

MINUTES

NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Second Monthly Meeting February 20, 2023

The second monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Monday, February 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Ass
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Terry Daughenbaugh, Water Supervisor
Robert Behrens
Ray Schaff
Marilyn Belson
Robert Belson
Heather Hinkler
Nancy Anderson
Randy Anderson
Kenneth Snyder
Jeff Stritzinger
Brian Shank
Bobbi Jo Morey
Steve Gregory
Chris Skrekla
Tim Krug
Mason Bennett

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Council President D. McCumber called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gibson Park Request: Park United Methodist Church services (Sundays, July 2—September 3, 2023)

R. McGregor motioned to approve the Gibson Park Request: Park United Methodist Church services on Sundays, July 2—September 3, 2023. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

North East Public Safety Advisory Commission

A. Belson described proposed updates to the plan for establishing the North East Public Safety Advisory Commission. Proposed updates included membership, goals, and a focus on increased safety planning and communication. A. Belson stated that the proposed commission does not require funding to operate and will provide the opportunity for increased discussion and problem solving on an advisory basis.

C. Skrekla, president of Fuller Hose Company, presented a letter from the Fuller Hose Company #1 in support of the proposed North East Public Safety Advisory Commission. He said that both fire companies complete hazards training annually and that he will be in contact with CSX Transportation about public education.

H. Jones stated that the North East Township tabled the discussion of the proposed commission in order to allow time for legal counsel.

P. Gehrlein asked questions that were submitted by Dan Miller, Borough Solicitor, in his absence, regarding membership and operational/administrative functions already in place, those required by Borough Code, and those proposed within the North East Public Safety Advisory Commission. P. Gehrlein also stated that an Emergency Response Plan is in place through Erie County.

D. McCumber stated her support for the goals created by the proposed North East Public Safety Advisory Commission. She suggested tabling the approval until specific legal terminology can be included in the document due to concerns regarding potential liability.

Chief Lam supported the idea of a “think tank” to discuss safety but noted that there may be some repetitions regarding emergency response plans currently in place through Erie County. Chief Lam supported the goal of increasing communication.

T. Krug, 26 Town Street, asked that the proposed North East Public Safety Advisory Commission address the need for community education and timely notification in the event of an emergency.

H. Jones suggested tabling the approval of the commission until after the Township and Borough solicitors have reviewed the proposal and made necessary recommendations.

R. McGregor motioned to table the approval of the North East Public Safety Advisory Commission until the Township and Borough solicitors have had the opportunity to review the proposal. 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>

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked what the next Borough Council meeting will cover. P. Gehrlein stated that the March 6, 2023, meeting will address proposed updates to the rental ordinance.

B. Shank, President of Erie County Council, explained the letters sent by Perry Hi-Way Hose Company and Erie County Executive Brenton Davis, highlighting the need for improvement in EMS services in Erie County.

A. Belson asked about the Borough cutting trees and brush along the Loomis Street railroad crossing. P. Gehrlein explained the current challenges regarding the Loomis Street railroad crossing and on-going discussions with the railroad companies and PennDOT. He stated that the Borough is seeking a permanent solution to avoid closing the railroad crossing.

B. Morey, 137 East Main Street, requested additional signage on either side of the railroad tracks to warn drivers of the short distance between the sets of tracks.

P. Gehrlein stated that brush trimming and the addition of signage will help in the short term, but that the Borough is also seeking a traffic study to increase signal time.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:07 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (February 21, 2023)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager