial Statement. 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>		

Resolution No. 07062021-1, Intergovernmental Agreement with N. E. Township for Police Services

D. Hall stated this resolution will provide police services on a limited basis at Freeport Beach / Halli Reid Park, Howard Eaton Reservoir, Grahamville Reservoir, Smith Reservoir, North East Borough Water Treatment Plant, North East Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant, Gravel Pit Park and any other Borough owned properties located within North East Township. D. McCumber motioned to approve Resolution No. 07062021-1 as presented. 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>		

Resolution No. 07062021-2, Revision to "OBO" North East Borough's FY 2019 CDBG Program

P. Gehrlein stated this is monetary allocation for the ADA curb cut and ramp project that were completed in the Catawba, Isabella and Agawam area as well as milling and paving in the entire area. P. Gehrlein stated the next areas to be done will be Wall and Tannery Streets. B. Beardsley motioned to approve Resolution No. 07062021-2 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>		

Heard Park Request – Recess Locked and Loaded

Shane Vincent is requesting use of Heard Park on July 17, 2021, for 6 hours to hold a Gellyball Event. S. Vincent stated the date of July 17th is negotiable since the Cherry Festival Drive Thru is scheduled for the same time. D. McCumber motioned to approve the Recess Locked and Loaded for an amenable date when the park is available. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Heard Park Request – Park United Methodist Church

Park United Methodist Church is requesting use of Heard Park on Friday, August 6, 2021, (or August 20, 2021-rain date) from 4:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. for a Community Movie Night. H. Barnett motioned to approve the request as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Howard Eaton Reservoir – Boy Scout Troop 82

Boy Scout Troop 82 is requesting use of Howard Eaton Reservoir on September 5, 2021, from 5:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon to host a foot race fundraiser. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request as presented. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Gibson Park and Borough Streets – North East High School

North East High School is requesting use of Gibson Park and Borough Streets for the Cherry Festival 5K Run/Walk on July 17, 2021, from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. D. McCumber motioned to approve the request as presented. H. Barnett 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 – July 19, 2021

P. Gehrlein stated there will not be a second monthly meeting.

Mayor Gregory thanked Wayne Yokom and the Streets Department for putting up the veteran banners.

B. Beardsley asked W. Yokom if notification of garbage pick-up around a holiday could be placed in the News Journal earlier. W. Yokom stated he will do so.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Borough Council acknowledged receipt of the following:

- Police Captain’s Report**
- Code Enforcement Report**

The meeting recessed at 7:21 p.m. to Executive Session with unknown action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matters

At 8:00 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:02 p.m., D. McCumber motioned to adjourn the meeting. H. McCumber seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Anderson (July 7, 2021)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager