

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting
April 6, 2026**

5:00 p.m. PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance No. 943 – Zoning Amendment: Regulation of Tobacco Stores/Smoke Shops

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
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Rebecca Beardman, Administrative Assistant
Dan Kreider
Paul Crowe

5:00 p.m. PUBLIC HEARING:

Borough Council President A. Belson called the Public Hearing to order at 5:03 p.m.

Ordinance No. 943 – Zoning Amendment: Regulation of Tobacco Stores/Smoke Shops

D. Kreider, 172 Oakmont Drive, asked if the proposed ordinance would apply to existing tobacco stores and smoke shops, or only moving forward. A. Belson stated that ordinances become effective from the date of approval moving forward.

B. Morey, Mayor, asked if the signage restrictions in the proposed ordinance would apply to existing stores.

P. Gehrlein stated that they must follow current zoning regulations.

The Public Hearing ended at 5:06 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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 Council Person
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Lydia Caparosa, Solicitor
Rebecca Beardman, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Julio Pazmino, Wastewater Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor
Dan Kreider
Robert Behrens
Jen Rodenbaugh
Tim Krug

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:
T. Luke motioned to approve the March 2, 2026, minutes 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>

H. Jones motioned to approve the March 16, 2026, minutes as presented. C. Otto-Smith 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. 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>

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:

A. Belson asked about the grant application as discussed by the Historic Preservation Committee. P. Gehrlein stated that the grant awards wouldn't be announced until June, but that a follow-up meeting could be scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 943 – Zoning Amendment: Regulation of Tobacco Stores/Smoke Shops

H. Jones motioned to approve Ordinance No. 943 – Zoning Amendment: Regulation of Tobacco Stores/Smoke Shops 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>

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Operations Plan – North East Emergency Management Coordinator

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed Emergency Operations Plan is in coordination with the North East Township. H. Jones motioned to approve the Emergency Operations Plan – North East Emergency Management Coordinator 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>

Second Monthly Meeting – April 20, 2026, 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:

A. Belson asked the Public Safety Commission to announce the regulations and guidelines for burning within the Borough.

A. Belson asked if door-to-door solicitation was allowed. P. Gehrlein stated that it is prohibited in the Borough per current ordinance, and that people should contact the Borough Office and the Police Department if they have a concern about a specific incident.

A. Belson recognized Emma Scully, thanking her for her participation in the Junior Council Person program and presenting her with a certificate of completion.

A. Belson announced B. Beardsley’s birthday in April.

A. Belson stated that she’d like to form a committee to address the possible future sale of marijuana. A. Belson, H. Jones, N. Anderson, and B. Morey will serve on the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Behrens, 60 Grahamville Street, asked if a mobile home is currently on a parcel but needs to be replaced, if that’s allowable. L. Caparosa, solicitor, stated that if it is an existing non-conforming use, a replacement of the exact same size and use is allowable.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:08 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Beardman (April 7, 2026)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager