MINUTES NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting December 2, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Amber Belson, President Ryan McGregor, Vice President Todd Luke, President Pro Tem, via phone Nancy Anderson Heather Jones Bill Beardsley
OTHERS PRESENT:	Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager Dan Miller, Solicitor, via phone Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant Sean Lam, Police Chief Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor Paul Crowe Amy Burniston

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER:

Borough Council President A. Belson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INVOCATION:

R. McGregor offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

B. Beardsley motioned to approve the November 4, 2024, minutes as presented. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

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

EXPENSE REPORT:

H. Jones 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:

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

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:

There were no Reports from Special Committees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

2025 Proposed Budget

P. Gehrlein stated that the Finance Committee met several times to review the proposed budget, which is comprised of six total funds: the general fund, water fund, sewer fund, shade tree fund, gas tax fund, and the Kreft fund. He stated that the proposed budget is balanced as presented with no increases in water, sewer, or garbage rates. N. Anderson motioned to advertise the 2025 Proposed Budget 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	Yes
Amber Belson	Yes	Heather Jones	Yes
Ryan McGregor	Yes	Bill Beardsley	Yes

2025 Tax Ordinance

A. Belson stated that the proposed 2025 Tax Ordinance was a difficult consideration after ten years of no tax increases in the Borough. She stated that the proposed increase would affect the average household by approximately \$37 per year, stating that the minimal tax increase is necessary in order to avoid cutting other services to residents as already provided by the Borough. B. Beardsley stated that, if delayed, a future tax increase would likely be more substantial. R. McGregor motioned to advertise the 2025 Tax Ordinance as presented. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

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

North East Community Marina Authority: Resignation of Board Member – Eric Urbanowicz

A. Belson stated that E. Urbanowicz has submitted his resignation from the North East Community Marina Authority citing health concerns. She thanked him for his service to the Marina and wished him good health.
B. Beardsley motioned to approve the North East Community Marina Authority: Resignation of Board Member – Eric Urbanowicz 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	Yes
Amber Belson	Yes	Heather Jones	Yes

Ryan McGregor Yes Bill Beardsley Yes

A. Belson stated that she would contact the News-Journal about advertising the marina position opening, with letters of intent to be accepted through December 12, 2024. She also asked Paul Crowe to post the information on his website. H. Jones motioned to advertise for the marina board opening. B. Beardsley seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

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

Request for Promotion of Ptlm. Jeffery Orzechowski to Patrolman Second Class

Mayor Morey stated that Ptlm. Orzechowski has been recommended for promotion by Chief Lam. She stated that he is a great asset to the community and supports the Chief's recommendation. H. Jones motioned to approve the Request for Promotion of Ptlm. Jeffery Orzechowski to Patrolman Second Class as presented. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

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

Appointment of Ptlm. Edgar Halligan to Detective

Chief Lam stated that the detective position will act as a police officer as well as handle investigations and all child abuse cases. He stated that Edgar Halligan passed the written examination with a score of 89.3% and the oral board examination with a score of 93%, both of which had a minimum passing required score of 70%. N. Anderson motioned to approve the Appointment of Ptlm. Edgar Halligan to Detective as presented, effective January 1, 2025. R. McGregor seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

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

North East Borough – Uniform Collective Bargaining Unit MOU for SRO

Chief Lam stated that the document presented is an amendment to the Collective Bargaining Unit agreement to accommodate the SRO position with the North East School District. T. Luke motioned to approve the North East Borough – Uniform Collective Bargaining Unit MOU for SRO as presented. H. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The vote was as follows:

Nancy Anderson	Yes	Todd Luke	Yes
Amber Belson	Yes	Heather Jones	Yes
Ryan McGregor	Yes	Bill Beardsley	Yes

2025 Public Meeting Schedule

T. Luke motioned to approve and advertise the 2025 Public Meeting Schedule 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	Yes
Amber Belson	<u>Yes</u>	Heather Jones	Yes
Ryan McGregor	Yes	Bill Beardsley	Yes

3rd Quarter 2024 Water Shut Off List – To be presented

H. Jones motioned to approve the 3rd Quarter 2024 Water Shut Off List 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	Yes
Amber Belson	Yes	Heather Jones	Yes
Ryan McGregor	Yes	Bill Beardsley	Yes

Second Monthly Meeting – December 16, 2024, if needed

A. Belson stated that there will be a second monthly meeting on December 16, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Belson stated that the National Guard is in town due to the snow emergency, but that they will not shovel, plow, or help with snow removal, but that they may bring food and water. She stated that their focus is on the elderly and those with special needs.

A. Belson thanked the Streets Department and first responders for their hard work during the snowstorm.

A. Belson stated that the Chamber's Tree-mendous Night of Lights has been rescheduled for December 7, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

P. Crowe, 8739 Windy Lane, asked when the sunset camera will be back online from Freeport Beach. P. Gehrlein stated that they are aware of the issue but are waiting on the repair technician.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:31 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. N. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (December 3, 2024)