

AGENDA
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
March 16, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Amber Belson, Council President
Bill Beardsley, Council Vice President
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Nancy Anderson
Heather Jones
Christian Otto-Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor
Emma Scully, Junior Councilperson
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Tim Krug
Paul Crowe
Ray Schaff
DR Kreider

PUBLIC HEARING:
Borough Council President A. Belson called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ordinance No. 941 – Establishing Sewer Rates
There were no Public Comments.

Ordinance No. 942 – Establishing a Foreclosed and Vacant Property Registration Program
Tim Krug, 26 Town Street, reviewed the requirements and evidence of vacancy, stating that the proposed ordinance is an assumption of guilt and an invitation for legal harassment from property owners. He stated that the only corrective action for vacancy is occupancy, and that the building code office should already enforce the other items listed regarding code compliance and safety. He also stated his concern that the proposed ordinance does not address temporary vacancies and suggests that owners might resort to demolition instead of compliance.

R. Schaff, 49 Gibson Street, asked what the purpose was of the proposed ordinance and why it was being addressed now. H. Jones stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to address vacancy. R. Schaff asked how that would actually be accomplished.

A. Belson stated that Council members receive complaints from residents about empty storefronts, stating that the owners should want to use them or sell their properties.

T. Krug, 26 Town Street, stated that a better implementation might include a Borough program or organization to partner with or help owners instead of punishing them. A. Belson stated that was tried before and not received well from the owner.

The Public Hearing ended at 6:08 p.m.

The second monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Monday, March 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER:

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, Borough Council President A. Belson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INVOCATION:

N. Anderson 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. 941 – Establishing Sewer Rates

N. Anderson motioned to approve Ordinance no. 941 – Establishing Sewer Rates as presented. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> |
| Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Todd Luke | <u>Yes</u> | Christian Otto-Smith | <u>Yes</u> |

Ordinance No. 942 – Establishing a Foreclosed and Vacant Property Registration Program

H. Jones motioned to approve Ordinance No. 942 – Establishing a Foreclosed and Vacant Property Registration Program as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> |
| Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Todd Luke | <u>Yes</u> | Christian Otto-Smith | <u>Yes</u> |

NEW BUSINESS:

Liquid Fuels FY 2026 Resurfacing Project

P. Gehrlein stated that the annual resurfacing project for 2026 will include Bernwood Drive, Hutchinson Drive, and Smedley Street (from Hutchinson Drive to Grahamville Street). He stated that two favorable bids were received and reviewed by Greenman-Pederson, Inc (GPI), who's findings were that the Borough issue a Notice of Award to Lindy Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$267,510.30. T. Luke motioned to approve the Liquid Fuels FY 2026 Resurfacing Project as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> |
| Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Todd Luke | <u>Yes</u> | Christian Otto-Smith | <u>Yes</u> |

Gibson: North East Arts Council – Picnic in the Park (Thursdays, June 11 – August 13, except July 16)

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: North East Arts Council – Picnic in the Park (Thursdays, June 11 – August 13, except July 16) as presented. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> |
| Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Todd Luke | <u>Yes</u> | Christian Otto-Smith | <u>Yes</u> |

Eaton Reservoir: Scout Troop 82 – Bulls Dam Trail Run (September 6)

C. Otto-Smith motioned to approve the request for Eaton Reservoir: Scout Troop 82 – Bulls Dam Trail Run (September 6) as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Amber Belson | <u>Yes</u> | Nancy Anderson | <u>Yes</u> |
| Bill Beardsley | <u>Yes</u> | Heather Jones | <u>Yes</u> |
| Todd Luke | <u>Yes</u> | Christian Otto-Smith | <u>Yes</u> |

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no Correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Belson wished P. Gehrlein a Happy Birthday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no Public Comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Executive Session convened at 6:12 p.m., regarding Personnel Matters, with no action to follow. The Executive Session ended at 6:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:21 p.m., A. Belson motioned to adjourn. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (March 17, 2026)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager