

**MINUTES  
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting  
April 21, 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  
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant  
Sean Lam, Police Chief  
Marilyn Belson  
Heather Hinkler  
Rob Wagner  
Bob Belson  
Cheryl Burgess  
David Hirtzel  
Sherry Reed  
Paul Crowe  
Joseph Schneider  
Christian Otto-Smith  
Robert Hamman  
Lynda Williams  
Rosan Adkins  
Steve Machini  
Jacob Jones  
Sam Rizzo  
Others present, not signed in

The second monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, April 21, 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:**

R. McGregor offered the invocation.

**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:****Ordinance No. 935 – Slot Machines: Discussion**

A. Belson asked for a motion to rescind the motion to advertise Ordinance No. 935 – Slot Machines as made at the last Borough Council meeting on April 7, 2025. H. Jones motioned to rescind the motion to advertise Ordinance No. 935 – Slot Machines 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>

A. Belson stated that a committee has been formed to discuss options for addressing the slot machine / PA Skill Games use within the Borough. She stated that the committee, made up of herself, R. McGregor, and H. Jones, have discussed licensing, restricting use to commercial locations, limiting the number of machines per location, applications of the Amusement Tax and Nuisance Code, as well as concerns regarding use by individuals under the age of eighteen (18). She stated that P. Gehrlein will consult with the solicitor and that the committee hopes to present a revised ordinance for advertising at the May meeting.

N. Anderson asked who is responsible for monitoring the use of the machines. A. Belson stated that independent vendors rent spaces within stores, therefore the store employees are not responsible for monitoring use.

B. Morey stated that the conversation should be open, not limited to a committee. She stated that other municipalities have defined arcades with different regulations.

R. Hamman, 9718 Black Road, stated that machines often come from out-of-state vendors. He stated that the social clubs with non-profit status should not be penalized.

H. Jones stated that she doesn't want to take the games away from the clubs, but that there needs to be uniformity and that the ordinance cannot discriminate between types of organization.

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, asked if the locations need to post a license to operate the games. A. Belson stated that they are currently unregulated by the state.

B. Beardsley stated that the discussion could continue forever, but that the next step should be contacting the solicitor to see what is allowable and moving forward.

### **Erie County 911 Dispatch Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement**

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed agreement from the previous meeting has been amended and updated, as presented, including a termination clause. R. McGregor motioned to approve the Erie County 911 Dispatch Intergovernmental Cooperation 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

### **North East Community Center Lease Agreement**

P. Gehrlein stated that there have been fruitful discussions with GECAC regarding the lease terms, and that they are now working on the fine details of the arrangement. He is hopeful that a finalized lease will be presented within the month.

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, asked if future maintenance requests would need to go through GECAC or if she could still contact the Borough directly. P. Gehrlein stated that building concerns could be addressed with the Borough directly.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Request to Approve 2025 Heard Park Lease Agreement for Cherry Festival**

Chief Lam stated that the proposed lease provides a legal agreement between the Borough and the Fire Companies, giving them legal standing to have someone removed from the park during the festival if necessary. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Request to Approve 2025 Heard Park Lease Agreement for Cherry Festival 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 Approve MOU for Police Services between NEPD and NEFD**

Chief Lam stated that the proposed MOU for police services is an agreement with the Fire Department to provide security services during the operational hours of the Cherry Festival and overnight. H. Jones motioned to approve the Request to Approve MOU for Police Services between NEPT and NEFD 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

#### **Request to Approve MOU for Mutual Aid Police Services for Cherry Festival**

Chief Lam stated that the proposed MOU will provide police services for the Cherry Festival from the North East Police Department, Wesleyville Police Department, and Erie County Sheriff's Office. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to Approve MOU for Mutual Aid Police Services for Cherry Festival 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 Lateral Transfer MOU between Collective Bargaining Unit and Borough**

Chief Lam stated that the proposed MOU would allow for the provision of lateral transfers of experienced officers, growing the applicant pool of eligible candidates during the hiring process. N. Anderson motioned to approve the Request to Approve Lateral Transfer MOU between Collective Bargaining Unit and Borough 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Police Chief's Report

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There were no announcements.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

C. Burgess, 9205 Station Road, asked if the GECAC lease discussions resolved the matter of the pool table.

P. Gehrlein stated that GECAC seems willing to sell it, but the details have not been worked out.

H. Kelly, 49 Eagle Street, stated that she is the manager of the North East Athletic Club and that the clubs would be happy with two to three machines per establishment because they use the money they earn from the games.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:30 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. N. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Rebecca Bliss (April 22, 2025)

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Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager