

**MINUTES**  
**NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting**  
**December 18, 2023**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Denise McCumber, President  
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem  
Heather Jones  
Ryan McGregor  
Amber Belson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager  
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant  
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor  
Sean Lam, Police Chief  
Scott Hammer, Magisterial District Judge  
Bobbi Jo Morey  
Jeremy Morey  
Joel Morey  
Robert Behrens  
Nancy Luke  
Jake Jones  
Bob Riedel  
Cindy Riedel  
Tom Huber  
Dave Hirtzel  
Tim Krug  
Others present, not signed in

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The public hearing for the 2024 Proposed Budget and 2024 Tax Ordinance began at 6:00 p.m.

Borough Council President D. McCumber asked for public comment regarding the 2024 Proposed Budget.

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Dr, asked for an explanation of the NESD School Resource Officer line item listed on the budget. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough and the North East School District have been in communication regarding the potential addition of a school resource officer for many years. He stated that the line item was placed in the 2024 budget as a place holder in case plans are finalized with the school district, in which case the school district will pay 90 percent of the costs, leaving the Borough to pay 10 percent.

Borough Council President D. McCumber asked for public comment regarding the 2024 Tax Ordinance. There were no public comments.

The second monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Borough Council President D. McCumber called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**INVOCATION:**

R. McGregor offered the invocation.

**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:**

**2024 Proposed Budget**

T. Luke motioned to approve the 2024 Proposed Budget as presented. 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>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>
Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>		

**2024 Tax Ordinance**

A. Belson motioned to approve the 2024 Tax Ordinance 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>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>
Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>		

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointment of Mayor – Bobbi Jo Morey**

Magisterial District Judge, Scott Hammer, administered the Oath of Office for the Appointment of Mayor to Bobbi Jo Morey.

**Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor – Edward J. Betza**

P. Gehrlein stated that E. Betza, Elderkin Law Firm, has been providing interim zoning services for the North East Borough and has been recommended by Attorney Jeffrey and Attorney Miller in light of Attorney Jeffrey’s retirement from the Zoning Hearing Board. H. Jones asked if public notification is required to fill this position.

P. Gehrlein stated that Council is welcome to advertise for the position if they'd like to, but that it is not required for professional services. H. Jones motioned to approve the appointment of the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor – Edward J. Betza 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>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>
Denise McCumber	<u>Yes</u>		

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no correspondence.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Public Hearing for the Multi-Municipal North East Marina Authority – Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the North East High School Auditorium

Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

T. Krug, 26 Town Street, asked if the North East Township would be present at the January meeting regarding the Marina. D. McCumber stated that both the Borough and Township would be present.

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked if building permits were required to be visible during construction, stating that the house on Bank Street does not have permits displayed. P. Gehrlein stated that he would reach out to the North East Area Code Administration, as they handle building permits.

A. Belson presented D. McCumber with flowers and a gift, thanking her for twelve years of service to the North East Borough.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:13 p.m., H. Jones motioned to adjourn. A. Belson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Rebecca Bliss (December 19, 2023)

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Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager