

MINUTES NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Second Monthly Meeting August 15, 2022 6:00 p.m.

The second monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Monday, August 15, 2022, at **6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers.

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise McCumber, President
Bill Beardsley, Vice President
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Heather Jones
Ryan McGregor
Amber Belson

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Triana, Mayor, via phone
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Supervisor
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Supervisor
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Dave Hirtzel
Robert Behrens
Tom Huber
Nancy Anderson
Randy Anderson
Ann Schaff
Ray Schaff
Steve Gregory
Betty Truby
Brian Ropiecki
Eric Luke
Mason Bennett
Ted Jones
Dan Adamus
Jack Rizzo

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked if grant surveys had been returned for Wall Street grant projects. P. Gehrlein stated that surveys have been returned with positive feedback.

Jack Rizzo, 2290 Orchard Beach Road, stated his concern regarding vehicles speeding on Orchard Beach Road. He said he has spoken with the PA State Police but has yet to see improvement. Chief Lam noted that the North East Police Department has been providing increased traffic support to the area, and that he will reach out to the PA State Police regarding the concern in the township portion of Orchard Beach Road.

Eric Luke, 38 North Mill Street, asked why some streets have curbs while others do not, stating that he'd like to request curbing on his portion of North Mill Street. P. Gehrlein stated that curbing is typically part of larger projects including sidewalks, aprons, paving, etc. E. Luke also stated that the American flags within the Borough need to be maintained in good condition and flown at proper height at all times. A. Belson stated the Medal of Honor Ride will be passing through North East on August 26, 2022, highlighting the need to properly display flags in town.

S. Gregory, 7 Eagle Street, asked about the rental ordinance and whether or not it is being enforced. D. McCumber stated that the ordinance is currently being revised to include other types of rental properties including Airbnb's and other types of short-term rental properties. P. Gehrlein stated that revisions are in process and will be completed soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 08152022-1: Selection of Professional Service Contracts Compliant to Act 44

P. Gehrlein explained the Act 44 provision for the fair and judicious process for pension selection. The approval of this resolution details the selection criteria requirements for exploring pension options for non-uniform employees. R. McGregor motioned to approve Resolution 08152022-1: Selection of Professional Service Contracts Compliant to Act 44. H. Jones 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>

Civil Service Commission: Appoint Nancy Anderson as alternate member

D. McCumber asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Nancy Anderson as the alternate member of the Civil Service Commission. T. Luke motioned to Appoint Nancy Anderson as alternate member of the Civil Service Commission. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignation of Christopher Best, effective August 31, 2022

D. McCumber asked for a motion to approve the Resignation of Christopher Best, effective August 31, 2022. T. Luke motioned to approve the Resignation of Christopher Best, effective August 31,2022. H. Jones 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>

Request for Conditional Offer of Employment for Edgar Halligan—Full-time patrolman, probationary wage \$18/hour

Chief Lam stated that the full-time patrolman position will be open on September 1, 2022, due to the resignation of a full-time patrolman. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Request for Conditional Offer of Employment for Edgar Halligan, full-time patrolman, probationary wage \$18/hour, as of September 1, 2022. 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>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

Presentation of Preliminary North East Area Comprehensive Plan

P. Gehrlein explained the Comprehensive Planning process involving the North East Borough, North East Township, community members/stakeholders, and Erie County Planning Department. P. Gehrlein described the current draft of the comprehensive plan, including focus on the downtown area, preserving rural characteristics of the community, and improving local parks. He stated that a full draft of the plan will be presented publicly in the near future.

Discussion of North East Public Safety Commission

H. Jones stated that she, A. Belson, and Russ LaFuria have begun forming a North East Public Safety Commission which will include representatives from the Borough, Township, residents from each, and both fire departments. She stated that the purpose of the commission would be to provide support as an advisory committee, not acting in authority. After discussion and questions, D. McCumber asked the fire departments to discuss the proposed commission and the possible appointment of a Fire Commissioner. P. Gehrlein will reach out to the North East Township to continue the discussion. Further discussion was tabled until those conversations can occur.

Discussion of Vacant Space behind Borough Hall

R. McGregor stated that he was approached by the North East Preschool Board regarding the lawn behind Borough Hall, asking for permission to use it as an outdoor space for preschool students. P. Gehrlein stated that they are free to use the space. After discussion, D. McCumber asked R. McGregor to follow-up with the North East Preschool Board and request a specific proposal to be presented at a future Borough Council meeting.

Discussion of Garbage Service for North East Township

R. McGregor asked about the possibility of the Borough providing garbage service for the North East Township, stating that it could be both helpful to the Township community and a source of additional revenue for the Borough. After discussion, D. McCumber stated that it is not possible for the Borough to make decisions that affect the Township and its business.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The September 2022 Borough Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 6, 2022, due to Labor Day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, expressed his disapproval for the proposed Township garbage collection discussion.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked if the rental inspection ordinance would also pertain to daycares and nursing home facilities. P. Gehrlein stated that daycares and nursing home facilities are regulated by the State of Pennsylvania and must meet state guidelines for safety, licensing, and inspection.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:05 p.m., A. Belson motioned to adjourn. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (August 16, 2022)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager