

MINUTES
NORTH EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting
February 3, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bobbi Jo Morey, Mayor
Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager
Lydia Caparosa, Solicitor
Rebecca Bliss, Administrative Assistant
Sean Lam, Police Chief
Julio Pazmino, Waste Water Supervisor
Tyler Simmer, Water Supervisor
Wayne Yokom, Streets Supervisor
Paul Crowe
Jean Selkregg
Cheryl Burgess
Lee Green
Rosan Adkins
Steve Adkins
Bonnie Cobb
Vicki Stetson
Judy Stokes
Eric Luke
Beverly Walz
Jonathan Way
Barbara Balcolm
Charlotte Dilimone
Others present, not signed in

Libby Rosequist
Michael Hamman
Val Crofoot
Ray Schaff
Ann Schaff
Sherry Reed
Alison Schmidt
Pattie Stempka
Kara Haas
Kate Weber
Nancy Geraci
Jenny Ritter
Katie Gallagher
Jennifer Nam
Pauline Fisher Maynard
Shirley Nollinger
Melissa Duda
Cindy Walters
Amy Hribar
Betty Artise
Steve Levan
Loretta Barnum

The regular monthly meeting of North East Borough Council will be held Monday, February 3, 2025, 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:

R. McGregor offered the invocation.

MINUTES:

R. McGregor motioned to approve the January 6, 2025, minutes with an attendance correction. 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

EXPENSE REPORT:

B. Beardsley asked about two expenses, each for \$5,000. P. Gehrlein explained that they were each part of the Building Blocks matching grant funds through ECGRA for façade improvements to residential properties in the Borough.

H. Jones 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:

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Pattie Stempka: North East Senior Center

P. Stempka, 104 Isabella Street, distributed a handout to council members, providing an example newsletter from GECAC, explaining the programs and services offered at the Senior Center throughout the month of February. She stated that the Senior Center is in a perfect location in the community for seniors to access, offers a variety of daytime and evening activities, and holds events for other organizations such as North East in Bloom and the quilting group. She expressed her desire that the Senior Center should be permitted to stay at its current location.

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 gave an update regarding the North East Senior Center. She stated that the Borough is currently in negotiations with GECAC, as the current lease has expired. She stated that a lease termination letter was sent to GECAC last month in order to move forward with negotiations of a new lease but specifically stated that GECAC was not given an eviction notice. She stated that it is the Borough’s intent to keep GECAC as the primary tenant of the building at 50 East Main Street, but to renegotiate the lease in order to open the space to other community uses as well. She stated that a follow-up meeting with GECAC has been scheduled for February 20, 2025.

P. Gehrlein stated that the current lease term was 2017-2022 and therefore needs to be renegotiated. He stated that the Borough and GECAC have had a great long-term relationship which he hopes will continue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 02032025-1: Purchase of Police Cruiser through Kreft Fund

Chief Lam stated that the purchase of a new police cruiser is part of the SRO agreement with the North East School District, which will be funded annually by the North East School District. B. Beardsley motioned to approve Resolution 02032025-1: Purchase of Police Cruiser through Kreft Fund 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Request to approve purchase of police cruisers

Chief Lam stated that a grant for \$130,000 was received through DCED which will be used to purchase two 2025 Ford Explorer Hybrid police cruisers. H. Jones motioned to approve the Request to approve purchase of police cruisers 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Request to approve 2013 Police Interceptor Agreement of Sale to North East School District

Chief Lam stated that, as part of the SRO agreement, the 2013 Ford Taurus police interceptor will be sold to the North East School District for use by their officer. He stated that, if approved, the sale to the school district would not take place until the new cruisers for the North East Police Department were purchased. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to approve 2013 Police Interceptor Agreement of Sale to North East School District 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Request to certify Civil Service Eligibility List as presented

N. Anderson presented the Civil Service Eligibility list on behalf of the Civil Service Commission. T. Luke motioned to approve the Request to Certify the Civil Service Eligibility List 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Request to make conditional offer of employment to Civil Service Candidate for the position of full-time officer

Chief Lam stated that the ninth full-time officer to be hired will be replacing the North East School District SRO Officer on patrol, requesting the hiring of Zacary Clayton to fill the position of full-time officer. B. Beardsley motioned to approve the Request to make conditional offer of employment to Civil Service Candidate Zacary

Clayton for the position of full-time officer 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson Park: Park United Methodist Church – Sunday Church Services in the Park (Sundays, July 6 – Aug 31)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Park United Methodist Church – Sunday Church Services in the Park (Sundays, July 6 – August 31) 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Heard Park: Let There Be Light – Christian Concerts (May 16, 30, June 13, 27, July 24, August 8, 22)

N. Anderson motioned to approve the request for Heard Park: Let there be Light – Christian Concerts (May 16, 30, June 13, 27, July 24, August 8, 22) 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson Park: Enjoy North East – Gibson Open Market 2025 (Saturdays, June 7 – September 6)

T. Luke motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Enjoy North East – Gibson Open Market 2025 (Saturdays, June 7 – September 6) 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>	Heather Jones	<u>Yes</u>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson/Heard Park: Enjoy North East – Wine Fest 2025 (September 23-28, event weekend only)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson/Heard Park: Enjoy North East – Wine Fest 2025 (September 23-28, event weekend only) as presented, with the provision that the Community Nurses' driveway/parking lot access is not blocked during the work week. 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson/Heard Park: Enjoy North East – Tree-mendous Night of Lights (November 29)

R. McGregor motioned to approve the request for Gibson/Heard Park: Enjoy North East – Tree-mendous Night of Lights (November 29) 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Gibson Park: Enjoy North East – Sugar Plum Saturday (December 6)

H. Jones motioned to approve the request for Gibson Park: Enjoy North East – Sugar Plum Saturday (December 6) 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>
Ryan McGregor	<u>Yes</u>	Bill Beardsley	<u>Yes</u>

Second Monthly Meeting – February 17, 2025, if needed

P. Gehrlein stated that there will be a second monthly meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Police Chief Report
- Code Enforcement Report
- Departmental Report
- Manager’s Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Belson announced the birthdays of council members T. Luke (last month) and H. Jones (this week).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, stated that communication from the Borough needs to be more open. She said it was her understanding that the Borough controls who could rent the Senior Center building when the seniors weren’t using it. P. Gehrlein stated that the current lease states that GECAC holds that authority. R. Adkins stated her concern that other groups of people would not care for the building as well as the seniors do and would leave a mess to clean up. She also stated that she would be more than willing to work with the Borough to find a solution.

V. Stetson, 10054 West Law Road, stated that her organization has rented out their facility for years and have never had a problem with vandalism. She also stated that Findley Lake, NY has a Community Connections program that would be worth researching in order to add more programs to our community.

S. Levan, 5321 Loomis Street, stated that he is not sure why people are worried, as it seems like the Borough and GECAC are in the process of working out the lease and want to keep the Senior Center open.

K. Weber, 62 East Division Street, stated that some elderly people need rides and wondered what services GECAC and other organizations could provide.

A. Schmidt, 83 Niagara Street, stated that GECAC receives income-based funding which puts limits on the use of materials and programs. She stated that the biggest concern seems to be the lack of clear communication.

R. Adkins, 80 Wellington Street, stated that the newsletter that was distributed doesn’t cover half of the programs offered by the Senior Center. She said that they service over 200 members.

C. Burgess, 9205 Station Road, stated that she is the president of the North East Crazy Quilters who use the North East Senior Center and schedules with GECAC.

J. Nam, 6237 Buffalo Road, asked what the Borough was asking for that was different from the current lease. P. Gehrlein stated that the initial component of the renegotiations provides for the Borough being able to determine who rents their own building, not GECAC as a tenant having control over other uses.

A. Hribar, 9740 East Lake Road, asked if the seniors would be given priority in scheduling once the new lease is negotiated. R. McGregor stated that the goal is to keep GECAC's schedule as-is, but to allow for other use during non-GECAC time. A. Hribar asked if the fee schedule for non-GECAC groups would increase. P. Gehrlein stated that all those details will be worked out after the actual lease terms are negotiated.

C. Burgess, 9205 Station Road, asked about the equipment in the Senior Center. P. Gehrlein stated that the equipment needs and use will be part of the lease negotiations.

B. Artise, 2438 Clark Road, asked if the Borough has talked with GECAC. A. Belson said yes, talks are on-going.

P. Stempka, 104 Isabella Street, asked if GECAC and other groups like North East in Bloom and the Quilters would be able to keep using the building until the lease is renegotiated. P. Gehrlein said yes.

V. Crofoot, 2641 Dewey Road, stated that she hopes the communication moving forward, including in the North East News-Journal, is clear and succinct, or order to limit the unnecessary confusion.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:04 p.m. H. Jones motioned to adjourn. B. Beardsley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Bliss (February 4, 2025)

Patrick Gehrlein, Borough Manager