

**MINUTES  
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting  
March 3, 2025**

**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  
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor  
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor  
Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor  
Sean Lam, Police Chief  
Paul Crowe  
Robert Behrens  
Erin Beckes-Reese  
Pattie Stempka  
Sherry Reed  
Ray Schaff  
Eric Luke  
Edward Kennedy  
Christian Otto-Smith  
Jennifer Seigworth  
Rosan Adkins  
Cheryl Burgess  
Carolyn Brown  
Jennifer Ritter  
Katie Gallagher  
Jen Kilgas  
Jeff Fox  
Michele Hartzell  
Others present, not signed in

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, March 3, 2025, 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.

**MINUTES:**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the February 3, 2025, minutes 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

H. Jones motioned to approve the February 17, 2025, 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

**EXPENSE REPORT:**

T. Luke 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:

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

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

There were no Citizens to be Heard.

**REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICERS:****Ryan McGregor – Community Notification System**

R. McGregor stated that he and P. Gehrlein met with potential vendor partners regarding the implementation of a mass communication platform specifically designed for municipalities. R. McGregor recommended the adoption of Savvy Citizen, as it is highly customizable, can integrate with the Borough's website, can have multiple users, and offers many features that can be tailored to our specific needs and uses. H. Jones motioned to approve moving forward with the adoption of Savvy Citizen as the mass communication platform for the Borough. 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

**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:**

A. Belson asked to reconvene the committee to review the Council Bylaws.

A. Belson stated that she, along with P. Gehrlein and B. Morey, met with representatives from GECAC at the end of February to begin lease negotiations for the property use of 50 East Main Street. She stated that the April 1, 2025, deadline for the removal of equipment will be extended, and that lease negotiations are still on-going.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no Unfinished Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Request to promote Det. Halligan to Patrolman Second Class**

B. Morey stated that Det. Halligan has completed thirty (30) months of service and is eligible for promotion to Patrolman Second Class. She recommended him for promotion based on his time served and exemplary performance. N. Anderson motioned to approve the Request to promote Det. Halligan to Patrolman Second Class 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

### **Request to appoint Ptlm. Cornelius to the position of School Resource Officer**

Chief Lam stated that Ptlm. Cornelius applied for the position of School Resource Officer and is well-suited for the position. He stated that Ptlm. Cornelius was interviewed by a panel of four (two from the North East School District, two from the Borough of North East) and was highly recommended by all. Chief Lam stated that his transition from road officer to the school as a permanent position will take place once the new NEPD trainee has completed the necessary training, which should be by the end of March. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to appoint Ptlm. Cornelius to the position of School Resource 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

### **Request to activate Civil Service for regulation amendments and establishment of an eligibility list**

Chief Lam stated that a new eligibility list is needed as the current list is exhausted. Establishing a new eligibility list and amending regulations will allow for more candidate options to choose from in the future. H. Jones motioned to approve the Request to activate Civil Service for regulation amendments and establishment of an eligibility 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

### **Request to approve Resignation of Ptlm. Abbey Woodard**

Chief Lam stated that Ptlm. Abbey Woodard submitted a letter of resignation, while still within her probationary first year of employment with the North East Police Department. R. McGregor motioned to approve the Request

to approve the Resignation of Ptlm. Abbey Woodard 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

**Request: Memorial Day Parade Route (May 26)**

E. Luke stated that the Memorial Day parade is 1.2 miles long, on Route 20, from Gibson Park to Oak Hill Cemetery. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Request: Memorial Day Parade Route (May 26) 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

**Gibson Park: Enjoy North East – Small Town Car Cruisin’ (June 26, July 25, and August 28)**

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Enjoy North East – Small Town Car Cruisin’ (June 26, July 25, and August 28) 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

**Gibson Park: Community Nursing Services of North East – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Release (August 23)**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Community Nursing Services of North East – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Release (August 23) 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

**4<sup>TH</sup> Quarter 2024 Water Shut Off List – To be presented**

N. Anderson motioned to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024 Water Shut Off 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

**Second Monthly Meeting – March 17, 2025, if needed**

P. Gehrlein stated that a second monthly meeting is not needed at this time.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Police Chief Report  
Code Enforcement Report  
Departmental Report  
Manager’s Report  
Commissions and Authorities  
Medal of Honor Ride

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A. Belson announced P. Gehrlein's birthday in March.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

R. Behrens, 61 Smedley Street, asked if a list of landlords and their contact information could be posted on the Borough's website for people who are looking for available properties to rent. A. Belson stated that landlords would have to give permission for their information to be posted, but that they could look into the options.

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, stated that her mother is 89 years old and loves the Savvy Citizen app that is used by the North East Township. She stated that she would gladly help seniors learn how to use the program once the Borough implements it. R. Adkins also stated her support for sending a letter to the North East Senior Center extending the April 1, 2025, deadline for removing equipment during the GECAC lease negotiations. She also asked for a status update on the property at 34 Wellington Street. P. Gehrlein stated that it was previously up for Sheriff's Sale but was pulled from the list for unknown reasons.

E. Luke, 38 North Mill Street, stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Medal of Honor Ride will take place on June 21, beginning at the Girard Borough and ending at the North East American Legion on South Mill Street. He stated that the purpose of the ride is to raise awareness for veterans and act as a fundraiser for the VA and Soldiers and Sailors Home of Erie.

M. Hartzel, North East School District, thanked Chief Lam for his work on the SRO position. She also stated that the School District values its partnerships with the Borough and Township and hopes to continue to build upon positive relationships with each other in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:26 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. N. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Rebecca Bliss (March 4, 2025)

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Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager