

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting
June 2, 2025**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Belson, President
Ryan McGregor, Vice President
Nancy Anderson
Heather Jones
Bill Beardsley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Streets Assistant Supervisor
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Emma Scully, Junior Council Person
Denny Belknap
Lisa Belknap
Frank Mehler
Robert Hoyt
Ken Snyder
Nancy Schneider
Joseph Schneider
Jacob Huff
Sherry Reed
Pattie Stempka
Chris Drexel
Denise Pekelnicky
Jennifer Seigworth
Paul Crowe
Cheryl Burgess
Lynda Williams
Kitty Maloney
Jake Jones
Others present, not signed in

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, June 2, 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.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the May 5, 2025, minutes as presented. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Nancy Anderson | <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 May 19, 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> | | |
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Ryan McGregor | <u>Yes</u> | Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> |

EXPENSE REPORT:

N. Anderson 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> | | |
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Ryan McGregor | <u>Yes</u> | Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> |

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**Frank Mehler, Lions Club – Community Service**

F. Mehler spoke on behalf of the Lion's Club community service organization. He stated that the Lion's Club is known for focusing on community service and working to improve eye sight, childhood cancer, hearing, and social issues in the community. He stated that there are currently twenty-four active members, but that the organization is always looking for new members and service opportunities to support the community.

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. 936 – Property Maintenance Code**

P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough received an objection to the signing of Ordinance No. 936 – Property Maintenance Code from Mayor Morey. The Mayor's objections were presented to Council and attached to these minutes.

N. Anderson responded to the Mayor's objections regarding the following points: First, she stated that the Mayor's objection stated that the ordinance was not properly advertised. N. Anderson read the advertising requirements from PA Borough Code and stated that individual notification was not required. Secondly, she stated that the Mayor's objection stated that the impact on individual businesses would be burdensome, given the example of interior temperatures. N. Anderson noted exceptions listed in the IPMC. Thirdly, she stated that the Mayor's objection stated it was not accurate to include that a child would've died if the standards were different. N. Anderson stated that we cannot be sure, but that unfit, unsanitary, hazardous structures should be addressed. Fourth, N. Anderson asked if the owners of a property are deceased, how the Borough could take legal action. P. Gehrlein stated that, in the case of a deceased owner, the property goes to probate in the court system and a lien can be placed for minor maintenance such as mowing. D. Pekelnicky stated that states are required to advertise estate executors. D. Pekelnicky also stated her own objection that the Borough did not advertise Ordinance No. 936 correctly, advising that it should be removed through veto, readvertised, a new public hearing held, then open to a vote.

B. Morey stated that her decision to veto came with hours of research and thought, but that she does not want the conversation to end. She wants to move forward without a burdensome code.

N. Anderson motioned to overturn the Mayor's objection to Ordinance No. 936 – Property Maintenance Code as presented. There was no second, therefore the Mayor's objection stands.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 937 – Local Government Unit Debt Act

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed ordinance is a requirement of the PENNVEST Loan application. He stated that the Water Authority is the indebted party and that the Borough provides the guaranteeing base through water sales revenues. B. Beardsley motioned to approve Ordinance No. 937 – Local Government Unit Debt Act as presented. N. Anderson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> | | |
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Ryan McGregor | <u>Yes</u> | Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> |

Request for Promotion of Patrolman Cornelius to Patrolman First Class

Mayor Morey stated that Patrolman Cornelius is recommended for promotion to Patrolman First Class. She stated that he is currently serving as the first School Resource Officer and that his promotion is recommended by herself and Chief Lam. H. Jones motioned to approve the Request for Promotion of Patrolman Cornelius to Patrolman First Class as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Nancy Anderson | <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 Wesleyville Days

Chief Lam stated that the Wesleyville Police Department has requested staff coverage assistance from the North East Police Department on June 14 for approximately five hours during the Wesleyville Days event. N. Anderson motioned to approve the Request to approve MOU for Wesleyville Days, updating the date to 2025. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> | | |
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Ryan McGregor | <u>Yes</u> | Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> |

Letters of Intent: Ordinance No. 936 – Property Maintenance Code: Board of Appeals

A. Belson stated that this agenda item is not currently needed, as Ordinance No. 936 – Property Maintenance Code was just vetoed and overturned. She thanked those who submitted letters of intent for their interest and participation.

Eaton Reservoir: Drew Sidelinger – Wedding Ceremony (September 20)

H. Jones motioned to approve the Request for Eaton Reservoir: Drew Sidelinger – Wedding Ceremony (September 20) as presented. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> | | |
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Ryan McGregor | <u>Yes</u> | Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> |

Heard: 4NINE Thrift Store – Yoga Classes (Mondays, June 9—October 27, excluding Cherry Festival)

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Request for Heard Park: 4NINE Thrift Store – Yoga Classes (Mondays, June 9 – October 27, excluding Cherry Festival) as presented. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> | | |
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Ryan McGregor | <u>Yes</u> | Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> |

1st Quarter 2025 Water Shut Off List – To be presented

R. McGregor motioned to approve the 1st Quarter 2025 Water Shut Off List as presented. N. Anderson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Nancy Anderson | <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 – June 16, 2025, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that there will not be a second monthly meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Police Chief Report
Code Enforcement Report
Departmental Report
Manager's Report
Commissions and Authorities

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

B. Beardsley asked J. Pazmino for an update regarding the library. J. Pazmino stated that the repair needed is approximately 9 ½ feet deep in front of the elevator. He stated that they will try to secure a manhole and possibly slip line the pipe.

H. Jones stated that she has received a lot of questions regarding 14/16 North Lake Street and asked for an update. P. Gehrlein stated that he hasn't received anything beyond the demolition permit application and that the owner stated the process will be complete before the Cherry Festival.

N. Anderson stated that the North East Marina Authority has not updated their website to include meeting minutes since November 2024. She requested that minutes from all meetings since then be presented at the next Borough Council meeting, as well as monthly in the Council packet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

L. Williams, 77 Eaton Drive, asked what the monthly Code Enforcement Report entails. A. Belson stated that the report includes the address, code, and violation.

N. Schneider, 64 Eaton Drive, expressed her frustration that current codes are not being enforced. P. Gehrlein stated that their case needs to be escalated beyond the local district magistrate.

C. Burgess, 9205 Station Road, asked for updates regarding the Senior Center building. P. Gehrlein stated that the Borough received notes back from GECAC's solicitor regarding the lease. He stated that a facility use agreement and hourly fee schedule would be available soon.

P. Stempka, 104 Isabella Street, asked if there was currently a charge being added to reservations for the Senior Center. P. Gehrlein stated that nothing would change until a new agreement was passed.

S. Reed, 1700 North Pearl Street, thanked the Water Department for the Porta-John at Eaton Reservoir, as well as thanking them for maintaining the beautiful area around the reservoir.

D. Pekelnicky, 36 West Main Street, thanked the Borough for being responsive to issues in the community.

A. Belson stated that T. Luke was still in the hospital recovering from his accident and surgery, but that she hopes he can return soon.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:39 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (June 3, 2025)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager