

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting
July 7, 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
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Streets Assistant Supervisor
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Allen Dalrymple
Mark Taylor
Ken Snyder
Lori Snyder
Pattie Stempka
Chas Wagner
Cheryl Burgess
Joseph Schneider
Nancy Schneider
Ray Schaff
Christian Otto-Smith
Paul Crowe
Jack DiOrazio
Dan Adamus
Ken Lafferty
Lisa Shuffstall Belknap
Steve Abate
Others present, not signed in

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, July 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. Beardsley offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the June 2, 2025, minutes 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>

EXPENSE REPORT:

H. Jones motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report 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>

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**North East Community Marina Authority Update**

D. Adamus, 1220 Dewey Rd, read a press release statement from the North East Community Marina Authority, stating that an Agreement of Sale has been signed to transfer the North East Marina from the PA Fish and Boat Commission to the North East Community Marina Authority. He stated that the Authority is considering a reduction in dock/slip rental fees for the season and will solicit community feedback. N. Anderson asked if the broken wall would need to be fixed before opening the marina. D. Adamus stated that he cannot answer any questions until after the closing.

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:**Revised EMS Agreement – Fire Chief Jack DiOrazio**

J. DiOrazio, 11 Blaine Street, presented a request to modify the current 2022 agreement regarding EMS services, as full-time EMS personnel are now needed in addition to the existing part-time EMS staff. D. Miller, solicitor, stated that he reviewed the proposed agreement and that it is satisfactory and as J. DiOrazio described the

changes outlined. R. McGregor motioned to approve the Revised EMS Agreement as presented by Fire Chief Jack DiOrazio. H. Jones 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>

Model Lighting Ordinance Discussion

P. Gehrlein stated that a sample of a model ordinance through the Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council is being presented as a stand-alone option for Council to consider in developing a community-wide comprehensive lighting ordinance. A. Belson and R. McGregor volunteered to help create/revise a similar lighting ordinance for the Borough to be presented at a future meeting. P. Stempka, 104 Isabella Street, asked if existing businesses would be grandfathered in or if they'd have to comply with a new ordinance. P. Gehrlein stated that any new ordinance becomes effective based on the date of approval.

Freeport Beach Archway Project

P. Gehrlein stated that there have been conversations with the North East Township about installing an archway at Freeport Beach. North East in Bloom will be sponsoring the archway project at Freeport Beach, paying for the materials and installation. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Freeport Beach Archway Project 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>

Wastewater Tri-Axle Purchase

P. Gehrlein stated that tri-axes are used at the Wastewater plant on a daily basis hauling sludge to the landfill. He stated that the original plan was to purchase a new truck next year, but that the current Truck 16 has frame deficiencies which make the earlier purchase necessary. H. Jones motioned to approve the Wastewater Tri-Axle Purchase 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>

North East Community Center – Facility Use Agreement and Update

A. Belson stated that Section J should be updated to stated that the Borough is “not” responsible. She also stated that the office staff should handle requests and approvals, not requiring council approval for each request. N. Anderson also suggested clarifying the form to allow individuals to make requests for use of the building, not just organizations. P. Gehrlein stated that a fob system will be used for allowing access during approved times. N. Anderson motioned to approve the North East Community Center – Facility Use Agreement and Update as presented with the described edits. H. Jones 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>

Wall Street Waterline Contract Award

P. Gehrlein stated that the advertisement for bids for the Wall Street Waterline project was done along with the PENNVEST bids. He stated that the Wall Street Waterline bid was awarded to Pollard Land Services in the

amount of \$783,960. He also stated that streetscape and resurfacing will follow the completion of the waterline project. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Wall Street Waterline Contract Award 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>

Blight Task Force – Mayor Morey

Mayor Morey stated that she is looking to assemble a group of people to address community blight. She asked for a motion to implement the process, which will be defined after a committee is formed. She stated that the committee would be used to put together resources and serve as an advisory committee. H. Jones motioned to advertise for community member participation on the Blight Task Force as presented by Mayor Morey. 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>

Water Authority – Resignation of Leslee Gorzynski

R. McGregor motioned to approve the Water Authority -- Resignation of Leslee Gorzynski 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>

Civil Service Commission – Resignation of Denise McCumber

H. Jones motioned to approve the Civil Service Commission -- Resignation of Denise McCumber 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>

Planning Commission – Resignation of John Cunningham

H. Jones motioned to approve the Planning Commission -- Resignation of John Cunningham 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>

Gibson/Heard: North East Cross Country – O’Neal Memorial Cherry Festival 5k Walk/Run (July 12)

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson/Heard Park: North East Cross Country – O’Neal Memorial Cherry Festival 5k Walk/Run 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>

Heard: North East Police Department – North East Public Safety Showcase (August 16)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Heard Park: North East Police Department – North East Public Safety Showcase 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 – July 21, 2025, if needed

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

H. Jones asked if the owners of the Haynes House had the appropriate permits for their event this week and asked if the building was safe. P. Gehrlein stated that they have received a temporary license from the PA Liquor Control Board and that there is restricted access to the building. He stated that liability is held by the property owner, not the Borough.

A. Belson asked if a Porta-Potty could be placed in Gibson Park during the Cherry Festival Parade. H. Jones motioned to install a Porta-Potty in Gibson Park during the Cherry Festival Parade on July 12. 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>

A. Belson encouraged the audience to attend the Cherry Festival.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

N. Schneider, 64 Eaton Drive, asked why we were concerned with forming a Blight Task Force when Council said the Code Enforcement measures in place were adequate. B. Morey stated that Code Enforcement is a separate issue. H. Jones stated that Borough employees should be sent to clean up problem properties and bill the owners when they are noncompliant. D. Miller, solicitor, stated that a court order would be needed.

C. Burgess, 9205 Station Road, asked how much the Community Center rental fee was. A. Belson stated that it is \$10 per hour. C. Burgess stated that the quilting group could not afford such an expensive cost. R. McGregor asked her to submit a request for Council to consider a special rate for her group.

K. Lafferty, 88 ½ South Washington Street, asked for a PennDOT survey to be completed in order to install sidewalks across the railroad crossings. P. Gehrlein stated that he would contact PennDOT about the process.

S. Abate, 194 Eastwood Drive, asked that a burning ordinance be written to restrict hours of allowable burning, as he is having trouble with his neighbor frequently burning. M. Hamman stated that his complaints have been investigated and nothing unlawful was found. M. Hamman told S. Abate to call the police when he suspects non-permitted items are being burned.

A. Dalrymple, 70 Clay Street, stated that the police do a great job and that they can't be blamed for things that aren't their fault.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:12 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. N. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (July 8, 2025)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager