

MINUTES

NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting November 1, 2021

BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT: David Hall, President
Denise McCumber, Vice President
Bill Beardsley
Deb Wurst

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Gregory, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Borough Solicitor
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Superintendent
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Superintendent
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Superintendent
Mark Kaday, Assistant Water Superintendent
Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Jon Triana
Robert Behrens, Jr.
Tom Huber
Joe Schneider
Todd Luke
Monica Mazur
Dave Hirtzel
Heather Jones

HEARING:

Ordinance No. 915, Amend Non-Uniform Pension Plan Administered by the PMRS Pursuant to Article IV

The hearing for Ordinance No. 915 began at 6:58 p.m. P. Gehrlein explained the process of renewal with PMRS. There was no public comment or questions regarding Ordinance No. 915.


CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES:

 October 4, 2021

D. McCumber motioned to approve the October 4, 2021, minutes as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

 October 12, 2021

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the October 12, 2021, minutes as presented with the correction of the adjournment time from “p.m.” to “a.m.” D. Wurst seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Expense Approval Report

P. Gehrlein discussed the expense report including the MMO payments for PMRS and chemical needs for the wastewater treatment plant. He stated that all other expenses in the report were typical. D. McCumber motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. D. Wurst seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, asked Council to demolish the building at West Main Street and Robinson Streets stating his concern that the house is an eyesore in the community. T. Huber also asked about the \$6.5 million grant for Mercyhurst North East, as a majority of that property is in the township. P. Gehrlein stated that he was asked to complete the grant application as the local municipality office due to the project benefiting the entire North East community. He also stated that the Borough will not be obligated past the paperwork completion.

Robert Behrens, 97 Wall Street, stated that the road patching being done in town looks good.

Jon Triana, 50 Blaine Street, asked about the stairs in the underpass on Route 89. P. Gehrlein explained that the stairs are being structurally assessed to determine how they should be addressed for improvement.

D. McCumber asked about the banner that was hung over the underpass on Route 89. Mark Hamman said the Streets Department looked into complaints about the banner but were unable to remove it due to its location on railroad property and the Borough does not have permission to access the area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 915, Amend Non-Uniform Pension Plan Administered by the PMRS Pursuant to Article IV

D. McCumber motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 915, Amend Non-Uniform Pension Plan Administered by the PMRS Pursuant to Article IV as advertised. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>	David Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 11012021-1, PennDot Multimodal Transportation Grant

P. Gehrlein discussed the PennDot Multimodal Transportation Grant streetscape project that will include curbed sidewalks, tree planting, and other related projects extending from West Division to Clinton Streets going north and south as well as Blaine Street to North Mill Streets going east and west. D. McCumber motioned to adopt Resolution No. 11012021-1 as presented. D. Wurst seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>	David Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Finance Committee Recommendations

B. Beardsley discussed the Finance Committee recommendations for the remaining 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. After the allocation of \$60,000 to the Fire Training Facility in Gibson Park, the Finance Committee is recommending spending \$120,000 on thirty (30) new streetlights throughout the downtown corridor to match the lights in Gibson Park, \$15,000 to the Shade Tree Commission for planting street trees and replacement trees and \$20,000 for the installation of a digital information kiosk in Gibson Park. B. Beardsley motioned to accept the Finance Committee recommendations as discussed. D. McCumber seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>	David Hall	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Deb Wurst	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson and Heard Parks Request – Light Up Night, November 27, 2021

P.Gehrlein stated that Light Up Night is being planned for both Gibson and Heard Parks, with more details to come. Bill Beardsley and seconded by Deb Wurst to accept the Gibson and Heard Park Request for Light Up Night on November 27, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Borough Streets Request - Michael and Monica Mazur

Monica Mazur detailed the request for a holiday sleigh ride to be held on their family property on December 10, 2021 (a date change from the original request of December 17, 2021).

A motion was made by Denise McCumber and seconded by Bill Beardsley to accept the Borough Streets Request made by Monica Mazur. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Monthly Meeting – November 15, 2021

P.Gehrlein stated that there will not be a second meeting this month. Details regarding a finance budget meeting will be forthcoming.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Manager’s Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Police Chief’s Report

There was no comment or question regarding the Borough Manager’s Report, Code Enforcement Report, or Police Chief’s Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Park Plaque Dedication

P. Gehrlein stated that plans for the supervisor’s plaque dedication ceremony in Halli Reid Park will be finalized after the stone is repositioned, with the date to be announced in the North East News-Journal and on the Borough website.

T. Huber reminded everyone to vote at the November 2nd election.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:20pm, a motion was made by Denise McCumber and seconded by Deb Wurst to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.