

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
April 6, 2021

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. All members were present: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, Patrick K. Morgan, John A. Styer, Bryant J. Glick, Michael H. Kurtz and Harry M. Klinger. Also in attendance were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender, Police Chief Bill Leighty and reporter Carole C. Deck. Others in attendance included Borough auditor Pat Carr of William Koch and Associates, resident Ken Wright and former resident and Council member Terry Mohler.

President Herrington opened the meeting asking for action on the Minutes of the prior meeting.

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of March 2, 2021 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Todd Burkhart and passed.

Patrick Morgan made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed. Members Burkhart and Styer abstained to avoid any appearance of conflict with any business they may own.

Auditor Pat Carr then reviewed the 2020 audit of Borough funds. He reported the Audit was properly filed with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. In audit terms, the Audit was given what is called an Unmodified Opinion, which is the highest or best category utilized. They again confirm good financial practices, monitoring and oversight by staff. The Borough and most other municipalities operate on a cash basis. He briefly reviewed numerous pages of the Report. He noted one end of year adjustment is made after the final numbers for the year are provided for the Police Pension Fund from the Principal Group. The Borough retains its long held position of no debt obligations. This is a very good position for a municipality to be in. This is a compliment to Council, management and staff.

In response to a question from Mayor Bender, he confirmed the Borough's internal controls, reviews and process are checked and are a very positive thorough process. Management and staff are very experienced and knowledgeable and able to answer any operational items the auditors may not be familiar with such as the

background, bid process or other questions. The office staff of Robin Parker, Kim Raptosh and Paula Walsh do a great job for the Borough. In his opinion, operationally things are very solid. Vice-President Burkhart stated his thanks and recognition to the Manager and Chief for their continued concern and good work with this. Finance Chair Morgan echoes Mr. Burkhart's comments noting the continued good internal financial work and continued low taxes and fees for services.

Chairman Morgan then made the motion the 2020 Audit of Borough funds be accepted as prepared by the firm of William Koch and Associates. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Chairman Morgan next made the motion that Council approve payment of the \$500 to the United Veterans' Council in support of its Memorial Day remembrance activities; noting that this is a budgeted item. This was seconded by Todd Burkhart and passed.

Police Committee Chairman Burkhart noted that before going into regular items this evening, he wants to mention the recent passing of a long time dedicated Fire Police officer of Garden Spot Fire Rescue and a wounded veteran, Norman Brower. He gave much of his personal time to Garden Spot Fire Rescue Fire Police activities.

Police Chief Leighty then reviewed his monthly Report of Department activities. There was a total of 346 incidents. There were 18 arrests, of which 10 were felonies or misdemeanors with one DUI. There were eight accidents, seven of which were reportable; with 33 citations and 19 warnings. There were four juvenile related incidents; one of which had to be referred to the District Justice's office.

Chairman Burkhart stated he wanted to recognize the two officers, Specht and Beideman who assisted the medics on site at a recent unusual and serious industrial accident; noting the letter of appreciation received from New Holland Ambulance Chief Darrell Fisher. He also wants to commend the Chief and officers for a recent successful drug raid at a property on Brimmer Avenue.

Chairman Burkhart then made the motion that Council approve the new five year Agreement with the New Holland Police Officer's Association as agreed to in principle between the parties, subject to the final approval by the attorneys from

both sides. This is for the period 2021 through 2025. This was seconded by Harry Klinger. A brief discussion then followed.

Resident Ken Wright inquired what the salary increases are for the period.

Chairman Burkhart stated they were 3 percent per year. He felt that was reasonable.

Member Morgan noted he is happy with some items and not happy with others which is pretty much what collective bargaining is about. He appreciates the work and time of the Police Committee and officers to get this done. He supports the Committee's recommendation.

Member Klinger stated as a new Council member and member of the Police Committee involved with the second half of the contract talks, it was a new experience and he did not realize what all was involved. He thanks Committee Chairman Burkhart and member Herrington for their experience and guidance with this matter. He feels it was a fair win/win type situation for both sides. He does feel the contract treats the officers well and feels the officers should be expected to perform their duties well for the community.

