

**MINUTES  
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting  
March 7, 2022**

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

**BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Denise McCumber, President  
Bill Beardsley, Vice President  
Heather Jones  
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem  
Amber Belson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jon Triana, Mayor (Present via Phone)  
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  
Robert Behrens  
Ray Schaff  
Ann Schaff  
Dave Meehl  
Mary Meehl  
Kyle Meehl  
Tom Huber  
Betty Truby  
Steven Gregory  
Marilyn Belson  
Bob Belson

Jack DiOrazio  
Brian Ropiecki  
Megan Ropiecki  
Tom Gonzales  
Lee Green  
Jim Crisswell  
Bill Klenz  
Denise Pkelnicky  
Mark Taylor  
Jacob Huff  
Nathan Carey  
Kaile Taylor  
Dan Adamus  
Mike Kelley  
Stephanie Schaff-Turri  
Joe Cancilla  
Damian Truste  
Deb Wurst  
Noah Esterline  
Others present, not signed in

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MINUTES:**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the February 7, 2022, minutes as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

**Expense Approval Report**

H. Jones motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

D. McCumber opened the floor to public comments related to the meeting’s agenda. She stated a second opportunity for general public comments would be available at the end of the meeting.

Attorney Denise Pekelnicky read a letter to Council on behalf of her client, Fuller Hose Company, regarding the proposed Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Agreement. The letter (Attachment – 1) is included with the minutes and entered into the record.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Agreement**

H. Jones stated if the service agreement is approved, she is requesting Crescent Hose Company submit a monthly progress report to Council. H. Jones also stated she would like Council to review the agreement annually. A. Belson motioned to approve the Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Agreement. H. Jones seconded provided the two mentioned conditions are met. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Personnel Committee Recommendation**

Chief Lam discussed the feasibility of eliminating part-time police officer positions and adding one full-time police officer position which will increase the average two officer availability from the current 67.8 percent to 81.5 percent. D. McCumber stated the Personnel Committee is in favor of this request. T. Luke motioned to approve the Personnel Committee Recommendation of eliminating the part-time police officer positions and adding one full-time police officer position. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

**Civil Service Commission**

**-Appointment of Allen Dalrymple from alternate member to primary member**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the appointment of Allen Dalrymple from alternate member to primary member of the Civil Service Commission. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**-Activate Civil Service Commission**

H. Jones motioned to activate the Civil Service Commission for the promotion of a part-time officer to a full-time officer. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 03072022-1: Application for Statewide Local Share Assessment Program**

P. Gehrlein described the grant application and program including proposed projects to be completed with awarded funding. Potential projects include: a study of Baker Creek for continued diversion as well as a hydraulic study to possibly eliminate the need for the man-made creek; and add second floor access from the municipal parking lot to buildings on South Lake Street and East Main Street.

P. Gehrlein stated approval was needed in order to apply to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the non-matched program. B. Beardsley motioned to approve Resolution No. 03072022-1, Application for Statewide Local Share Assessment Program. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>		

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021 Shut Off List**

A. Belson motioned to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021 Shut Off List as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Request for Heard Park and other Borough Services—N.E. Fire Department**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Heard Park and other Borough services made by the N.E. Fire Department beginning June 30, 2022, until July 11, 2022, for the Cherry Festival. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. B. Beardsley expressed gratitude to the N.E. Fire Department for continuing the community tradition of organizing the Cherry Festival.

#### **Request for Heard Park—Let There Be Light**

H. Jones motioned to approve the request, for Heard Park by Let There Be Light beginning May 1, 2022, until August 31, 2022, with the exception of June 9<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup>, for every other Thursday to play and sing Christian music. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Second Monthly Meeting—March 21, 2022**

P. Gehrlein stated the second monthly meeting is not needed.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Police Chief Report  
Code Enforcement Report  
Departmental Report

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

P. Gehrlein stated that department heads and staff are participating in training opportunities including water licensing, flagger training, management classes and code enforcement training to include vacant property and rental housing inspections under the International Code Council. P. Gehrlein also stated the Manager's Report has been renamed "Departmental Report" as it more closely describes the information being presented each month on behalf of the department supervisors.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

B. Truby, 37 South Pearl Street, stated that the VFW will be donating a new flag to replace the worn flag in front of Borough Hall. B. Truby stated Code Enforcement letters need to be sent to residents who do not remove empty garbage cans from the curb and street within a reasonable time following garbage collection.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked what repairs are planned for this summer. P. Gehrlein stated that the Wall Street bid was just received and accepted for the CBGD projects including Wall Street, Bank Street, Tannery Street, and Eaton Drive. He stated a bid was forthcoming for water line replacement and mapping, as well as sidewalk and driveway apron replacements in the Wall Street area. P. Gehrlein also

stated that resurfacing projects will continue using liquid fuels allocation, identifying areas of need throughout the Borough.

D. McCumber asked about PennDOT's plan to improve Route 89 in the Borough. P. Gehrlein stated that previous PennDOT projects to improve Route 89 occurred to the north and south of Borough lines, but he is hopeful that upcoming meetings will help bring about improvements.

N. Carey, 20 Colfax Street, stated his concern regarding the lack of parking on Colfax Street, especially during the winter months. W. Yokom stated that parking was restricted in that area to help with snow removal, but the problem continues to be unmoved cars. N. Carey asked about ticketing and towing vehicles that are not moved and also the possibility of making Colfax Street odd/even parking. W. Yokom stated Colfax is too narrow to make it odd/even parking. S. Gregory also asked if there was a long-term plan to improve this area. P. Gehrlein stated that future plans include the possibility of making Colfax Street one-way from Grant Street to Clay Street. D. McCumber stated that the Borough will continue to look into this issue.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:25 p.m., H. Jones motioned to adjourn. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Nancy Anderson (March 8, 2022)

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Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager