

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Second Monthly Meeting
February 19, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Belson, President
Ryan McGregor, Vice President
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Nancy Anderson
Heather Jones
Bill Beardsley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Interim Water Supervisor
Joel Morey
Jeremy Morey
Alaina Rodemoyer
Jacob Jones
Ray Schaff
Mark Howard
Tom Huber
Diana Hanes
Jack DiOrazio III
Steve Gregory
Aaron Jelly
Dave Jelly
Eric Luke
Michael Yori
Denise Pekelnicky
Kayla Skrekla
Chris Skrekla
Dan Adamus
Mike Dunlavey
Tim Truitt
Others present, not signed in

The second monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, February 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Council President A. Belson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INVOCATION:

B. Beardsley offered the invocation.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**Eric Luke – Medal of Honor Ride**

E. Luke, 38 North Mill Street, stated that the 2nd Annual Medal of Honor Ride is scheduled for June 15, 2024, in celebration of Route 20 being named the Medal of Honor Highway. The Medal of Honor ride will begin at the American Legion on South Mill Street, travel west on Route 20 to the Ohio state line, then return to Fairview, PA. He thanked the North East Borough for their quick response and support of the event and encouraged community participation and support.

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:**Discussion of Borough Council Bylaws**

N. Anderson asked about the proposed addition of a Streets Commissioner. A. Belson stated that, after attending PSAB's Borough Bootcamp, that there is no need for a Streets Commissioner so that suggestion will be removed. A. Belson stated that a new draft will be composed and presented for Council to review.

Discussion of North East Marina Authority

A. Belson stated that a meeting was held at Representative Banta's office on February 13, 2024, to discuss the details of the proposed Marina transfer. She stated that the PA Fish and Boat Commission was looking for a commitment to move forward. R. McGregor stated that the meeting included a discussion of the layout, costs, and upgrades needed at the marina, both in the short- and long-term. He stated that a proposed next step may include a joint financial study of the marina with the North East Township. H. Jones stated that the authority should be created first, and that the authority could then conduct their own studies.

N. Anderson stated that she agreed with the North East Township's decision to conduct an economic and engineering study prior to forming an authority, stating that the community wants to make sure the authority is set up to survive for years to come. N. Anderson also stated concern about potential financial liability falling on the Borough in the future. H. Jones stated that the Borough would only be liable if they guaranteed a loan or bond.

H. Jones motioned to draft an ordinance to create the North East Marina Authority.

A. Belson stated that completing a study would take too much time and that the community wants the Borough to move forward. R. McGregor stated that the PA Fish and Boat Commission asked for a Resolution to move forward and that he believes it would be the prudent decision to move forward with the resolution and the study to gain more information before making a long-term decision.

T. Truitt, former marina operator, stated that he is in opposition to the study because the marina has been operating for years and everyone already has the financial information and knows what could happen if the state restrictions were removed.

B. Morey stated that once the authority is in place, they will negotiate the transfer of the property with the PA Fish and Boat Commission. She stated that smart people should be put in place to act, listen to the community support, and not drag feet in moving forward.

D. Pekelnicky stated that she understands the concerns but that there is a way to set up the board to reduce liability to the municipality. She stated that the authority should get the property appraised. D. Pekelnicky stated that they are putting the cart before the horse to protect themselves and therefore getting nowhere, that they should choose people they trust and let them act, and move forward to make a decision.

D. Adamus stated that only one municipality is needed to form the authority.

H. Jones stated that she fears the property could be sold to a private owner and Fuller Hose would lose its boat launch. C. Skrekla stated that the US Coast Guard relies on Fuller Hose for Search and Rescue and that, without the marina, the whole program would have to be reworked.

H. Jones motioned to draft a resolution to create the North East Marina Authority. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-1. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>No</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 02192024-1: Enterprise Zone Program/DCED

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed resolution would allow for application for the Enterprise Zone Program which is a tax credit program for businesses in the industrial and commercial zones, including the Borough portion of the Mellon property, within the North East Borough. T. Luke motioned to approve Resolution 02192024-1: Enterprise Zone Program/DCED as presented. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Resolution 02192024-2: PSAB Junior Council Person Program

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed resolution allows for the official authorization of the Junior Council Person Program formalization through the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs. R. McGregor motioned to approve Resolution 02192024-2: PSAB Junior Council Person Program as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Junior Council Person Pledge

B. Morey, mayor, administered the Junior Council Person Pledge to Joel Morey, Junior Council Person.

Resolution 02192024-3: Donation of Property at 57 West Main Street to Erie County Land Bank

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed resolution would allow for the property at 57 West Main Street, formerly Superstitch, to be transferred to the Erie County Land Bank for inclusion in the 59-61 West Main Street parcel for redevelopment. T. Luke motioned to approve Resolution 02192024-3: Donation of Property at 57 West Main Street to Erie County Land Bank as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson Park: Community Nursing Services of North East – Butterfly Release (August 24)

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Community Nursing Services of North East – Butterfly Release as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

CORRESPONDENCE:

North East Fire Department

A. Belson stated that the correspondence from the North East Fire Department would be tabled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Belson stated that James Bryan passed away on February 11, 2024. She stated that he served as the Borough Solicitor for many years and thanked him for his long service to the community.

A. Belson thanked the community for their attendance and support for the Mellon Heritage Foundation dedication on February 17, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Rebecca Bliss (February 20, 2024)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager