

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting
December 6, 2021**

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, Solicitor
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Supervisor
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Supervisor
Sean Lam, Police Captain
Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Alan Dalrymple
Jon Triana
Robert Behrens, Jr.
Tom Huber
Dave Hirtzel
Jake Jones
Heather Jones
Ryan McGregor
Amber Belson
Richard Bardol

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MINUTES:

November 1, 2021

G. Henning motioned to approve the November 1, 2021, minutes as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Expense Approval Report

P. Gehrlein discussed the expense report, noting end of the year account closeouts and completed projects. 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:

B. Behrens, Jr., 97 Wall Street, asked about the work being done to the building at Clinton Street and South Pearl Street since there are no permits displayed in the window. P. Gehrlein stated building permits are handled through the North East Township office who will complete all necessary inspections. P. Gehrlein stated he would review the work regarding the zoning ordinance.

B. Behrens, Jr., asked about adding a three-way stop on Wall Street at either South Mill Street or Center Street. P. Gehrlein stated a traffic proposal for next year to change Wall Street traffic flow is in the works and may include a three-way stop.

B. Behrens, Jr., asked why there were no school zone signs stating slowed traffic during school hours throughout the town, specifically where the crossing guards are located. Sean Lam, Police Captain, stated that those areas are located too far from the school, therefore are not considered a school zone area. Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor, stated that adding speed limit signs would require a PennDot study, as Lake Street and Main Street are state-owned roads.

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, asked how much money the Borough has received from ARP funding and how it has been used. P. Gehrlein detailed the amounts of two-yearly allocations (\$211,000 each) and their use in constructing the new fire training facility, purchasing thirty (30) new street lights, and using approximately \$15,000 for new tree planting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Personnel Committee Report—Police Chief Position

D. Wurst nominated Sean Lam as full-time Police Chief and then opened the floor for public comment. B. Behrens, Jr., stated this promotion has been a long time coming. Jon Triana, 50 Blaine St., commended Sean Lam’s character and supported the committee’s nomination. P. Gehrlein explained the process undertaken by the Civil Service Committee with the Police Chief appointment recommendation being made by the Personnel Committee. D. McCumber asked the Police Chief salary. P. Gehrlein stated the salary has been established. D. McCumber motioned to appoint Sean Lam as Police Chief. G. Henning seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2022 Proposed Budget

P. Gehrlein briefly outlined the 2022 Proposed Budget, including six (6) funds; General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Gas Tax Fund, Shade Tree Commission, and Kreft Fund totaling \$11,170,654. The budget does not include a tax increase but does include a proposed increase to water and sewer rates, which had been previously postponed due to the pandemic. P. Gehrlein stated that the department supervisors have been diligent about managing and reducing budgets, sharing services, and working collaboratively to keep costs low. He stated the proposed water and sewer rate increases would be used to fund the replacement of older and damaged equipment, as well as fund future improvements with long-term benefits to the community. D. McCumber motioned to advertise the 2022 Proposed Budget as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Ordinance No. 916—Water Rates

H. Barnett motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 916-Establishing Water Rates as outlined in the 2022 Proposed Budget. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 917—Sewer Rates

H. Barnett motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 917-Establishing Sewer Rates as outlined in the 2022 Proposed Budget. D. McCumber seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Tax Ordinance 2022

B. Beardsley motioned to advertise Tax Ordinance 2022 as outlined in the 2022 Proposed Budget. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 12062021-1, Modification to “OBO” N.E. Borough’s FY 2020 CDBG Program

P. Gehrlein reviewed the proposed modification to the CDBG program, reallocating funds for ADA-compliant ramps, including the ramp improvements in the comprehensive and proactive improvements to the Wall Street area. D. McCumber motioned to adopt Resolution No. 12062021-1, Modification to “OBO” N.E. Borough’s FY 2020 CDBG Program as presented. D. Wurst seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

3rd Quarter Shut Offs

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the 3rd Quarter Shut Off list. D. Wurst seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Heard Park Request—Beacon of Hope, Inc.

D. McCumber motioned to approve the request for Heard Park from Beacon of Hope, Inc., as presented. G. Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Monthly Meeting—December 20, 2021

The second monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Code Enforcement Report
Police Chief's Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

B. Behrens, Jr., asked about the timeline for new ramp construction on Wall Street. P. Gehrlein stated that the ramp construction will be done in conjunction with the other improvements being made to Wall Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 p.m., Denise McCumber motioned to adjourn. Greg Henning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Anderson (December 7, 2021)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager