

**MINUTES  
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting  
March 2, 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  
Lydia Caparosa, Solicitor  
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant  
Sean Lam, Police Chief  
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor  
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Supervisor  
Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor  
Robert Behrens  
Steve Adkins  
Sherry Reed  
Tim Krug  
DR Kreider  
Jen Rodenbaugh

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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:**

H. Jones motioned to approve the February 2, 2026, minutes 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>

**EXPENSE REPORT:**

N. Anderson 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:

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>

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

**Tim Krug – Parking on Town Street**

T. Krug, 26 Town Street, stated that the intersection of Town and East Division Streets is busy weekday mornings due to the school district traffic. He stated that he has received parking tickets since the new parking ordinance was passed, as he does not move his car until after the crossing guards leave the corner around 9:00 a.m. T. Krug requested that the parking regulations on Town Street and East Division Street be changed to a later time for safety concerns. A. Belson stated that the current parking ordinance was thoroughly researched and redeveloped to bring uniformity. She said she would discuss Mr. Krug’s concerns with Chief Lam, the Streets Department, and the Borough Manager.

**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:**

**Historical Preservation Planning**

A. Belson stated that the committee met with Melinda Meyer, Preservation Erie, to discuss ideas and work on the next steps of historical preservation planning. L. Caparosa, solicitor, stated that she has also been researching demolition ordinances within Pennsylvania, stating that they mostly involve zoning changes.

A. Belson also stated that a meeting was held regarding Heard Park and potential uses of the space by the Cherry Festival, Wine Festival, and at other times of the year.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no Unfinished Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Ordinance No. 941 – Establishing Sewer Rates**

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed ordinance is to establish new sewer rates based on the 2026 budget that was passed in December. He stated that the rate change would be effective April 1, 2026. B. Beardsley motioned to advertise 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 – Vacant Property Registry**

L. Caparosa, solicitor, stated that changes were made to the proposed ordinance following the last meeting. She also stated that other municipalities use a third-party service to monitor property foreclosures and notify owners of registration requirements. H. Jones motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 942 – Vacant Property Registry as presented. C. Otto-Smith seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-1. The vote was as follows:

Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Nancy Anderson	<u>No</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>	Christian Otto-Smith	<u>Yes</u>

**Request for promotion of Det. Halligan from PtIm Second Class to Patrolman First Class**

Mayor Morey stated that Detective Halligan has completed 42 months of full-time service and is eligible for promotion. She stated that he is dedicated to his work and service to the community. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request for promotion of Det. Halligan from PtIm Second Class to Patrolman First Class 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>

**Request to approve Cherry Festival Lease Agreement**

Chief Lam stated that the proposed lease of Heard Park to the North East Fire Department is similar to previous years’ agreements, giving authority to trespass individuals from the leased property when necessary. H. Jones motioned to approve the Request to approve Cherry Festival Lease Agreement 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>

**Request to approve MOU with Erie County Sheriff's Office and Wesleyville PD**

Chief Lam stated that the proposed MOU is similar to the previous years’ agreements to provide staffing and statutory authorization during the Cherry Festival. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to approve MOU with Erie County Sheriff’s Office and Wesleyville PD as presented. N. Anderson 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>

**Request to approve MOU with NEFD for Cherry Festival Security Services**

Chief Lam stated that the proposed MOU outlines the services to be provided during the Cherry Festival. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Request to approve MOU with NEFD for Cherry Festival Security Services 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                      Yes                      Christian Otto-Smith      Yes

**Park Street: McCord Library – WQLN STREAM Machine (June 16)**

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Park Street: McCord Library – WQLN STREAM Machine (June 16) as presented. C. Otto-Smith seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Amber Belson                      Yes                      Nancy Anderson                      Yes  
Bill Beardsley                      Yes                      Heather Jones                      Yes  
Todd Luke                      Yes                      Christian Otto-Smith                      Yes

**Gibson: Community Nursing Services of North East – Butterfly Release (August 22)**

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Community Nursing Services of North East – Butterfly Release (August 22) as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Amber Belson                      Yes                      Nancy Anderson                      Yes  
Bill Beardsley                      Yes                      Heather Jones                      Yes  
Todd Luke                      Yes                      Christian Otto-Smith                      Yes

**4<sup>TH</sup> Quarter 2025 Water Shut Off List – To be presented**

H. Jones motioned to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025 Water Shut Off List as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Amber Belson                      Yes                      Nancy Anderson                      Yes  
Bill Beardsley                      Yes                      Heather Jones                      Yes  
Todd Luke                      Yes                      Christian Otto-Smith                      Yes

**Second Monthly Meeting – March 16, 2026, if needed**

P. Gehrlein stated that there will be a second monthly meeting on March 16, 2026.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Police Chief Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Departmental Report
- Commissions and Authorities

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

P. Gehrlein stated that there will be a public hearing on April 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., prior to the regular monthly meeting, regarding a proposed zoning amendment.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

R. Behrens, 60 Grahamville Street, asked if safety and code enforcement regulations were still in effect, as there is a gutter hanging from 97 Wall Street that should be addressed. A. Belson stated that she anticipates people cleaning up their yards as the winter season ends.

R. Behrens, 60 Grahamville Street, asked about the proposed improvements to the Wall Street and Clinton Street area. P. Gehrlein stated that the streetscape improvements will take place over the next two years, to include lighting, cameras, etc. as requested.

R. Behrens, 60 Grahamville Street, asked for an update regarding the underpass on Route 89. P. Gehrlein stated that the stairs will be repaired or replaced by the Borough.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:28 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. C. Otto-Smith seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Rebecca Bliss (March 3, 2026)

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Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager