

MINUTES  
New Holland Borough Council  
November 7, 2023

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: President Donld J. Herrington, John A. Styer, Bryant J. Glick, Michael H. Kurtz, Michael N. Martin and Harry M. Klinger. Vice-President Patrick K. Morgan was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Police Chief William Leighty and reporter Carole Deck. Others in attendance included water consultant Jeff Bologna of Becker Engineering, and residents Rebekah Brown, Henry Smeltz, Sharon Smeltz, Bill Kassinger, Andy Herrington and Lino Vescovich.

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

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of October 3, 2023, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by John Styer and passed.

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's budget Workshop of October 30, 2023, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by John Styer and passed.

Harry Klinger made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz and passed. Member Styer abstained to avoid any appearance of conflict with any business he may own.

Police Chief Leighty next reviewed his monthly summary Report. There was a total of 139 total incidents. Of these incidents, there were 14 arrests, 10 of which were felonies or misdemeanors, 3 non-traffic summaries and 1 DUI. There were 11 total accidents of which 6 were non-reportable. There were 16 citations and 8 warnings. There was a total of nine juvenile contacts; two of which were referred to juvenile court; seven to District court. Additional pages in the Report include various activities and training of the officers. There is also a copy of the Police Justice Networks Department Operation Audit; which shows a clean Audit.

Member Klinger stated he commends officer Wolfe for his continued teaching and receiving compliments for a high-quality presentation from the students in a recent Crisis Intervention Team instruction.

Member Glick inquired if probationary officer Halstead has met all requirements and has started her probationary period.

Chief Leighty responded she has and her start date was November 1.

John Styer on behalf of the Finance Committee presented the proposed Preliminary budget for 2024, noting this was reviewed by Council at its October budget Workshop. For the general fund, after four years of the same rate of 3.25 mills, the new budget requires an increase of one-half of a mill; to 3.75 mills. He noted that for those comparable Boroughs who pay for police, the Borough remains among the lowest rate.

Member Klinger noted that the Borough remains in the lower cost end throughout the county. He believes it speaks well of the Manager, Chief and staff for operating efficiently. It is important to keep these things in perspective.

Member Glick stated that much of the increasing costs relate to police and the contributions to the Fire Company have been increased. These are important elements related to the protection of a community.

John Styer then made the motion that the Preliminary Budget be approved and so advertised.

This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Personnel Chairman Styer reported that the November meeting is the usual time to recognize the volunteers and donated services provided to the Borough. It is his pleasure this year to again recognize local persons Pat Blair and Jim Boose for their continued volunteer time at Community Memorial Park. Local businesses Clean Energy for its continued donated services to maintain the plantings area of the Timbers Playground, and Showcase Lawn Works for both the maintenance of the Ed Sprecher Memorial area at Community Memorial Park as well as the plantings at Towne Centre Green. He noted these persons and businesses are sent a formal letter of thanks from Council.

Water Chairman Mike Martin made the motion that Council approve Resolution #552, which authorizes the Borough to request a \$1million grant from the state, as well as designated signee for the grant towards the repainting of the Diller Avenue water tank. This was seconded by Harry Klinger. Chairman Martin explained that

the grant is to assist in the project which is estimated to cost over 1.2 million dollars. The motion then passed.

On behalf of the Streets Committees, Bryant Glick made the motion that Council grant the request of the New Holland Business Association to cover the parking meters from Thanksgiving week through January 2, 2024. This was seconded by Mike Martin and passed.

Bryant Glick next presented a proposed Amendment #I-23, to the community trash program services contract between the Borough and Eagle Disposal. The Amendment provides for an overall more efficient system to both save the Borough some overall program cost as well as reduce some industry wide operational concerns for the company. The changes are to take effect January 2024 and remain in effect for the remaining years of the current contract. Recycling pickup will go to every other week and the pickup for oversized items will be once per month.

Member Klinger noted that the cost savings for the minor changes should save the Borough about \$6,000 per year.

Bryant Glick then made the motion that Amendment I-23 to the service contract between the Borough and Eagle be approved. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Mayor Bender reported the fines received through the Police Department the past month as: \$688.98 from the District Justice's office; \$90 from accident reports; and \$75 from fingerprinting. He commended the Chief and his staff for the recent clean audit. He adds his appreciation to the recognition of those volunteers and business contributions to various Borough properties. They not only help these properties look good but help save the Borough money. He agrees with the recognition of the Manager and staff for the continued conscientiousness with fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency. Four years without a tax increase and a continual low tax rate indicate a good operation.

President Herrington noted that the Borough continues without any debt obligation, even for utilities.

Manager Fulcher reported that for those who may recall former resident John W. Tennis, owner of the former Brubaker's Sewing business, now Town & Country Electric on North Roberts, recently passed away in Garden Spot Village in Earl

Township. He served on Borough Council 14 years, then also served on the Borough's Civil Service Commission. He was also a leader in the New Holland Business Association.

Lee Vescovich then briefly provided some Library updates. The Library did receive the state's PA Forward Certificate of Achievement Gold Star for its Literacy Program. This is after the required review process of various elements and the earning of five Silver Stars in five different categories. Many of the numerous events taking place throughout November are listed on-line and on the Library's monthly Happenings Report. They are still looking for Board members.

There being no further discussion or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

December 5, 2023  
Date Approved