

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
March 4, 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, Junior Council Person
Denise Pekelnicky
Tom Huber
Allen Dalrymple
Eric Luke
Diana Hanes
Ray Schaff
Jeremy Morey
Dave Herman
Dave Jelley
Aaron Jelley
Dan Adamus
Eric Urbanowicz
Others present, not signed in

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, March 4, 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:

R. McGregor offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

H. Jones motioned to approve the February 5, 2024, minutes 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>

R. McGregor motioned to approve the February 19, 2024, minutes as presented. H. Jones 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>

EXPENSE REPORT:

R. McGregor asked if the Mega Media expenditure was a one-time expense. P. Gehrlein stated that yes, it was a one-time expense plus a two-year renewal and maintenance contract. N. Anderson 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:

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>

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:

Borough Council Bylaws

N. Anderson stated that it would be more prudent in her opinion for council members to ask questions about specific expenditures rather than require oral reports from department supervisors for every expenditure over \$10,000. H. Jones stated that an explanation would only be required if the expense was outside of the budget. A. Belson stated that the requirement only applies to items outside of the approved budget. T. Luke motioned to approve the Borough Council Bylaws 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>

NEW BUSINESS:

North East Marina—Joint Authority Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

H. Jones stated that the North East Township has not yet discussed the proposed MOU and that therefore it is not worthwhile for Council to entertain a discussion until a second monthly meeting. A. Belson stated that the Township had reached out and would like to be involved in the process and that she is open to working together in a 50/50 partnership. H. Jones stated that the Council voted to move forward because they didn't want the Township holding them back. She also stated her concern that an agreement to the MOU would mean they couldn't move forward without the Township. H. Jones motioned to table the North East Marina—Joint Authority Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 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>

North East Marina – Joint Letter of Intent to Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

H. Jones motioned to table the North East Marina – Joint Letter of Intent to Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission 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>

Settlement Stipulation Agreement – Granite Ridge Tax Assessment Appeal

P. Gehrlein stated that the owners of Granite Ridge, Ehrenfeld Cos, had filed an appeal of the \$6.399 million property assessment, requesting a revision to the tax assessment through the Erie County Assessment Office. The assessed value of the property for 2023 was determined as \$6.2 million, which will adjust the value in taxes to be received. H. Jones motioned to approve the Settlement Stipulation Agreement – Granite Ridge Tax Assessment Appeal 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>

Revised North East Recreation Commission Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement

P. Gehrlein stated that the previous Recreation Commission agreement ended in 2023 and that the proposed revision presents a new Recreation Commission concept moving forward as they reorganize. H. Jones asked if the Borough and Township would be splitting the cost of lifeguards. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough and Township would equally split the cost of lifeguards, for an estimated cost of \$7,000 to each municipality. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Revised North East Recreation Commission Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement 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>

Ordinance No. 931 – Heard Memorial Park Ordinance Amendment

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed ordinance is an amendment to Ordinance No. 793, Section 4 regarding the sale, dispensing, or consumption of alcoholic beverages in Heard Memorial Park. The proposed ordinance would remove the restriction within the Ordinance, but the provision would also need to be removed from the deed covenant in order to move forward. He stated that Council would continue to oversee event requests for use of Heard Memorial Park. H. Jones motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 931 – Heard Memorial Park Ordinance Amendment as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-1. The vote was as follows:

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

Request for Promotion of Ptlm Halligan to Ptlm. Third Class

B. Morey, Mayor, stated that Ptlm. Halligan became eligible for promotion on March 1, 2024. She stated that he has attended many trainings and is an asset to the department, recommending him for promotion. N. Anderson motioned to approve the Request for Promotion of Ptlm. Halligan to Ptlm. Third Class 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>

Request to certify the Civil Service Eligibility List as presented

N. Anderson stated that the Civil Service Commission has requested to certify the Civil Service Eligibility, naming Abbey Woodard as the sole eligible applicant. H. Jones 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:

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>

Request to make conditional offer of employment to Civil Service Candidate for the position of full-time police officer

N. Anderson stated that the Civil Service Commission would like to extend a conditional offer of employment to Abbey Woodard for the position of full-time police officer at the rate of \$24.00 per hour, per the current collective bargaining agreement. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to make a conditional offer of employment to Civil Service Candidate for the position of full-time police officer 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>

NAMBA Maintenance Request – Eaton Reservoir

P. Gehrlein stated that the Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association (NAMBA) upkeep and maintains trails at Eaton Reservoir. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place, but they have also requested more routine access to maintain trails, handle fallen trees, and clear debris. P. Gehrlein stated that NAMBA will continue to coordinate with the Water Department and Police Department, notifying them of their scheduled maintenance activities. T. Luke motioned to approve the NAMBA Maintenance Request – Eaton Reservoir as

presented. N. Anderson 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>

Eaton Reservoir Request: F-A Events—NAMBA Foot Race Benefit at Eaton Reservoir (April 7)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Eaton Reservoir: F-A Events—NAMBA Foot Race Benefit at Eaton Reservoir (April 7) 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/Heard Park Request: Enjoy NE – ENJOY the View: Family Fun Eclipse Events (April 7—8)

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson/Heard Park: Enjoy NE – ENJOY the View: Family Fun Eclipse Events (April 7-8) 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>

Gibson Park Request: North East Arts Council: Picnic in the Park (Thursdays, June 13—August 22, not July 4)

J. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: North East Arts Council: Picnic in the Park (Thursdays, June 13 – August 22, not July 4) 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>

4TH Quarter 2023 Water Shut Off List – To be presented

N. Anderson motioned to approve the 4th Quarter 2023 Water Shut Off List 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>

Second Monthly Meeting – March 18, 2024, if needed

A. Belson stated that there will be a second monthly meeting on March 18, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Non-Uniform Pension Audit Report
Uniform Pension Audit Report
Police Chief Report
Code Enforcement Report

Departmental Report
Manager's Report
Commissions and Authorities

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eric Urbanowicz, 9470 East Lake Road, offered his services to be on the board of the Marina Authority once it is formed. He asked how the board members would be selected for the new authority. A. Belson stated that the process has not yet been determined.

R. Schaff, 49 Gibson Street, stated that he received a letter for the rental registration program but was unable to complete the registration online. H. Jones stated that she had a similar issue, but that the Borough was working to resolve it. P. Gehrlein stated that the website company has been contacted and is working to correct the error.

T. Huber, 196 Eastwood Drive, asked what percentage of the former Granite Ridge property is in the Borough. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough line goes through part of the main campus buildings and includes the property along West Division Street, as well as the pool building on North Lake Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:33 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. N. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (March 5, 2024)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager