

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting
May 18, 2026**

The second monthly meeting of North East Borough Council was held Monday, May 18, 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
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Beardman, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Mark Hamman, Assistant Streets Supervisor
Jen Rodenbaugh
Jen Smith
Jen Kilgas

CALL TO ORDER:
Borough Council President, A. Belson called the meeting to order, at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INVOCATION:
B. Morey offered the Invocation.

REVISED AGENDA:
Emergency Management Coordinator – Letter of Interest: Dave Meehl
B. Beardsley motioned to approve the revised agenda 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:
Jen Smith and Jen Rodenbaugh – North East Art Walk
J. Smith stated that the North East Art Walk project has been taking place for approximately seven to eight years, starting with painting crosswalks, then adding sidewalk projects. She stated that the project brings people

together to do something positive for the town, showcasing what North East has to offer, encouraging people to linger in the park and visit local businesses. She stated that the North East Chamber/Enjoy North East and North East in Bloom work together to make the project successful. A. Belson stated that she loves the project but that she has received some pushback regarding the area around the veteran’s memorial. J. Smith stated that their planning is flexible and they take all feedback into consideration when planning each year.

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:

Eaton Reservoir: Red Run Outdoors – Fishing Tournament (June 14, 2026)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Eaton Reservoir: Red Run Outdoors – Fishing Tournament (June 14, 2026) 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>

Draft – Facilities Use Agreement / Code of Conduct

T. Luke motioned to approve the Draft – Facilities Use Agreement / Code of Conduct as presented, with edits to remove providing dish soap. 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>

19 Smedley Street – Property for Sale

P. Gehrlein stated that there was an advertisement for bid placed for the sale of the lot on Smedley Street, but that no bids were received. He stated that Habitat for Humanity might be interested in building a house on the lot, but that they would not be able to pay the asking price for the parcel. H. Jones stated that she would like to pursue the idea of partnering with Habitat for Humanity. P. Gehrlein stated that he could discuss the options with them if council is amenable. B. Beardsley motioned to approve P. Gehrlein contacting Habitat for Humanity for more discussion. 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>

NEW BUSINESS:

Bid Results – Wellington Street Bridge

P. Gehrlein stated that the Wellington Street Bridge replacement project is part of the At-Risk Bridge program with the Erie County Department of Planning and PennDOT, where the Borough will act as the funding pass-through. He stated that one bid was received from Chivers Construction Co, originally for \$411,067.50, but after tabulation review and removing mathematical errors, they have honored the bid at \$370,715.50. P. Gehrlein stated that the work is scheduled to take place this summer to not disrupt school traffic. A. Belson asked about plans for the park next to the bridge. P. Gehrlein stated that it will be used as a construction staging sight during the project, but that possible plans are being considered for when construction is completed. T. Luke motioned to approve the Bid Results—Wellington Street Bridge 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>

Emergency Management Coordinator – Resignation Letter: Jack DiOrazio III

H. Jones motioned to approve the Emergency Management Coordinator – Resignation Letter: Jack DiOrazio III 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>

Emergency Management Coordinator – Letter of Interest: Matthew Skrekla

H. Jones stated that the North East Township approved Matthew Skrekla as the new Emergency Management Coordinator contingent on the Borough’s approval. H. Jones motioned to appoint Matthew Skrekla as Emergency Management Coordinator stating that no further discussion is necessary. N. Anderson asked if there had ever been co-coordinators to share the responsibilities. A. Belson stated that the “deputy” position paperwork was never filed. B. Morey suggested naming one Coordinator and one Deputy, based on both parties being interested in serving. H. Jones stated that M. Skrekla should be allowed to appoint his own team. H. Jones motioned to appoint Matthew Skrekla as the Emergency Management Coordinator. 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>

Emergency Management Coordinator – Letter of Interest: Dave Meehl

B. Beardsley motioned to appoint Dave Meehl as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, should he choose to accept the position, contingent on the Township’s approval. 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>

Heard Park: North East LL / Grape City RBI – Tee Ball/Baseball/Softball Practices (May 6-26)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Heard Park: North East LL / Grape City RBI – Tee Ball/Baseball/Softball practices (May 6-26) 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>

Gibson Park: NE Community Foundation – Erie Philharmonic Outdoor Summer Concert Series (July 8, 22, 29)

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: NE Community Foundation – Erie Philharmonic Outdoor Summer Concert Series (July 8, 22, 29) 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>

Gibson Park: Skunk & Goat – Corn Hole League and Mug Club Summer Party (Mondays, June 29—Aug 31)

T. Luke motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Skunk & Goat – Corn Hole League and Mug Club Summer Party (Mondays, June 29—Aug 31) 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>

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter of Interest: Joseph Custer – Zoning Hearing Board

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Letter of Interest: Joseph Custer – Zoning Hearing Board 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>

Fuller Hose Update

C. Otto-Smith summarized the update from Fuller Hose Company, stating that they are in the process of purchasing 56 South Pearl Street to be cleaned out, used as a practice facility, then demolished. He also stated that the tanker truck is being sent for refurbishment to extend its life instead of purchasing a new truck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Belson reminded residents of the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, encouraging participation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no Public Comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:33 p.m. T. Luke motioned to adjourn. H. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Beardman (May 19, 2026)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager