

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
February 7, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 31 West Main Street, North East, PA 16428.

BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT:

Bill Beardsley, Vice President
Heather Jones
Ryan McGregor
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Amber Belson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jon Triana, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Streets Assistant Supervisor
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Supervisor
Dave Hirtzel
Robert Behrens, Jr.
Ray Schaff
Ann Schaff
Dave Meehl
Tom Huber
Betty Truby
Steven Gregory
Chris Skrekla
Kayla Skrekla
Marilyn Belson
Bob Belson
Jack DiOrazio
Jeff Stritzinger
Brian Ropiecki
Megan Ropiecki
Ken Snyder

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Vice President B. Beardsley called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES:

T. Luke motioned to approve the January 3, 2022, minutes as presented. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**Expense Approval Report**

P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough received funding through ECGRA approximately 2 ½ years ago for façade/streetscape improvements. The funding and projects are detailed in the Community Development line item and were matched at \$27,000. H. Jones motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Huber, 194 Eastwood Drive, asked why the monthly Borough Council meetings were moved to 6:00 p.m. P. Gehrlein stated that the decision had been made following input from the public that an earlier meeting time would increase participation among community members as it is a more convenient time for many people. P. Gehrlein stated that attendance/participation would be monitored for a trial time frame and adjustments would be made if necessary.

Robert Behrens, Jr., 97 Wall Street, asked about the viaduct on Route 89, requesting that the sidewalks be closed during the winter season. He stated that many people are walking in the street due to the snow accumulation which is a hazard. P. Gehrlein stated that Route 89 is a state road but that he would review options. He stated that placing a "sidewalk closed" sign wouldn't necessarily stop people from walking in that area, but he understood the concern for safety and liability of the parties involved.

Steve Gregory, 7 Eagle Street, asked about the rental ordinance that had been previously passed, stating his concern for the safety of children in rental properties. P. Gehrlein stated that the ordinance would be revisited with the new Borough Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:**Establishment of Probationary Wage for Patrolman Cornelius**

Mayor Jon Triana supported the recommendation of Police Chief Lam in establishing the probationary wage for Patrolman Cornelius at \$18 per hour, retroactive to the first of the year. T. Luke motioned to approve the probationary wage for Patrolman Cornelius of \$18 per hour retroactive to January 1, 2022. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

Promotion of Patrolman Kalicky to Patrolman Third Class

Mayor J. Triana supported the recommendation of Police Chief Lam in promoting Patrolman Kalicky from Patrolman Fourth Class to Patrolman Third Class. A. Belson motioned to approve the promotion of Patrolman Kalicky to Patrolman Third Class. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

Mayor J. Triana commended the Police Department’s dedication to their positions and the community, noting the officers’ eager willingness to serve the community and participate in voluntary training opportunities.

R. McGregor asked if the community grant application had been submitted. Chief Lam stated he had submitted the application earlier that day.

Resolution 02072022-1, Police Record Retention and Disposal

B. Beardsley presented Resolution 02072022-1 for approval, stating the record retention and disposal presented follow the guidelines required and is necessary in order to create space for new filing. H. Jones motioned to approve Resolution 02072022-1, Police Record Retention and Disposal as presented. A. Belson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

DCNR Resolution, Blueprint for Tomorrow

P. Gehrlein stated the DCNR Resolution is part of a planning grant application through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources. The planning grant application will provide for the hiring of a consultant to help plan and improve our community parks, with matching funds through ECGRA. R. McGregor motioned to approve the DCNR Resolution, Blueprint for Tomorrow. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

Committee and Authority Appointments

B. Beardsley stated there was an error in assigning more Borough Council Members than necessary to the Sewer Authority, Water Authority, and Shade Tree Commission at the last council meeting. B. Beardsley assigned the following Council Members as follows:

Sewer Authority – D. McCumber
Water Authority – B. Beardsley
Shade Tree Commission – T. Luke

All other authority and commission assignments remain the same as assigned at the January 3, 2022, Council meeting. H. Jones asked if council members could attend regardless of the assignments given. P. Gehrlein stated that all commission and authority meetings are open to the public.

Request for Heard Park –Ryan McGregor

R. McGregor is requesting use of Heard Park for Community Movie Nights on June 25th, July 23rd and August 20th. A. Belson motioned to approve the request for Heard Park as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Gibson Park –NE Lions Club

The N. E. Lions Club is requesting use of Gibson Park for Gibson Days on June 10th, 11th, and 13th. R. McGregor motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park by the NE Lions Club as presented. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Monthly Meeting—February 21, 2022

P. Gehrlein stated that the second monthly meeting will take place on Monday, February 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Police Chief Report
Code Enforcement Report
Manager's Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

B. Beardsley commended the Street Department for excellence in snow plowing and removal.

P. Gehrlein stated that the Manager's Report details ongoing projects.

R. McGregor asked J. Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor, about the new pipe for Loomis Street. J. Pazmino stated that they are in the process of securing supplies and easements for the project.

R. McGregor gave details about the upcoming community movie nights to take place this summer, stating that they are a great evening family activity for the residents of North East. He stated that he hopes to be able to include local vendors, regional food trucks, and live music.

R. McGregor stated that an art competition would be taking place that would feature local artists, with winning art projects to be displayed in Borough Council Chambers.

R. McGregor stated that website alerts have been added to the Borough's website to help keep residents informed of changes and information as needed, for example changes in garbage pick up due to holidays, etc.

R. McGregor gave details about the "Adopt a Hydrant" initiative to have local residents "adopt" a fire hydrant to keep them cleared of snow in order to help the fire departments access hydrants more quickly during an emergency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

B. Beardsley recessed the regular meeting at 6:24 p.m. to Executive Session regarding the Sunshine Act with no action to be taken.

At 7:50 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:51 p.m., A. Belson motioned to adjourn. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Anderson (February 8, 2022)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager