

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
May 6, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Belson, President
Ryan McGregor, Vice President
Todd Luke, President Pro Tem
Nancy Anderson
Heather Jones

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager, via phone
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Dan Miller, Solicitor
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Interim Water Supervisor
Joel Morey, Junior Council Person
Tom Huber
Vicki Stetson
Robert Hamman
Jake Jones
Casey Coon
Eric Luke
Kara Haas
Dave Herman
Aaron Jelley
Dave Jelley
Diana Hanes
Ray Schaff
Joe Schneider
Debbie Meehl
Eric Urbanowicz
Ed Mascharka
Tim Truitt
Dan Adamus
Paul Crowe
Amy Burniston
Jay McConaughy
Others present, not signed in

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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. Morey offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

T. Luke motioned to approve the April 1, 2024, minutes as presented. R. McGregor 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

H. Jones motioned to approve the April 15, 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

EXPENSE REPORT:

H. Jones motioned to approve the Expense Approval Report as presented. R. McGregor 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<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:

H. Jones stated that the Personnel Committee met and motioned to approve Tyler Simmer as Superintendent of the Water Department, with a salary of \$86,000. R. McGregor seconded the motion. 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

There were no Reports from Special Committees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 05062024-1: Appointing Initial Members of the North East Marina Authority

A. Belson asked if any of the candidates who submitted letters of intent for joining the Marina Authority would like to make statements regarding their letters of intent. There were no comments.

T. Luke motioned to appoint Eric Urbanowicz to the North East Marina Authority Board of Directors for a one-year term. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>No</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

N. Anderson motioned to appoint David Rogers to the North East Marina Authority Board of Directors for a two-year term. There was no second.

R. McGregor motioned to appoint Kara Haas to the North East Marina Authority Board of Directors for a two-year term. 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

H. Jones motioned to appoint Ed Mascharka to the North East Marina Authority Board of Directors for a three-year term. There was no second.

N. Anderson motioned to appoint Tim Truitt to the North East Marina Authority Board of Directors for a three-year term. R. McGregor 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

H. Jones motioned to appoint Ed Mascharka to the North East Marina Authority Board of Directors for a four-year term. A. Belson seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	<u>No</u>	Todd Luke	<u>Yes</u>
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

N. Anderson motioned to appoint Amy Burniston to the North East Marina Authority Board of Directors for a five-year term. R. McGregor 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

E. Urbanowicz asked if any thought had been given to how the board could operate without any money available to advertise for public meetings, asking if the Borough would provide funding for advertising and allow for use of Borough buildings for their meetings. P. Gehrlein stated that Borough buildings would be made available for public meeting use. H. Jones stated that the board should approach Borough Council once they've had a chance to meet and form a proposal.

A. Belson asked if the Articles of Incorporation would be filed with the state on May 7, 2024. D. Miller, solicitor, stated that they would be filed electronically.

T. Luke motioned to approve Resolution 05062024-1: Appointing Initial Members of the North East Marina Authority. R. McGregor 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

Resolution 05062024-2: Liquid Fuels County Aid

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed resolution is a re-presentation of the same application formerly approved, but in an updated format. T. Luke motioned to approve Resolution 05062024-2: Liquid Fuels County Aid as presented. 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

North East Community Center – Charter Document Draft

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed draft document details a framework for community use of the facility at 50 East Main Street, which has been used by GECAC as the North East Senior Center since 1982. He stated that the seniors will continue to have use of the building, but that the proposed framework would allow other groups to use the facility at other times. H. Jones motioned to approve the North East Community Center – Charter Document Draft 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

College Woods Park Land Lease Agreement Draft

P. Gehrlein stated that the property at College Woods, formerly Granite Ridge and Mercyhurst University, is long overgrown. He stated that there has been a renewed interest in the property to create a trail system. The proposed land lease agreement would allow for a fifty-year land lease with the Borough and the current owner to create a trail system for community use. T. Luke motioned to approve the College Woods Park Land Lease Agreement Draft as presented. 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

Ordinance No. 932 – Traffic Regulations and Stop Intersection

P. Gehrlein stated that the proposed ordinance would make South Pearl Street one-way, going south from Clinton Street to Wall Street; Wall Street one-way, going west from South Pearl Street to South Mill Street; and Colfax Street one-way, going south from Grant Street to Clay Street. The proposed ordinance would also make the intersection of Park Street and Gibson Street into a four-way stop. P. Gehrlein stated that the water line improvements in the Wall Street area would be completed before the one-way changes are made. N. Anderson asked that studies also be completed at the intersections of Clinton and South Pearl Streets and Bank and North Mill Streets. N. Anderson motioned to advertise Ordinance No. 932 – Traffic Regulations and Stop Intersection 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>	Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>
Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>		

Second Monthly Meeting – May 20, 2024, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that there would not be a second monthly meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Police Chief Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Departmental Report
- Manager’s Report
- Commissions and Authorities

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

B. Morey stated that she met with Mr. Mellon and he is agreeable to students using the Mellon Heritage Foundation campus for prom photos. She stated that a sign will be posted with a phone number for anyone to contact who is interested in using the private property for other such uses.

A. Belson reminded the community of the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony and parade, scheduled for May 27, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

C. Coon, 48 Blaine Street, requested that the Borough extend the railing on the bridge over Baker Creek near his property on Blaine Street. He said that kids repeatedly jump off the ledge and are likely to get hurt. He stated that a six-foot extension of the railing on the southeast side would block the kids from jumping. P. Gehrlein stated that he and W. Yokom would look into it.

J. Rizzo, Orchard Beach Road, North East Township, stated his concern for people speeding on Orchard Beach Road. He said that cars speed down the road on a daily basis and asked for increased police presence and temporary speed bumps.

D. Herman, 1701 Grist Mill Drive, stated that the marina articles of incorporation could be filed the same day for a fee of one hundred dollars, which the Jake Banta group would be willing to pay. D. Miller, solicitor, stated that he will look into the option of expediting the filing of the articles of incorporation.

D. Meehl, 61 East Division Street, asked for an update regarding 22 Town Street and the numerous code enforcement complaints that have been made over the years. She stated that the property continues to be an eyesore with junk in the yard, buckets, gutters falling off, parts of the house falling apart, etc. P. Gehrlein stated that it has been an on-going code enforcement case and that there are legal ramifications in process through the court system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:37 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. N. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (May 7, 2024)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager