

**MINUTES  
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting  
April 7, 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  
Joseph Schneider  
Allen Dalrymple  
Michael Yori  
Bob Belson  
Sherry Reed  
Diana Hanes  
Paul Crowe  
Christian Otto-Smith  
Deb Wurst  
Melissa Galbraith  
Eric Luke  
Cheryl Burgess  
Joel Morey  
Pattie Stempka  
Lynda Williams

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, April 7, 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. Morey offered the invocation.

**MINUTES:**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the March 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>

**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:

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:**

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

P. Gehrlein stated that PA games of skill are currently unregulated by the state. He stated that the proposed ordinance will ban slot machines, as defined under the Gaming Act, within the Borough limits. A. Belson recommended amending the proposed ordinance to allow for a one-year time period to remove current machines. R. McGregor motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 935 – Slot Machines as presented, with the one-year removal amendment. 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>

**Resolution 04072025-1: Flood Mitigation Grant**

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed resolution will allow for an application through DCED for communities seeking measures to prevent flooding. He stated that the portion of Baker Creek along Vine Street is eroding

part of the old Town Hall building, and that the Borough is looking at permanent solutions through box culverts to protect the creek banks and properties. H. Jones motioned to approve Resolution 04072025-1: Flood Mitigation Grant 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>

#### **Resolution 04072025-2: Borrowing Resolution: Kreft Fund – CAT Loader**

P. Gehrlein stated that a wheel loader is essential to Borough operations, and that a joint purchase between the Streets, Water, and Waste Water departments will replace a 25-year-old loader currently in operation. He stated that the purchase of the loader has been budgeted for over two years and that the Borough saved approximately \$93,000 on the purchase price. T. Luke motioned to approve Resolution 04072025-2: Borrowing Resolution: Kreft Fund – CAT Loader 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>

#### **Erie County 911 Dispatch Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement – To be presented**

P. Gehrlein stated that the Erie County 911 Dispatch Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement is being presented as a discussion item. The document presented is an updated agreement, the original agreement having been in place since 2018. He stated that the new agreement is missing a termination clause and will be sent back with edits and questions before being voted on. A. Belson stated that the agreement will be tabled until an updated version is received.

#### **Request to Adopt Civil Service Rules and Regulations as Amended**

N. Anderson stated that the Civil Service Commission has amended the Rules and Regulations to allow for the Borough to host its own Civil Service pre-employment physical and written testing considering the lack of viable candidates for employment through the previous process. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to Adopt Civil Service Rules and Regulations as Amended 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>

#### **North East Community Center Update**

P. Gehrlein stated that he and A. Belson have had another phone meeting with GECAC and have agreed, in principle, to a lease agreement and 5-year lease term draft. He stated that he hopes the lease agreement will be finalized within one month.

#### **North East Recreation Commission Donation**

P. Gehrlein gave an update on the dissolution of the Recreation Commission, stating that the outstanding bills have been paid, the minute books have been completed, and the 1/3 disbursement checks have been sent to the North East Township and North East School District. R. McGregor suggested donating \$10,000 to the Little Pickers program, leaving the rest of the approximately \$1,000 to the Borough to recoup the administrative costs associated with maintaining the program over the years. A. Belson stated that the program needs to completely change their name and cannot be called the Recreation Commission since it has been formally dissolved. R. McGregor motioned to approve the North East Recreation Commission Donation in the amount of \$10,000

to the Little Pickers. 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>

#### **Junior Council Person Program Applications**

R. McGregor stated that he and Mayor Morey met with the junior and senior students at North East High School regarding the Junior Council Person Program. He stated that they received one application from a Borough resident. R. McGregor motioned to approve the Junior Council Person Program Application, naming Emma Scully as the next Junior Council Person 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>

#### **Gibson/Heard Restrooms: North East Arts Council – Picnic in the Park (Thursdays, June 12—August 14)**

T. Luke motioned to approve the request for Gibson/Heard Restrooms: North East Arts Council – Picnic in the Park (Thursdays, June 12—August 14) 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>

#### **Heard Park: NE Fire Department – Cherry Festival (Park use July 1-16, Festival July 9-12, Parade July 12)**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Heard Park: NE Fire Department – Cherry Festival (Park use July 1-16, Festival July 9-12, Parade July 12) 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/Heard Parks: North East Community Foundation – Erie Phil Summer Concerts (July 16, July 23, Aug 6)**

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson/Heard Parks: North East Community Foundation – Erie Phil Summer Concerts (July 16, July 23, Aug 6) 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>

#### **Gibson: Skunk & Goat Tavern – Gibson Park Corn Hole League (Mondays, June 23 – August 18)**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson: Skunk & Goat Tavern – Gibson Park Corn Hole League (Mondays, June 23 – August 18) 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

Yes

Bill Beardsley

Yes

**Gibson: Skunk & Goat Tavern – Outdoor Mug Club Party (August 25)**

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson: Skunk & Goat Tavern – Outdoor Mug Club Party (August 25) as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson

Yes

Todd Luke

Yes

Amber Belson

Yes

Heather Jones

Yes

Ryan McGregor

Yes

Bill Beardsley

Yes

**Eaton Reservoir: Scout Troup 82 – Bull Dam Trail Run (August 31)**

T. Luke motioned to approve the request for Eaton Reservoir: Scout Troup 82 – Bull Dam Trail Run (August 31) as presented. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson

Yes

Todd Luke

Yes

Amber Belson

Yes

Heather Jones

Yes

Ryan McGregor

Yes

Bill Beardsley

Yes

**Arbor Day Proclamation: April 25, 2025 – Mayor Morey**

Mayor Morey read the Arbor Day Proclamation: April 25, 2025, as presented.

**Second Monthly Meeting – April 21, 2025, if needed**

A. Belson stated that there will be a second monthly meeting on April 21, 2025.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Police Chief Report

Code Enforcement Report

Departmental Report

Manager's Report

Commissions and Authorities

Downtown North East, Inc – Mural

A. Belson stated that a letter was received from Downtown North East, Inc., regarding repairs to the mural in town and requesting the help of Robin Goodenow. She announced that Robin Goodenow will be retiring so the discussion with Downtown North East, Inc., will need to be revisited. She thanked Robin Goodenow for his many years of dedicated work.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Holiday Garbage Schedule 2025**

A. Belson read the Holiday Garbage Schedule 2025 and stated that it is posted on the Borough's website.

W. Yokom stated that twice-per-week garbage collection will run from June 2 through September 26, 2025.

**North East Borough/Township Clean-Up Days**

A. Belson read the North East Borough/Township Clean-Up Days flier.

A. Belson recognized the birthdays of Bill Beardsley, council person, and Joel Morey, former Junior Council Person.

R. McGregor presented Joel Morey with a certificate of recognition for his service as a Junior Council Person, having just completed a one-year term.

R. McGregor announced the Baker Creek Clean-Up Day on April 26, 2025, stating that those interested should meet in the municipal parking lot on Vine Street that morning to help clean the creek.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

C. Burgess, 9205 Station Road, asked if the furniture and piano at the North East Community Center were going to be removed. P. Gehrlein stated that the furnishings of the building are part of the lease discussions with GECAC regarding liability.

M. Yori, 18-20 South Lake Street, commended Council on wanting to remove the skill games. He also stated his concern for the bright lights throughout town. He asked if an ordinance could be implemented to control the lights to certain lumens or time frames.

M. Galbraith, 5 North Washington Street, stated that the lights around the smoke shops are too bright in residential communities.

D. Wurst, 7 North Washington Street, asked if there was an ordinance regarding the excessive flags in front of businesses. P. Gehrlein stated that there are regulations about the placement of flags for ADA compliance with sidewalk width and accessibility.

P. Stempka, 104 Isabella Street, asked how many vape stores can fit in this small town. She stated that they are too close to schools and give access to kids that should not be permitted.

A. Belson thanked the community for coming to the meeting and sharing their concerns.

E. Luke, 38 North Mill Street, asked Council to consider moving the time line for slot machine removal from one year to six months.

J. Schneider, 64 Eaton Drive, asked if PennDOT had any regulations regarding bright lights along state routes 20 and 89, suggesting that the Borough research regulations along state roads.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:49 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. N. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Rebecca Bliss (April 8, 2025)

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Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager