

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
October 5, 2021

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7 p.m. 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 present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender, Solicitor Bradford J. Harris and reporter Carole C. Deck. Others in attendance included Supervisor of the Streets, Parks, Maintenance Department Robert P. Buzzard, Patty Buzzard, Borough employees Jason Bagnato, Irv Martin and Jeremiah Petersheim, Police Officer Josh Beideman, Borough business owners Linda DiBartolo and Bill Heagy, Sr. and residents Bill Kassinger, Jane Hibshman, Ryan Long, Ken Wright, Mike Ireland, Jonathan Brown, Rebekah Brown, Barry Nolt, Barbara Nolt, LeeRoy Martin, Vicki Martin, Doug Martin, Ralph Hess and Samantha Trego, Borough water consultant Jeff Bologna of Becker Engineering and Boy Scouts Jonathan Talley and Jack Briggeman.

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

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of September 7, 2021 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

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

Police Chief Leighty reviewed his monthly summary Report. There was a total of 300 incidents recorded. There were 13 total arrests, of which 4 were felonies or misdemeanors. There were nine accidents of which two were reportable. There was one DUI. There were 37 citations and 8 warnings. There was a total of seven juvenile contacts, all of which had to be referred to District Court.

Member Klinger noted the letter of appreciation to the Department from a person who is not a resident.

Member Burkhart inquired how the Fair went this year.

Chief Leighty reported there were no major incidents and it seemed to be well attended.

Member Morgan stated he heard the officer on Bike Patrol during the Fair was able to intercede in a situation and help avoid a fight between some individuals.

Chief Leighty noted this was part-time officer Wolfe who fortunately was in the vicinity when the arguing was taking place.

Member Glick stated he feels the successful Fair and parade is due in good part to the police presence and helping to deter issues.

Resident Ken Write stated he would like to add that the Police Department also did a great job recently in having officers in place monitoring the activities related to the Latin American Festival held for the first time at Community Memorial Park.

Police Chairman Burkhart then introduced Police Officer Joshua Beideman.

Officer Beideman stated he is the current President of the New Holland Police Officers Association. He is here this evening to request Council approval for the officers to have a toy replica miniature car made using the Borough's name and logo, to be sold to those in the emergency responder fields. It is intended to be non-profit and no Borough monies are to be involved. It is to be privately funded by the officers.

Police Chairman Burkhart then made the motion that the Borough police officers be given approval to utilize the Borough name and logo to proceed with the miniature toy police car replica plan as presented by Officer Beideman. This was seconded by Patrick Morgan and passed.

Personnel Chairman Styer reported he has the privilege this evening of initially recognizing the soon to be retiring Supervisor of the Borough's Streets, Parks, Maintenance Department, Robert P. Buzzard. Mr. Buzzard has been with the Borough 43 years and 8 months; 25 of these as Department Supervisor. Many residents are aware of the things he has accomplished but there are also many improvements people do not see behind the scenes which made for a better community. He also assisted in the upcoming transition to a new Supervisor from within the Department. He extends his congratulations and thanks to Mr. Buzzard.

President Herrington then presented a Plaque to Mr. Buzzard recognizing his years of service to the Borough and on behalf of the community also thanks him and wishes him well.

Streets Chairman Kurtz made the motion that Council approve Trick or Treat evening in the Borough for Friday, October 29, 2021, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It was noted this was the county-wide municipal group date and time and there is not usually a rain date. This was seconded by Bryant Glick and passed.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Police Department the past month as: \$947.29 from the District Justice's office; \$60 from accident reports; \$50 in parking fines; and \$166 from fingerprinting. He expresses his congratulations and thanks to Mr. Buzzard also in his many years of service and upcoming retirement. He also heard many compliments for the Borough Manager, Police Chief and staffs for the manner in which the Borough handled the recent Latin American Festival held for the first time in New Holland.

ELANCO Library Treasurer, Mike Ireland reported that a good candidate to be the new Director of the Library has been identified. She will be relocating into the area from out of state in the near future.

Borough business owner Linda DiBartolo stated she wants to inform Council that she is working with other businesses in the downtown area for a Trick or Treat visiting activity. There is no street closing involved. The businesses use the sidewalk space.

Resident Samantha Trego stated she has some questions and comments. She asked Manager Fulcher what positions he holds and does he get paid for all of them.

Manager Fulcher replied he serves as Borough Manager/Secretary and a number of others including Planning Secretary, Manager and Recording Secretary of the Borough Authority, Zoning Officer, Right to Know Officer for non-police matters, Park Manager and some others. He does not get paid for all the positions he has.

Mrs. Trego asked Council if Manager Fulcher has too many jobs for one person and should not others be paid to do some of it.

Council Vice-President Burkhart asked why would Council hire more people when a person is experienced and capable to do them.

Mrs. Trego then asked those in attendance what they feel about it. Those responding strongly supported the current efficient operational activities of the Manager.

President Herrington noted Mrs. Trego may not be aware, but Council members and the Mayor are not paid. The Borough also has no debt.

Mrs. Trego then stated she was here last month concerned about the people who are affected when it floods. Council did not do anything until Mr. Glick made the motion. She noted this issue was discussed a few years ago.

Member Klinger stated he takes offense at that comment. Council must have heard around 20 or more people's concerns last month and when completed Mr. Glick and Council considered options. Mr. Glick's motion to have the engineer do a formal study was seconded by himself and endorsed by all of Council.

Vice-President Burkhart also stated that there was a good discussion and Council did respond to the concerns a few years ago. Action was taken by the Borough staff.

She then stated as a concerned taxpayer, she saw in the financial reports when there was like a million dollars in wastewater transferred to something like "rentals". It looked like it washed out.

Manager Fulcher explained that under wastewater operations, the internal financial process does include payments from one account to another and in this case it should match.

Mrs. Trego next stated she wants to see the Profit and Loss Statements of the Borough of the past two years, and also what does engineer Mr. Becker do to earn all that money for the past two years.

Manager Fulcher explained that municipalities do not work under the same profit and loss statements financial structure as non-profit organizations. A municipality is actually a more open system. Some of it is identified in the audits she received. Engineer Darrell Becker's firm serves the Borough in numerous functions with such things as the stormwater elements as discussed last month, planning assistance for the Planning Commission, MS4 requirements, numerous street study issues and so on.

Vice-President Burkhart explained that numerous and extensive outside audits required regularly by law have consistently and irrevocably found Council and the Borough, to be free of fraudulent activity.

Mrs. Trego inquired why the Borough still does business with Mr. Burkhart's firm. He had to pay a fine for an ethics violation involving bill approvals.

Vice-President Burkhart answered, stating that he did pay the fine requested by the Ethics Commission but their Report found no wrong doing other than Council's bill approval procedure. His business remains competitive and is often at a lower cost than others in town as to Borough work needs.

Manager Fulcher asked Mrs. Trego if she would put her questions in writing and he will try to help explain and answer her questions in a manner which will help her understand better.

President Herrington noted that this is not an Agenda topic and the normal time limit has been extended significantly so he will end the discussion at this time. Mrs. Trego may contact the Manager's office for other information.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

November 2, 2021

Date Approved