President Herrington noted that the process began last March, had numerous delays and items to work through. He thanked Chairman Burkhart for the time and effort he put into the negotiations. He also recognized and thanked former Council member Mohler for his initial time and effort while he was on Council. He then asked for a roll-call vote. The roll was:

Patrick Morgan—Yes

Harry Klinger—Yes

Bryant Glick—Yes

John Styer—Yes

Mike Kurtz—Yes

Todd Burkhart—Yes

Don Herrington—Yes

The motion passed.

Chairman Burkhart then made the motion that the Borough's Civil Service Commission be requested to work with the Manager and Police Chief to begin the process for the identification of qualified candidates for police officers for Council's consideration. This was seconded by Patrick Morgan. President Herrington noted that at this time of year and under current conditions this could take a while. The motion then passed.

Chairman Burkhart next made the motion that the request of Police Sergeant Willwerth to participate in outside employment to occasionally assist his father with his father's frozen yogurt business when he is not working for the Borough, be granted. This work does not involve carrying a firearm. This was seconded by Patrick Morgan. In response to a question from member Glick, Chairman Burkhart stated the Borough's Workers' Compensation insurance does not cover for injuries not sustained on the job for the Borough. The motion then passed.

Personnel/Property Chairman Styer reported he had no action items but a few information updates. The pool preparations are underway with no major areas of concern identified. It is planned to be opened the first day after the last day of school for the ELANCO district. The removal of the old hockey court is underway and will continue as good weather allows. Related to some non-uniform personnel elements, along with the new staff, Gaige Miller, who started in January in the Wastewater Department, two replacement employees will also be starting soon, Tyler Davis in the Water Department; the other Todd Heidelbaugh in the Streets, Parks, Maintenance Department. The Borough appears to have been fortunate with these individuals as to their prior experience with municipalities and their backgrounds.

There were no Water, Wastewater or Streets action items.

Member Glick noted he wished to thank Chief Leighty with assisting with the recent Teddy Bear giveaway by Garden Spot Village.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Police Department the past month as: \$887.78 from the District Justice's office; \$165 from accident reports; \$90 from parking fines; and \$379.51 from fingerprinting.

Chief Leighty noted that the fingerprinting amount is increased because \$300 can be charged to a defendant as court costs.

Mayor Bender then continued, noting that it is again good to hear such a positive audit report and he commends the Manager and staff for a well-run shop. He is also glad that the police contract was able to be settled. Overall, he feels it is a win for the community and keeping our community safe. He feels it was a mutual leadership effort with the Committee, Manager and Chief. He also echoes the comments of Police Chairman Burkhart as to the valuable assistance provided by officers Specht and Beideman at the recent industrial accident.

Member Glick noted a resident had asked what the Borough could do to make the intersection of Brimmer Avenue and East Jackson Street safer.

Manager Fulcher reported the Borough and Police Department monitor that intersection on an ongoing basis. Extra visibility elements are utilized on the stop sign posts and stop point lines. Additional Caution warning signs are to be added to the north and south sides. In reviewing the accidents over the past three years, most were due to driver negligence such as being distracted for a moment, and so on. When Penn DOT rebuilt Brimmer about 15 years ago and the Borough replaced the water main, we were able to reduce the peak of the hill on the south side by 10 inches. It remains an intersection people have to be extra cautious when crossing. He often sees people not crossing in a safe and efficient manner.

Member Burkhart stated he also utilizes that intersection often and has also observed people driving through in an unsafe manner.

Member Glick noted for information purposes that well-known local resident Connie Greer, the widow of former Mayor John Greer, recently passed away. She was very active in the community and a member of numerous organizations.

Resident Ken Wright asked if the Borough could again strongly remind residents about the state law and required distances between structures before using fireworks any time, not just July 4th weekend.

Manager Fulcher stated the Borough will continue to emphasize this in its July 1 Newsletter as well as on its website and the Police also note it on the Department's Facebook page.

Police Chief Leighty noted that the officers try to respond as quickly as possible when such calls are received.

Member Morgan stated he wants to inform everyone that New Holland Post #7362 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be holding an Open House on Saturday, May 15, 2021, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its Post Headquarters at 755 Ranck Church Road. The public is invited and there will be free food served.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

May 4, 2021
Date Approved