

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Reorganization and Regular Monthly Meeting
January 2, 2024**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Jones
Ryan McGregor
Amber Belson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor
Nancy Anderson, Council Member Elect
Bill Beardsley, Council Member Elect
Todd Luke, Council Member Elect
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Interim Water Supervisor
Cathy Bliss
Amanda Bliss
Nancy Luke
Jake Jones
David Hirtzel
Robert Behrens
Denise Pekelnicky
Randy Anderson
Bob Belson
Denise McCumber
Marilyn Belson
Heather Hinkler
Joyce Beardsley
Tim Krug
Others present, not signed in

The Biennial Reorganizational Meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will follow.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS – Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor

Nancy Anderson
William Beardsley
Todd Luke

CALL TO ORDER – Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor

Mayor Bobbi Jo Morey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. B. Morey administered the Oath of Office to N. Anderson, W. Beardsley, and T. Luke. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

INVOCATION:

B. Beardsley offered the invocation.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

(Upon completion, the Council President will preside over the meeting.)

B. Morey asked for nominations roll call for Council President. Each council member gave a nomination for president. The nominations roll call was as follows:

H. Jones -	Amber Belson
R. McGregor -	Bill Beardsley
T. Luke -	Amber Belson
N. Anderson -	Ryan McGregor
B. Beardsley -	Ryan McGregor
A. Belson -	Amber Belson

B. Morey asked for a roll call vote for Council President. The votes were as follows:

H. Jones -	Amber Belson
R. McGregor -	Ryan McGregor
T. Luke -	Amber Belson
N. Anderson -	Ryan McGregor
B. Beardsley -	Ryan McGregor
A. Belson -	Amber Belson

After the tie vote, the D. Miller, Solicitor, stated that the mayor had the option to cast the tie-breaker vote or call for another roll call vote. B. Morey, mayor, cast the tiebreaker vote in favor of Amber Belson as Council President. Amber Belson was named Council President in a 4-3 vote.

A. Belson, Council President, then presided over the meeting.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:

A. Belson, Council President, asked for a roll call vote for Council Vice President. The votes were as follows:

H. Jones -	Ryan McGregor
R. McGregor -	Ryan McGregor
T. Luke -	Ryan McGregor
N. Anderson -	Bill Beardsley
B. Beardsley -	Ryan McGregor
A. Belson -	Ryan McGregor

R. McGregor was named Council Vice President in a 5-1 vote.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM:

A. Belson, Council President, asked for a roll call vote for Council President Pro Tem. The votes were as follows:

H. Jones -	Todd Luke
R. McGregor -	Todd Luke
T. Luke -	Todd Luke
N. Anderson -	Bill Beardsley
B. Beardsley -	Bill Beardsley
A. Belson -	Todd Luke

T. Luke was named Council President Pro Tem in a 4-2 vote.

APPOINTMENT OF REGISTERED ELECTOR TO SERVE AS VACANCY BOARD CHAIR:

H. Jones motioned to appoint Mike Spellman to serve as Vacancy Board Chair. 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF ERIE COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE DELEGATES (ECTCC):

H. Jones motioned to appoint Patrick Gehrlein and Bill Beardsley as Erie County Tax Collection Committee Delegates. 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

ADJOURNMENT OF REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The reorganizational meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Council President A. Belson called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the December 4, 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

H. Jones motioned to approve the December 18, 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

EXPENSE REPORT:

H. Jones motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

There were no 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:

Second Monthly Meeting – January 15, 2024, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that there is no need for a second monthly meeting in January.

Committee and Authority Appointments

Council President A. Belson asked for interest in committee participation, then appointed Council Members to Committees and Authorities as follows:

- Finance Committee – B. Beardsley, R. McGregor, and A. Belson
- Personnel Committee – H. Jones, R. McGregor, and N. Anderson
- Shade Tree Commission – T. Luke
- Recreation Commission – H. Jones and R. McGregor
- Water Authority – B. Beardsley
- Sewer Authority – N. Anderson
- Civil Service – N. Anderson

Borough Council Bylaws

A. Belson stated that the North East Borough Council Bylaws should be revised to include the North East Public Safety Advisory Commission to be listed with the other commissions and authorities. H. Jones motioned to include the North East Public Safety Advisory Commission to the North East Borough Council Bylaws 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

A. Belson appointed H. Jones as the Council representative to the North East Public Safety Advisory Commission.

A. Belson also suggested editing the council meeting agenda outline in the Bylaws to allow for public comments on agenda items earlier in public meeting proceedings. P. Gehrlein suggested forming an ad hoc committee to review the current bylaws and present changes to the Council at the next meeting. A. Belson, H. Jones, and R. McGregor formed a committee to review the North East Borough Council Bylaws before the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Police Chief Report
- Code Enforcement Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

P. Gehrlein stated that the North East Borough had previously applied for an ARPA H2O PA Grant for sewer and water projects and were just informed of the award announcement of \$586,870 which will go toward the water line replacement on Wall Street this year.

P. Gehrlein reminded those in attendance of the upcoming Public Hearing regarding the Multi-Municipal North East Marina Authority, scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the North East High School Auditorium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Behrens, 97 Wall Street, asked if microphones could be added to Borough Chambers as it is often difficult to hear those speaking during meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Executive Session convened at 6:33 p.m., regarding Personnel Matters and ended at 6:51 p.m., with action to follow.

T. Luke motioned to end the employment of Ptlm. Stanopiewicz, effective immediately. 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

H. Jones motioned to activate the Civil Service Commission. 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>	Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:52 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. T. Luke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (January 3, 2024)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager