

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
July 3, 2023

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Monday, July 3, 2023 in Borough Hall. Members present were: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Patrick K. Morgan, Michael H. Kurtz and Harry M. Klinger. Members absent were John A. Styer, Bryant J. Glick and Michael N. Martin. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender, Police Chief Bill Leighty and reporter Carole C. Deck. Others in attendance included residents Jonathan Brown, Rebekah Brown, Ken Wright, Lino Vescovich and Andy Herrington and Andrew Casey of Eagle Disposal.

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

Harry Klinger made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of June 6, 2023, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz 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.

Police Chief Leighty then reviewed his monthly report. There was a total of 125 incidents through the month. Of the 10 arrests, 6 were felonies or misdemeanors and 2 summary offenses. Two DUIs are included in the six felonies/misdemeanors total. There were five reportable and three non-reportable accidents. Ten citations and 10 warnings were issued. There was a total of six juvenile contacts, four of which went to the Youth Aid Panel, two to Juvenile court. A Thank you letter was received for officer participation at Petra Church on its First Responders Day. The Report also includes a list of the various community events.

He then reviewed the proposed t-shirt to be given out to the public in Police Night Out this year, a picture of which was provided to Council. It has a local logo which is not the national event logo, and on NHPD Strong of the back side. These are able to be provided through the donations for the event. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 1, 6 p.m., just after next Council meeting.

Patrick Morgan made the motion that the proposed t-shirt to be given to the public on Police Night Out, be approved as presented. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz and passed.

Member Klinger stated he wished to recognize Detective Bitner for his involvement in assisting with a recent dog incident in his neighborhood. The owner was cited by the county Dog Warden as a first formal warning.

The members next discussed the proposed potential use of body cameras for officers. Chief Leighty explained that as mentioned a few months back the grant application for the state was awarded for vehicles for License Plate Readers (LPRs) and allowed also for body cameras. In response to a number of questions from the members, the Chief noted there are a number of different brands and the one he is proposing is Axon, the same company that provides the tasers. This includes a secure closed exchange system. These are not the same ones identified recently with a shooting incident in Baltimore. These have been otherwise used, tested and proven. The policies are in place and ready to be used following some basic training. Each officer will have their own and they are recharged by a Supervisor. There are action limits and restrictions in the law and policies they will be following.

Member Klinger noted that in his past experience working for the County, these were purchased for and used successfully by the Deputies.

Patrick Morgan then made the motion that Council authorize the use of body cameras in the Borough's Police Department, following proper guidelines and training. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Patrick Morgan next made the motion that Council request the Civil Service Commission begin the process for obtaining police officer candidates for possible hiring. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz and passed.

Member Kurtz inquired if any actions have been taken with Civil Service for the testing of a Lieutenant.

Chief Leighty responded not yet because of the other priorities to be addressed.

Manager Fulcher reported as a Personnel item that Wastewater Department Supervisor Tina Myers was the recent recipient of the Pennsylvania Water Environmental Association's Award for the Outstanding Performance in the Operation of a Wastewater facility at the 2023 conference. She has been a positive asset to that organization which also reflects well with the Borough.

Patrick Morgan made the motion that the bids received by the Borough to complete the replacement of the Mixed Liquor pumps be rejected, as recommended by the engineer and Manager. He noted that bids were properly opened on June 30th; two were received: one for \$342,240, the other was \$374,945. These are considered too extremely high. The project will be reanalyzed as to alternative phases. This was then seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Streets Chairman Kurtz reported Andrew Casey of Eagle Disposal is here this evening to provide information updates on various service elements.

Mr. Casey reported that even though Eagle is now working through A. J. Blosenski, the name is staying as Eagle Disposal. The operations and yard have been moved to their Honey Brook site. These companies are all owned by Waste Connections, the third largest company in the country, but the local service names remain the same. They have been able to slowly staff back up. They have also used and are able to use in emergency, a nationwide organization that will supply experienced drivers for an emergency period. They also believe the reporting of missed locations will be quicker as they are now using two dispatchers on a regular basis instead of just one. The discussion with the Borough Manager and their review continues concerning the possible program adjustments of recycling going to every other week and oversize items to once a month.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Police Department last month as \$1,115.21 in fines from the District Justice's office and \$50 from fingerprinting. He also wants to remind everybody of the upcoming Police Night Out. This is taking place at 6 p.m. on August 1, which is also the night of Council meeting which is to be 5:30 p.m.

Manager Fulcher reported that things have gone well so far at the pool. They are still working through the updates to the newer chlorination element. Interestingly, there have only been four hot, steaming, sunny days since the early dry spell, but that is supposed to change soon.

Lino Vescovich reported the highlights of ELANCO Library activities for the month of July and into early August. These items are available on the Library's website and Newsletter. They are still in need of a few additional regional Board members.

Member Klinger noted that as of this time, he will be unable to attend the August meeting as he has been summoned for Jury duty in Philadelphia.

President Herrington again reminded everyone that next month's meeting is to be at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards members can attend Police Night Out should they desire. The meeting then adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

August 1, 2023
Date Approved