

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
November 6, 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, via Microsoft Teams Video
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Supervisor
Bill Swan, Interim Assistant Water Supervisor
Robert Behrens
Brandon Stanopiewicz
Rebecca Stonopiewicz
Dan Adamus
Jacob Jones
Tom Huber
Bobbi Jo Morey
Joe Schneider
Ray Schaff
Ann Schaff
Michael Yori
Nancy Anderson
Randy Anderson
Betty Truby
Jake Banta
Steve Gregory
Dan Lindsey
Chris Skrekla
Kayla Skrekla
Deb Wurst
Libby Rosequist
Jody Timer
Tim Krug
Daryl Kidder
Robert Mazza
Kelly Bagley
Patty Boyle
Others present, not signed in

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

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.

INVOCATION:

R. McGregor offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the October 2, 2023, minutes 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>

EXPENSE REPORT:

P. Gehrlein stated that there is nothing unusual about this month's expense report. T. Luke motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report 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>

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Kelly Bagley – Possible School Zone at SR 20 and Town Street

K. Bagley, 11520 East Main Road, stated her concern for the lack of School Zone signage on Route 20/East Main Street, specifically from South Washington Street to Pershing Avenue. She stated her concern for the students crossing the street, as well as the crossing guard. She requested that a light-up sign or flashing lights be added to increase visibility. Chief Lam stated that he will look into the statute for school zone establishment for that area of East Main Street, and possibly East Division Street.

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:

North East Community Marina Authority

Jake Banta, Pennsylvania State Representative, spoke about the North East Marina and the importance of moving forward in the establishment of the North East Community Marina Authority. J. Banta stated that the establishment of the authority would allow for the transfer of ownership and operation of the North East Marina from the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to the North East Community Marina Authority.

D. McCumber asked what would happen if the authority was established but didn't receive funding, or if the funding stopped. D. Adamus stated that the authority would be an independent, stand-alone entity and that there would be no obligation on the North East Borough or Township. D. Adamus stated that the municipalities are necessary for the transfer of ownership from PFBC but that the authority would act independently and would not request funding from the municipalities. He also stated that the PFBC has assured them that Fuller Hose would retain their dock even if the marina closes.

R. Mazza stated that the concessionaire does not make as much money as is being portrayed and urged them to be realistic in their expectations of cost. M. Yori stated that costs would be saved in hiring local companies to complete work as opposed to those being paid prevailing wage through the state. J. Banta urged the Borough Council to act as quickly as possible, as some people have already sold their boats thinking the marina will close. R. Burniston stated that they should move forward, not look the other way. R. Mazza asked if the forming of the authority was contingent upon dual adoption by the Borough and Township, as both municipalities are named. T. Krug asked what the next steps should be for the Borough. D. Adamus stated that a resolution to participate is needed and that the authority will then file articles of incorporation.

H. Jones motioned to advertise a public hearing for the forming of the North East Community Marina Authority. A. Belson and R. McGregor asked if that was the correct next step. D. Miller stated that in order to establish an authority, the Borough and Township would need to advertise, give thirty days' notice, hold a public hearing, and establish the authority by resolution or ordinance. He also stated that the approval would be conditional based upon the Township's approval as it is intended as a joint authority. D. McCumber restated that the approval would be conditional upon the Township's approval. A. Belson seconded the motion. 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>

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 11062023-1: CFA Grant Application Local Share Assessment Program

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed resolution would allow the Borough to apply for grant funding through the Commonwealth Funding Authority to receive a portion of the statewide gambling funds that are available to provide second floor access on Main Street. R. McGregor motioned to approve Resolution 11062023-1: CFA Grant Application Local Share Assessment Program 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>

Resignation of David Hall – Water Authority

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Resignation of David Hall – Water 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>

Request for Ptlm. Orzechowski's Promotion to Patrolman Third Class

J. Triana stated that Ptlm. Orzechowski is an asset to the community and that he is recommended for promotion to Patrolman Third Class. Chief Lam stated that Ptlm. Orzechowski became eligible for promotion on October 4, 2023, and that he has demonstrated phenomenal performance. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request for Ptlm. Orzechowski's Promotion to Patrolman Third Class 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>

Gibson Park Request: The Skunk and Goat Tavern – Miller Mistletoe Mile (December 17, 2023)

A. Belson motioned to approve the Gibson Park Request: The Skunk and Goat Tavern – Miller Mistletoe Mile 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>

Second Monthly Meeting – November 20, 2023, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that there will be a Second Monthly Meeting on November 20, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Police Chief Report

Code Enforcement Report

Departmental Report

Commissions and Authorities

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

D. McCumber reminded citizens to vote in the election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

A. Belson reminded citizens of the Veterans' Day Ceremony scheduled for November 11, 2023, in Gibson Park, encouraging the attendance of the community.

J. Triana stated that he will hold a Facebook Live following the council meeting to give a personal update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

J. Kuna, 27 Gibson Street, stated that the new parking regulations are difficult to adjust to with odd/even parking at 8:00 a.m. He stated that he has two spaces in his driveway, but that having multiple cars makes it inconvenient. He asked that Council consider changing Gibson Street back to parking on one side of the street only.

A. Stewart, 28 Colfax Street, stated that the new parking regulations have limited parking on Colfax Street from twenty spots to five. She stated that making Colfax Street one-way would help increase parking availability and traffic flow. P. Gehrlein stated that making Colfax Street one-way is still under consideration.

P. Kuna, 27 Gibson Street, stated that she has lived on Gibson Street for fifteen years and that the new parking regulations are putting a damper on her quality of life. She stated that parking should be enforced during Cherry Fest and Wine Fest if the goal was to increase revenue due to tickets. She stated that she does not read legal notices in the paper and that residents should have been sent a letter regarding the new parking ordinance.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked how long parking warnings will be issued. Chief Lam stated that warnings will be issued until November 15, 2023, at which time ticketing will begin.

A. Belson stated that the odd/even time of 8:00 a.m. was something that she considered carefully, concluding that moving vehicles at that time was more reasonable than at midnight when the date changes.

D. McCumber stated that the parking ordinance was unanimously approved, but that unfortunately it is impossible to please everyone.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked if 15-minute parking signs were going to be added on East Street in front of Pennock's Cub Cadet. P. Gehrlein said yes.

J. Triana asked if Butch's Restaurant had obtained a handicapped parking space. P. Gehrlein stated that they are in the application process.

P. Boyle, 160 Orchard Beach Rd, stated her concern that the crosswalk in her neighborhood is not designated as a School Zone, as many children cross the street to enter/exit school district property in that area. She stated that speeding is still an issue and that cars do not stop to let children cross the street. R. McGregor stated that the area is along the Borough/Township border. D. McCumber stated that the Streets and Police departments will look into it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:16 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. 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>

Rebecca Bliss (November 7, 2023)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager