

**MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Monthly Meeting
June 3, 2024**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Belson, President
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Nancy Anderson
Heather Jones
Bill Beardsley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Joel Morey, Junior Council Person
Allen Dalrymple
Shawn Hubbard
Debra Meehl
Paul Crowe
Sean Maloney
Kitty Maloney
Brett Maloney
Jacob Jones
Rosan Adkins
Amy Burniston
William Burniston
Sam Burniston
Jack DiOrazio
Joe Schneider
Kristin Smithers
Others present, not signed in

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance No. 932 – Traffic Regulations and Stop Intersection

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

S. Hubbard, 47 Grahamville Street, asked for clarification on the additional stop signs, as well as the direction of the one-way traffic on Wall Street. P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed ordinance would create a four-way stop intersection at Park and Gibson Streets, and that the traffic on Wall Street would be one-way going west.

K. Smithers, 13 Clinton Street, stated her concerns for making South Pearl Street one-way from Clinton to Wall Streets, stating that it would negatively impact her business and the surrounding businesses. She stated that commercial truck drivers would have difficulty navigating the area and that it would unnecessarily increase

traffic through a residential area. She suggested adding speed bumps and a stop sign at Pearl Street instead of changing the traffic direction.

H. Kelly, North East Athletic Club, stated her agreement with K. Smithers, that she did not agree with the proposed one-way traffic on South Pearl Street and Wall Street.

There were no other public comments. The public hearing ended at 6:10 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, June 3, 2024, 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 6:10 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INVOCATION:

B. Beardsley offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

H. Jones motioned to approve the May 6, 2024, minutes as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

EXPENSE REPORT:

T. Luke motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. N. Anderson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Sean Maloney – Traveler’s Village, 57-61 West Main Street

S. Maloney stated that he is the new owner/developer of the property at 57-61 West Main Street, as selected by the Erie County Land Bank. He outlined his basic plans for improvements to be made to the property and invited the community to attend an open house on June 23, 2024. He stated that the improvements will take place in phases, with Phase One focusing on the current structure and Phase Two adding additional structures to the property with a courtyard/garden area.

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:

H. Jones stated that the Public Safety Advisory Commission has suspended its regular meetings for approximately three months, until the completion of the Cherry Festival. She stated that they are waiting for the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) from Terry Thompson, Emergency Management Coordinator.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 932 – Traffic Regulations and Stop Intersection

B. Beardsley motioned to approve Ordinance No. 932—Traffic Regulations and Stop Intersections, with the amendment of removing the Wall Street portion of the Ordinance until further review. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Promotion of Ptlm. Spencer Cornelius to Patrolman Second Class

Mayor Morey thanked the police officers for their hard work and dedication to the town. She stated that Ptlm. Spencer Cornelius is eligible for promotion to Patrolman Second Class. She stated that he has a positive attitude and is dedicated to the community. N. Anderson motioned to approve the Request for Promotion of Ptlm. Spencer Cornelius to Patrolman Second Class as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

Safe School Act MOU between North East School District and North East Police Department

Chief Lam stated that the proposed MOU is an annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the North East School District and the North East Police Department that outlines the communication framework during an emergency. H. Jones motioned to approve the Safe Schools Act MOU between the North East School District and North East Police Department as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

Ordinance 933 – Ordinance Governing Use of Heard Park

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed ordinance is an amendment to Ordinance 931 to allow for the sale, dispensing or consumption of alcoholic beverages at special events for which the Borough of North East has issued a permit. B. Beardsley motioned to advertise Ordinance 933 – Ordinance Governing Use of Heard Park as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

Heard Park – Amendment to Restrictive Deed Covenant

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed Amendment to the Restrictive Deed Covenant will be filed at the courthouse to reflect the changes to the Heard Park agreement, which would be signed by the Borough, the Hirtzel Foundation, and the North East School District. H. Jones motioned to approve the Heard Park –

Amendment to the Restrictive Deed Covenant as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

NIMS Compliance Suggestions – Mayor Morey

Mayor Morey reviewed the requirements for training and education for the community through NIMS. She suggested working with the North East Township to create a joint plan for community emergency responses.

Gibson Park: The Skunk and Goat Tavern – Gibson Park Cornhole League (Mondays, July 8—August 26)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: The Skunk and Goat Tavern – Gibson Park Cornhole League (Mondays, July 8—August 26) as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

A. Belson stated that events should not be advertised before they are approved by Council.

Gibson/Heard Parks: North East Cross Country—O’Neal Memorial Cherry Festival 5K Race/Walk (July 20)

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the request for Gibson/Heard Parks: North East Cross Country – O’Neal Memorial Cherry Festival 5K Race/Walk (July 20) as presented. T. Luke seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

Gibson Park: Lake View Mennonite Church – Gibson Park Hymn Sing (August 11; Rain date August 18)

N. Anderson motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Lake View Mennonite Church – Gibson Park Hymn Sing (August 11; Rain date August 18) as presented. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

1st Quarter 2024 Water Shut Off List – To be presented

H. Jones motioned to approve the 1st Quarter 2024 Water Shut Off List as presented. N. Anderson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>Yes</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>		

Second Monthly Meeting – June 17, 2024, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that there is no need for a second monthly meeting at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

N. Anderson thanked the Streets Department, specifically Robin Goodenow, for the beautiful work on the archways in Gibson Park.

A. Belson stated that there is a state law that prohibits grass being blown into the street when mowing.

A. Belson reminded the community to carefully watch the crosswalks and intersections, especially as kids will be out of school for the summer months.

A. Belson stated that there was a meeting today with GECAC regarding the use of the building at 50 East Main Street. She stated that they are moving forward with the process of creating an advisory board and developing a framework for how the building will be used in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

S. Burniston, 11751 Peabody Road, stated that he and his brother enjoy fishing at Grahamville Reservoir and are upset to see adults recently leaving trash in the area. He recommended making the area open by permission only or making it catch-and-release only.

W. Burniston, 11751 Peabody Road, stated that he also enjoys fishing at Grahamville Reservoir and supports his brother's comments to make the Reservoir by permission only or catch-and-release fishing only.

S. Hubbard, 47 Grahamville Street, stated that the Skunk and Goat's advertisement for the Cornhole League includes drinks, asking for clarification of their permitted consumption in the park. A. Belson stated that it was not part of their requested use of the park.

D. Meehl, 61 East Division Street, asked for an update regarding her neighbor's code enforcement case. P. Gehrlein stated that there has been official action through the District Justice and that steps are moving forward in the case.

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, asked for an update on several houses in disrepair on Wellington Street. P. Gehrlein stated that there are several on-going code enforcement cases involving the District Justice, but that there are several steps that must take place.

J. Schneider, 64 Eaton Drive, asked for an update regarding his neighbor's code enforcement case. P. Gehrlein informed him of an upcoming hearing at the District Justice.

K. Smithers, 13 Clinton Street, thanked North East in Bloom for the beautiful work around town.

S. Hubbard, 47 Grahamville Street, asked if there was an ordinance in place that set a time limit for clean-up of a house damaged by fire. P. Gehrlein stated that fire is an overall contributor to structural damage but that no time frame is set. He stated that insurance often sets time tables for action regarding claims.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:51 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (June 4, 2024)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager