

MINUTES

NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting September 6, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Tuesday, September 6, 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
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Streets Assistant Supervisor
Mark Kaday, Water Assistant Supervisor
Ray Schaff
Robert Behrens
Allen Dalrymple
Tom Huber
Eric Luke
Joe Schneider
Nancy Schneider

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.

MINUTES:

A. Belson motioned to approve the August 1, 2022, minutes as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Jones motioned to approve the August 15, 2022, minutes as presented. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

P. Gehrlein stated that this month's Expense Approval Report includes payments made for Easements for the Sewer Line Replacement Project between Loomis and Blaine Streets. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, referenced an article in the Erie Times-News on August 7, 2022, detailing the most recent census and how data was collected. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough completed documentation and that Census workers were in town collecting additional data door-to-door.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, stated his concern that building projects are being done without permits displayed. P. Gehrlein stated that building code/permitting is handled by NEACA (North East Area Code Administration) for both the Borough and Township.

Eric Luke, 38 North Mill Street, asked permission to extend the time frame of his previously approved Heard Park Request on September 11, 2022, to 7:00—11:30am. P. Gehrlein stated that there was no scheduling conflict that would prevent the time change.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) for the Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans

P. Gehrlein stated that this New Business item needs amended, as the 2023 MMO for Non-Uniform Pension Plans is not yet available. The 2023 MMO for Non-Uniform Pension Plans will be on the September 19, 2022 agenda. P. Gehrlein stated that the 2023 MMO for the Police Pension Plan is fully funded and that no additional funding is needed to balance the plan. A. Belson motioned to approve the 2023 MMO for the Police Pension Plan as presented. 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>

Request for Ptlm. Orzechowski’s 6-Month Probationary Pay Increase to \$20.39/hour

Chief Lam stated that Ptlm. Orzechowski has successfully completed six (6) months of his probationary period with phenomenal reviews. Chief Lam requested that Ptlm. Orzechowski’s pay increase to \$20.39 per hour to the half way point from the probationary wage to the Patrolman Fourth Class pay rate, as is customary. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request for Ptlm. Orzechowski’s 6-Month Probationary Pay Increase to \$20.39/hour. R. McGregor 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>

NAMBA Agreement for Partnership with North East Borough for Signage/Trail Maintenance at Eaton Reservoir

P. Gehrlein described the NAMBA Agreement for Partnership with the North East Borough of Signage/Trail Maintenance at Eaton Reservoir, stating that NAMBA is interested in continuing to maintain paths around Eaton Reservoir and add signage to the area. P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed agreement will be amended to include the North East Borough Water Authority as well as the North East Borough. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the NAMBA Agreement for Partnership with North East Borough for Signage/Trail Maintenance at Eaton Reservoir, with the proposed amendment adding North East Borough Water Authority. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Wellington Street Bridge Repair Proposal – Erie County

P. Gehrlein stated that the Wellington Street bridge has been identified as deficient and in need of repair. With the approval of this proposal, the North East Borough will become the pass-through for Erie County funds for this project, with no additional costs to the Borough, scheduled within the next year. T. Luke motioned to approve the Wellington Street Bridge Repair Proposal with Erie County. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PennDOT Agreement: Route 89 Underpass Improvements

P. Gehrlein stated that the PennDOT Agreement for Route 89 Underpass Improvements is a modification of an earlier agreement from Project 89 to complete repairs before the proposed mural project can be installed. He stated that the agreement allows the Borough to make repairs and improvements within the next five (5) years but does not obligate the completion of specific work. This agreement will be considered in PennDOT’s overall plan for repair and resurfacing proposed within the next year. A. Belson motioned to approve the PennDOT Agreement: Route 89 Underpass Improvements as presented. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Gibson Park Request: North East Chamber – Small Town Cruisin’ Nights

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Gibson Park Request: North East Chamber—Small Town Cruisin’ Nights. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Gibson Park Request: The Skunk and Goat Tavern – Skunk & Goat Mug Club Party

R. McGregor motioned to approve the Gibson Park Request: The Skunk and Goat Tavern—Skunk & Goat Mug Club Party. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2nd Quarter 2022 Shut Off List – To be Presented

H. Jones motioned to approve the 2nd Quarter 2022 Shut Off List as presented. 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>

Mayor Triana: Proclamation for Constitution Week

Mayor Triana read the Proclamation for Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2022.

Second Monthly Meeting – September 19, 2022

CORRESPONDENCE

- Police Chief Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Departmental Report
- Authority and Commission Minutes

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

D. McCumber stated that she received notice on behalf of PA Governor Tom Wolf that the North East Borough has been given a grant award in the amount of \$40,000 from the Community Conservative Partnerships Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough requested a comprehensive park planning project to craft a vision for all community parks, to include proper planning, updates, facility improvements, playgrounds, wheelchair accessibility, public access, etc. This funding will allow the planning and improvements to occur in partnership with DCNR.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked about additional lighting previously proposed for the Clinton Street area. P. Gehrlein stated that the project is still in-process, including updating water lines, streetscape projects, sidewalk enhancements, and installing additional lighting with updated conduit.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked if changes are going to be made in the direction of traffic flow in the South Pearl Street area. P. Gehrlein stated that the committee has been meeting to review and revise a comprehensive traffic and parking regulations ordinance that should be completed by the beginning of next year for presentation before Council.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked if Wall Street will be resurfaced to patch the holes that have been cut in the street. J. Pazmino stated that resurfacing repairs will be made once the underground work is completed.

E. Luke, 38 North Mill Street, invited the community to attend the 2nd Annual 9/11 Remembrance event that will be held in Heard Park in connection with local fire departments, the VFW, and the American Legion. A. Belson also stated that a motorcycle/vehicle ride will take place, as well as an “Anything But Your Normal Vehicle” ride, will conclude at the American Legion. E. Luke also stated that Route 20 has been renamed and dedicated as the Medal of Honor Highway. He thanked the Borough for the beautiful presentation of the town during the ceremonial ride in August.

Mayor Triana asked if keys would be distributed in accordance with the NAMBA Agreement for trail maintenance at Eaton Reservoir. P. Gehrlein stated that keys are not necessary for NAMBA to access and maintain the trails.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:39 p.m. A. Belson motioned to adjourn. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (September 7, 2022)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager