

MINUTES NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting June 6, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Monday, June 6, 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
Bryant Sapone, CPA-Buseck, Barger & Bleil
Steve Gregory
David and Mary Meehl
Tom Huber
Allen Dahlrymple
Bob Behrens Jr.
Ray and Ann Schaff
Bob Hamman
Eric Luke
Dan Adamus

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.

D. McCumber mentioned receipt of a Gibson Park request from The Skunk and Goat Tavern for the Pet Parade on June 18, 2022. The request was received this morning and has met the requirements of being submitted within the 24-hour time frame set by the Sunshine Act and does not involve expenditure of funds or entering into contracts. A. Belson motioned to approve the request as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the May 2, 2022, minutes as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Belson motioned to approve the May 16, 2022, minutes as presented. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

P. Gehrlein stated that the Expense Approval Report included cost expenditures for the clarifier projects in the Wastewater Department. R. McGregor asked about the payment to Charles Valone. P. Gehrlein stated the payment was made through the Building Blocks Grant Program for exterior residential façade improvements. T. Luke motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, asked about the Memorandum of Understanding between the North East School District and the North East Police Department. Chief Lam stated the Memorandum of Understanding is for the Safe Schools Act which allows sharing of information between the school district and the police department for crimes that occur in the police's jurisdiction on the North East Campus.

T. Huber thanked the Borough employees for their beautiful restoration of the "Lady in Gibson Park".

B. Hamman, North East Township resident, expressed concerns about the "Fishing from Bridge Only" signs on Damsite Road at Smith Reservoir as it is a dangerous place to stand to fish and should not be permitted. P. Gehrlein agreed and stated the Borough will resolve this issue.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, stated he would like lines painted on the curb on the east side of Blaine Street and on Vine Street to denote parking spaces. P. Gehrlein stated all parking ordinances are being reviewed to make them consistent throughout the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS:**Annual Audit Presentation-Buseck, Barger & Bleil**

Bryant Sapone, CPA from Buseck, Barger & Bleil, presented and briefly discussed the North East Borough's Annual Audit and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Request for Insurance Premiums – North East Fire Companies

Dan Adamus, Fuller Hose, read a memorandum addressed to Borough Council regarding a request for financial support to pay the North East Fire Department's annual insurance premiums. Per request of Fuller Hose and Crescent Hose, the memorandum, marked Attachment No. 1, is included with the minutes and entered into the record. D. McCumber asked both companies if they prepare an annual budget and the reason they do not have funds for that budgeted item. Both companies responded affirmatively to preparing a budget. Dave Meehl, North East Fire Department Chief, stated the insurance premiums have always been paid out of the proceeds from the Cherry Festival and once the premiums are paid, the remaining proceeds are split between Crescent Hose and Fuller Hose. D. Adamus stated the request for funds to pay the insurance premiums is a result of the study conducted by DCED. H. Jones expressed support of the request and believes the Borough and Township should be doing more to support the volunteer fire companies. D. McCumber stated before a decision can be reached, Council will need copies of Crescent Hose and Fuller Hose budgets as well as profit and loss statements. According to Borough Code, S. Gregory stated the budgets and profit and loss statements must be submitted to Borough Council

prior to submitting any financial requests. P. Gerhlein commented insurance is a budgetary item and any requests should be made to the Borough in October for the next fiscal year. R. McGregor motioned to table the request for insurance premiums from North East Fire Department to the July 5, 2022, Council meeting given the submission of each entity's budgets as well as profit and loss statements. B. Beardsley 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>

PtIm. Spencer Cornelius Pay Rate

Mayor Triana stated PtIm. Cornelius is halfway through his twelve month probationary period and is requesting an increase in his pay rate from \$18.00 an hour to \$20.39 an hour. T. Luke motioned to approve increasing PtIm. Spencer Cornelius's pay rate to \$20.39 an hour. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

1st Quarter 2022 Shut Off List

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the 1st Quarter 2022 Shut Off List as presented. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Heard Park: N. E. Chamber of Commerce-Overflow Car Show for Open Market

H. Jones motioned to approve the Heard Park request by the N. E. Chamber of Commerce-Overflow Car Show for Open Market on Saturday, July 23, 2022. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Request for Gibson Park and Borough Streets: N. E. Cross Country – Cherry Festival 5K Run/Walk

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Gibson Park and Borough Streets request by N. E. Cross Country-Cherry Festival 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, July 9, 2022. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Monthly Meeting – June 20, 2022

P. Gehrlein stated a second monthly meeting on June 20, 2022, is not needed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Police Chief Report
Code Enforcement Report
Departmental Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Borough Council Meeting – July 5, 2022

D. McCumber stated due to the July 4th Holiday being Monday, the Borough Council meeting will be held Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

For anyone interested in participating, a "Walk Around Town" will be held prior to the July 5th Council Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

P. Gehrlein stated there is a dire need for lifeguards at Freeport Beach for the 2022 season.

D. McCumber expressed her gratitude regarding dropped EMS calls being reduced to 18 percent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T. Huber asked about the cost of the new security cameras at Freeport Beach. P. Gehrlein stated the cameras and installation totaled approximately \$6,500 which will increase safety and visibility at the park.

R. Behrens requested increased police supervision in the area behind Refresco on Wall Street. Chief Lam stated the police are aware of his concern and will increase presence in the area. Chief Lam will also contact Refresco about the possibility of locking the gate on their property.

B. Hamman thanked everyone who helped with the Memorial Day Parade.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:59 p.m., H. Jones motioned to adjourn. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Anderson (June 7, 2022)

Patrick J. Gehrlein, Borough Manager