

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Second Monthly Meeting
December 20, 2021**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Steven Gregory, Mayor
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Robert Behrens
Amber Belson
Todd Luke
Libby Rosequist
Ray Schaff

HEARING:

Council President D. Hall opened the hearing at 7:00 p.m. He stated that the 2022 proposed budget, Ordinances 919 and 920, and the tax ordinance had been advertised. He then opened the hearing for public comment.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall St, asked if taxes were being raised in 2022, as well as what the rate increases were for water and sewer rates. P. Gehrlein answered that the taxes were not changing for 2022. He also stated that the FLO charges were increasing \$.33 (which is 8.5%) on the FLO only, not TSS or BOD charges, and that water rates were increasing \$.11 per one hundred cubic feet (which is 3%). R. Behrens asked what the average cost increases would be per resident. P. Gehrlein estimated the sewer increase would be approximately \$30.00 per year and water increases approximately \$10.00 per year on average.

There were no other public comments or questions.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President David Hall called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Behrens asked who owns the property behind his property at 97 Wall Street. P. Gehrlein stated that he believes it is owned by Cliffstar/Refresco, but the Borough has a sampling station, with Welch’s through an easement, on that land. R. Behrens stated that he is concerned about homeless people living on that property. Chief Lam asked R. Behrens to call the police when he sees people living there so that the police can offer the people services as needed. G. Henning stated that Dr. Ritter is the homelessness coordinator for the North East School District and may be helpful in coordinating services.

R. Behrens asked for an update regarding the lack of building permits displayed at Film Fest Video. P. Gehrlein stated that he has met with the building owner and connected him with the North East Township regarding necessary permits.

R. Behrens asked if the Borough had purchased a new dump truck. P. Gehrlein stated that a new dump truck has not been recently purchased. T. Luke stated that one of the trucks is missing the North East Borough wording on one of the side doors which may be what he is seeing.

D. Wurst, Council Member, congratulated the Wastewater Department for receiving the Wastewater Treatment Facility of the Year award.

G. Henning, Council Member, thanked the Borough workers, giving recognition for the paving work that has been completed at Eaton Reservoir. P. Gehrlein stated that it was a collaborative project completed with all Borough Departments working together.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2022 Proposed Budget

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the 2022 Budget as advertised. D. Wurst seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Ordinance No. 919—Water Rates

D. McCumber motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 919-Water Rates as advertised. G. Henning seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Ordinance No. 920—Sewer Rates

D. McCumber motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 920-Sewer Rates as advertised. D. Wurst seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Tax Ordinance 2022

D. McCumber motioned to adopt Tax Ordinance 2022 as advertised. G. Henning seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Civil Service Matters:

Adopt Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations

D. McCumber motioned to adopt Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations as presented. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Sergeant Memorandum of Understanding and Job Description

G. Henning motioned to approve the Sergeant Memorandum of Understanding and Job Description as presented. D. Wurst seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Lieutenant Job Description

Chief Lam explained the Lieutenant position was previously a non-union salaried position that had been changed to a union, hourly position. The approval of the updated job description would return the position to a non-union salaried position. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Lieutenant Job Description as presented. D. Wurst seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Accept Consortium List

B. Beardsley motioned to accept the Consortium List as presented. D. Wurst seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Appoint Full Time Police Officer

D. McCumber motioned to appoint Spencer Cornelius as a full time Police Officer. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gregory commended Spencer Cornelius and offered his support for the appointment.

Letter of Resignation—Civil Service Commission

G. Henning motioned to accept Todd Luke’s Letter of Resignation from the Civil Service Commission. D. McCumber seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Acting Sergeant

P. Gehrlein asked that the appointment of P. Towner as Acting Sergeant be added to the agenda, as it was mistakenly omitted. Chief Lam also asked that a three-month window be included for all eligible candidates to prepare and to test. D. McCumber motioned to approve the appointment of P. Towner as Acting Sergeant as well as the three-month window for preparation and testing. G. Henning seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough has received a grant through Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority for \$100,000 that will be matched. Approximately \$60,000 will be spent on the fire training facility to match North East Township’s contribution. Approximately \$40,000 will be spent on a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, including a needs assessment and plans to accomplish goals in the master plan. P. Gehrlein stated that the DCNR also has planning grants available for additional funding.

P. Gehrlein thanked Council Members who have served the North East Borough over their past terms. P. Gehrlein thanked David Hall, Deb Wurst, Greg Henning, Steve Gregory and Heather Barnett for their commitment to the community, volunteering their service to the community and weighing decisions based on the best interest for the community overall and forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:21 p.m., D. McCumber motioned to adjourn. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Anderson (December 21, 2021)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager