

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
October 2, 2023

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
Lydia Caparosa, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Supervisor
Bill Swan, Interim Assistant Water Supervisor
Robert Behrens
Tom Huber
Michael Spellman
Ann Schaff
Bobby Jo Morey
Allen Dalrymple
Joseph Schneider
Eric Luke
Tim Krug
Randy Anderson
Nancy Anderson
Steve Gregory
Dan Adamus
Deb Wurst
Libby Rosequist
Rosan Adkins

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Council President D. McCumber called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INVOCATION:

B. Beardsley offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the September 5, 2023, minutes 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

EXPENSE REPORT:

A. Belson motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

There were no prior requests for citizens to be heard.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICERS:

There were no reports from Elected Officers.

REPORTS FROM APPOINTED OFFICERS:

There were no reports from Appointed Officers.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

There were no reports from Standing Committees.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

There were no reports from Special Committees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

North East Marina – State Representative Jake Banta

D. Adamus spoke on behalf of State Representative Jake Banta, who was not able to attend the meeting.

D. Adamus is part of a community-based initiative led by Jake Banta, Pennsylvania Representative, working closely with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to preserve the North East Marina. On behalf of the community-based initiative, D. Adamus requested that Borough Council pass a motion permitting North East Borough to be included in the construction of a community-based authority as a public/private partnership.

D. Adamus stated that, once constructed and established as a legal entity, the North East Community Marina Authority would be empowered to negotiate the purchase of the North East Marina from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. D. Adamus stated that any future updates to, public information regarding, or any formal documentation related to this initiative shall be released in an appropriate time by Representative Banta’s office. H. Jones motioned for the North East Borough to participate in the forming of the North East Community Marina Authority as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Subdivision Plan of 9187 Group, LLC – 139 West Main Street

P. Gehrlein stated that the 9187 Group, LLC, owners of 139 West Main Street, submitted a plan to subdivide the property to be able to sell that portion independently. The subdivision plan has already been approved by the Erie County Planning Department and the North East Borough Planning Commission. T. Luke motioned to approve the Subdivision Plan of 9187 Group, LLC – 139 West Main Street as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

North East Recreation Commission Letter

P. Gehrlein stated that the North East Borough is seeking to formally withdraw from the Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement of 2006. P. Gehrlein stated that there have been many changes to the North East Recreation Commission board, assigned duties, and programming since that time, stating the need for readdressing the agreement with all parties in order to move forward with a new arrangement. T. Luke motioned to initiate termination procedures with the Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Resignation of Chris Kelly – Planning Commission

P. Gehrlein stated that Chris Kelly has relocated to Florida and can, therefore, no longer serve on the Planning Commission. He stated that an advertisement will be made, letters of interest accepted, and a new representative appointed by Council. R. McGregor motioned to approve the Resignation of Chris Kelly – Planning Commission 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Resignation of Chris Kelly – Vacancy Committee Chairperson

P. Gehrlein stated that Chris Kelly has relocated to Florida and can, therefore, no longer serve as the Vacancy Committee Chairperson. He stated that an advertisement will be made, letters of interest accepted, and a new representative appointed by Council. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Resignation of Chris Kelly – Vacancy Committee Chairperson as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Request to certify the Civil Service Eligibility List as presented

T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to certify the Civil Service Eligibility List as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Request to make conditional offer of employment to Civil Service candidate for full-time police officer

Chief Lam stated that there is one candidate eligible for employment and that the individual is a great fit for the North East community. Chief Lam stated that the proposed candidate, Brandon Stanopiewicz has formerly worked for the Erie School District and Presque Isle State Park. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to make a conditional offer of employment to Civil Service candidate for full-time police officer as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Chief Lam requested that Borough Council approve the probationary wage of \$24 per hour for the probationary full-time officer. T. Luke motioned to approve the probationary wage of \$24 per hour for the probationary full-time officer as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson Park Request: American Legion Post 105 – Veterans Day Ceremony (November 11, 2023)

A. Belson motioned to approve the Gibson Park Request: American Legion Post 105 – Veterans Day Ceremony as presented. 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>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>

Trick or Treat Hours – Tuesday, October 31, 2023

J. Triana stated that Trick or Treat Hours will be 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Second Monthly Meeting – October 16, 2023, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that a second monthly meeting is not necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Police Chief Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Commissions and Authorities

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, asked why a Borough Police Officer would be at the North East School District school board meetings. Chief Lam stated that the school district has requested officers due to staffing shortages from the Sheriff's office. He stated that the North East School District reimburses the overtime expense.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked why parking regulations were not enforced during the Wine Fest, and other such community events. Chief Lam stated that the officers offer some leniency during large town events as a courtesy to those in attendance, ticketing only if the situation poses a hazard. R. Behrens stated that parking regulations should never exist if they aren't enforced during special events. D. McCumber stated that visitors should not be discouraged as their attendance at special events benefits the town, small businesses, etc.

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, asked why more of Heard Park was not used during the Wine Fest as Gibson Park was so crowded. R. McGregor stated that the deed to Heard Park does not permit alcohol on park grounds. J. Triana stated that the Wine Fest is a North East Chamber event and that they are responsible for determining how their event is set up within those parameters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Executive Session convened at 6:22 p.m., regarding Personnel Matters and ended at 6:42 p.m., with no action to follow.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:43 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. R. McGregor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (October 3, 2023)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager