

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
April 4, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 31 West Main Street, North East, PA 16428.

BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT:

Denise McCumber, President (via phone)
Bill Beardsley, Vice President
Heather Jones
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Ryan McGregor
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
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Supervisor
Robert Behrens, Jr.
Ray Schaff
Tom Huber
Robert Belson
Jack DiOrazio
Brian Ropiecki
Deb Wurst
Allen Dalrymple
Ken Snyder
David Hirtzel
Richard Bardol
R. Hamman
Robert Belson
Jeff Stritzinger

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Council Vice President B. Beardsley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Beardsley asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda, stating the need occurred that morning with the addition of a time-sensitive resolution required for the grant application process through Erie

County. A. Belson motioned to approve the revised agenda as presented. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried.

MINUTES:

H. Jones motioned to approve the March 7, 2022, minutes as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Expense Approval Report

A. Belson expressed her thanks for including more detailed expense reports to Council members. R. McGregor asked for clarification regarding the number of checking accounts on the report. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough currently has twelve accounts which are detailed through the report. H. Jones motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked about the longer billing period dates on the first quarter water, sewer, and garbage bills. N. Anderson stated that the billing period was extended by two weeks in March before the water and sewer rates increased on April 1st, giving customers more time at the lower rates. R. Behrens asked if water meter readings could be moved back to the end of the month as they were in the prior system. P. Gehrlein stated that the meter readings have always been done mid-month to allow time for generating and mailing the bills in a timely manner.

R. Behrens asked that a notice be put in the North East News Journal to remind residents about road safety with lawnmowers. Chief Lam said he would speak with R. Behrens following the meeting regarding the specific incident he described.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Appointment of Ptlm. Jeffery Orzechowski to Full-Time

Chief Lam stated it is the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission to appoint Ptlm. Jeffery Orzechowski to full time. Mayor Triana and R. Behrens also expressed support of the recommendation. T. Luke motioned to appoint Ptlm. Jeffery Orzechowski to the full-time position. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Abstain</u> (See Attach. A)
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

Chief Lam recommended Ptlm. Orzechowski's probationary pay rate for one year be set at \$18.00 per hour. A. Belson motioned to set Ptlm. Orzechowski's probationary pay rate for one year at \$18.00 per hour. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motioned carried. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Abstain</u> (See Attach A)
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 04042022-1, Modification to "OBO" North East Borough's FY 2019 CDBG Program

P. Gehrlein stated Resolution No. 04042022-1 is necessary to reappropriate funds to be used for ADA curb cut ramps. The resolution had previously been approved in August 2021, but the application was not forwarded by Erie County. This emergency addition to the agenda occurred this morning upon notification

that approval was needed in time for resubmission by Erie County. R. McGregor motioned to approve Resolution No. 04042022-1, Modification to "OBO" North East Borough's FY 2019 CDBG Program as presented. A. Belson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried. The vote was as follows:

Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Abstain</u> (See Attach. A)
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

Civil Service Commission – Create Full-Time Eligibility List

Chief Lam stated the Civil Service Commission wants to create a Full-Time Eligibility List to establish names of candidates who would be ready to fill vacant positions as the need arises since the typical process for background checks take approximately four to five months. A. Belson motioned to approve the Civil Service Commission request to create a Full-Time Eligibility List. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried.

Signature Card Changes

P. Gehrlein described the requirement from Northwest Savings Bank that Council approval and minutes are needed to update signatures cards for Borough accounts. All account signature cards must be updated with the current Council President and Council Vice President as well as the Authority and Commission Presidents and Vice Presidents as necessary. H. Jones motioned to approve the signature card changes. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried.

Request for Borough Streets and Gibson Park – American Legion/VFW

A. Belson motioned to approve the request for Borough Streets and Gibson Park by American Legion and VFW to hold the annual North East Memorial Ceremony and Parade on Monday, May 30, 2022, as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried.

Request for Gibson Park – Community Nursing Services of North East

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park by Community Nursing Services of North East on Monday, August 27, 2022, for the annual Butterfly Release as presented. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried.

Request for Gibson Park – Park United Methodist Church

R. McGregor motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park by Park United Methodist Church on Sundays, June 19, 2022 through September 4, 2022, with the exception of June 12, 2022, for Sunday Worship Services as presented. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried.

Request for Gibson Park – N. E. Chamber of Commerce

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park by N. E. Chamber of Commerce on Monday, July 4, 2022 for Fourth of July Festivities as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried.

Request for Gibson and Heard Park, Municipal Lot off Vine St., Park and Gibson Sts.-N. E. Chamber of Commerce

A. Belson motioned to approve the request for Gibson and Heard Park, Municipal Lot off Vine Street, Park and Gibson Streets on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, through Sunday, September 25, 2022, for WineFest as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried.

Request for Gibson Park – N. E. Arts Council

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park by the N. E. Arts Council on Thursdays, June 16, 2022, through August 18, 2022, for Picnic in the Park as presented. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried.

Second Monthly Meeting—April 18, 2022

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Police Chief Report

Code Enforcement Report

Departmental Report

On behalf of the Food Pantry, B. Beardsley thanked W. Yokom and the Streets Department for plowing at the North East Food Pantry this winter, keeping it accessible to residents.

Mayor Triana also thanked the Water Department for plowing at Eaton Reservoir during the winter months.

R. McGregor asked about the garbage violations on the Code Enforcement Report. W. Yokom stated that most of the violations involved residents using garbage cans larger than 35 gallons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

P. Gehrlein congratulated the Water Department on receiving their 8th consecutive AWOP award through Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

When the weather is warmer, B. Behrens suggested having another neighborhood and parks walk through before a council meeting. P. Gehrlein supported the idea and will schedule.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:24 p.m., A. Belson motioned to adjourn. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried.

Nancy Anderson (April 5, 2022)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager