

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
May 2, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Monday, May 2, 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
Ryan McGregor
Todd Luke
Amber Belson

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Triana, Mayor, via phone
Pat Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Supervisor
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Dave Hirtzel
Mark Hamman
Jeff Stritzinger
Allen Dalrymple
Richard Bardol
Tom Huber
Ann Schaff
Deb Wurst
Robert Behrens, Jr.
Libby Rosequist

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough President D. McCumber called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the April 4, 2022, minutes as presented. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

P. Gehrlein stated that the Expense Approval Report was standard for this month with the closeout of the clarifier project. T. Luke motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

D. Wurst, 7 North Washington Street, asked that Council minutes be posted on the website. P. Gehrlein stated that agendas are posted at least twenty-four hours before each meeting. Minutes are posted on the website once they have been approved by Council.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, requested that a stop sign be placed at Center Street and Wall Street, or anywhere on Wall Street, to slow down traffic. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough has been in discussions with PennDOT and engineers regarding traffic studies. D. McCumber stated that stop signs are not the ultimate solution, and they cannot be added for the sole purpose of slowing traffic. P. Gehrlein stated traffic patterns are part of the larger improvement project for that area.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked about the crosswalks in the Borough, specifically regarding signage and when they would be painted. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough can research permanent sign options other than the ones placed in the street. W. Yokom stated the crosswalks will be repainted once dryer weather and warmer temperatures arrive.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, requested parking along Center Street from Clinton Street to Wall Street be made "Residential Only" to limit street parking for St. Joe's Club. H. Jones stated that she recently spoke with the owner of St. Joe's and said he is considering adding a parking lot for his customers. H. Jones stated that she will speak with him about this again and encourage him to move forward with that project.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked about the underpass on Route 89, stating the fence along the sidewalk looks bad. P. Gehrlein stated the Borough is looking at replacement options. He also stated the Borough met with PennDOT to detail responsibility for this area. A former agreement was found stating the Borough is responsible for the stairwell, which is now being assessed for repair options. D. McCumber asked if PennDOT was aware of the flooding problems in that area. P. Gehrlein stated the underpass area is part of PennDOT's 2050 plan for improvement.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked about the cameras on Wall Street near the railroad. P. Gehrlein stated the current placement is temporary, but there is a permanent plan in the works regarding cameras, lighting, and streetscape plans for the area.

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, requested the house at West Main and Robinson Streets be demolished before the Cherry Festival and parade which brings visitors to town this summer. P. Gehrlein stated there are currently approximately 25 people interested in the property, but it is still held by the Erie County Land Bank. He also stated there is an error on the FEMA Flood Zone Map of that area and GPI as well as FEMA are working on a map revision. P. Gehrlein stated a development plan to reuse and reinvest in this property is scheduled for completion by the end of May.

J. Stritzinger, 55 South Washington Street, asked about the status of the house at 39 South Washington Street. P. Gehrlein stated Erie County Land Bank informed him today the house on that property will be demolished this summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Sergeant Promotion

Chief Lam stated Acting Sergeant Towner had completed the application process, written exam, and oral exam necessary for promotion to the permanent position of Sergeant. Chief Lam acknowledged it is the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission to appoint Acting Sergeant Peter Towner to Sergeant with a one-year probationary period. T. Luke motioned to approve the Segreant promotion for Peter Towner as requested. 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>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Gibson and Heard Park – N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Sidewalk Painting

A. Belson motioned to approve the Gibson Park and Heard Park request by the N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Sidewalk Painting for May 22th and May 29th. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Gibson Park – N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Open Market

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Gibson Park request by the N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Open Market for Saturdays, June 25th through September 17th minus July 9th. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Gibson Park – N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Light Up Night

H. Jones motioned to approve the Gibson Park and Heard Park request by the N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Light Up Night for Saturday, November 26th. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Gibson Park – N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Sugar Plum Shopping Event

A. Belson motioned to approve the Gibson Park and Heard Park request by the N. E. Chamber of Commerce/Sugar Plum Shopping Event for December 3rd. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Heard Park – 4 N.I.N.E. Place/Yoga Class

R. McGregor motioned to approve the Heard Park request by 4 N.I.N.E Place/Yoga Class for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, May 1st through fall weather with the exception of June 30th through July 12th and September 21st through September 25th. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Monthly Meeting – May 16, 2022

P. Gehrlein stated there will be a second monthly meeting on May 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. to cover pending legislation and resurfacing project bidding.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Police Chief Report

Code Enforcement Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Arbor Day – April 29, 2022

P. Gehrlein read the Arbor Day proclamation, as signed by Mayor Jon Triana.

Council President D. McCumber stated Council members requested forming a committee about taxes. President McCumber further stated since taxes are revenue, she has chosen not to form a committee as the Finance Committee handles revenue issues including taxes. Any proposals are to be directed to the Finance Committee first.

Council President D. McCumber stated Council members requested forming a committee for reviewing and revising the Borough Council By-Laws. D. McCumber stated a subcommittee was not necessary as every Council member has a copy of the By-Laws. Any revisions or changes should be e-mailed to P. Gehrlein, who will compile a draft to present at a Council meeting for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:28 pm, B. Beardsley motioned to adjourn. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Anderson, Administrative Assistant (May 3, 2022)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager