

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
February 6, 2024

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 6, at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: Vice-President Michael H. Kurtz, Bryant J. Glick, William Clisham, Harry M. Klinger, D. Michael Ireland and via phone President Patrick K. Morgan. Member John M. Taylor was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender, Police Chief William Leighty and reporter Carole Deck. Others in attendance included Darrell Keiser, Chief, Garden Spot Fire Rescue, and residents Jonathan Brown, Rebekah Brown, Bill Kassinger, Ken Wright and Lino Vescovich, also representing the Eastern Lancaster County Library.

Vice-President Kurtz opened the meeting, asking for action on the Minutes of Council's January meetings.

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's Organizational meeting of January 2, 2024, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's regular meeting of January 2, 2024 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Bill Clisham and passed.

Bill Clisham made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Chief Keiser then reviewed the year end annual report of Garden Spot Fire Rescue. He stated that the organization responded to 592 calls during 2023. There was approximately \$10,000,000 in property saved and \$2,000,000 in property lost. Saturday was the busiest day in 2023, which was unusual. They faced their first lithium battery fire in East Earl Township during 2023. This was a good example of changing situations which require additional training and preparation. He noted the main points in his Report cover letter. Their core values are Preparation, Service and Professionalism. As everyone is probably aware, the numbers show sustainability of the volunteer fire service continues to decline across the state. Garden Spot Fire Rescue hopes to maintain a volunteer service as long as possible. In response to a number of questions, the Chief reported they have about \$3 million set aside for the planned new station in East Earl. The total cost could end up near \$5 million. No major work on it is anticipated in 2024.

His estimates of the number of Mennonite and Amish members is 10 to 15 percent. Current total active members runs 60 to 70 persons. They have not been hit badly yet with a real shortage of volunteers. They need continued municipal funding support to sustain these operations. The emphasis is that the facilities and services belong to the community.

Vice-President Kurtz and the members expressed their appreciation to the Chief and volunteers for their continued dedication and service.

Police Chief Leighty then reviewed his monthly summary Report. There was a total of 156 incidents. There were three arrests, of which one was a felony or misdemeanor with two non-traffic summary offences. There was a total of 15 accidents, of which 6 were reportable. There were 30 citations and 21 warnings. Two juvenile contacts were referred to the Youth Aid Panel. The last page lists the various community events in which officers participated in during the period.

Police Committee Chairman Morgan then made the motion that Council approve the request of Officer Wolfe to attend two dissertation courses and be reimbursed the cost of tuition, which totals approximately \$4,000, by the Borough under Chapter 11.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. There is to be no reimbursement for other expenses and it is not to be on Borough time. The courses of study are for a Doctorate in Community Care, Counseling and Traumatology from Liberty University. This course of study will be an enhancement to the Department's operations. This was seconded by Bryant Glick.

Member Clisham inquired if there are currently any requirements as to passing the course prior to reimbursement.

Chairman Morgan explained that the contract is not currently worded in that way. This can be looked into at contract discussion time.

The motion then passed.

Personnel Chairman Klinger made the motion that the proposed Family and Medical Leave Act Policy Statement be adopted as prepared by counsel. This was seconded by Bill Clisham and passed.

Chairman Glick made the motion that the request of the Garden Spot High School Cross Country Boosters for the use and closure of East Jackson Street between South Kinzer, east to Ranck Road, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 8:15 a.m. to

11 a.m. for its annual Farmers' 5k Run, be granted. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Chairman Glick then made the motion that the request of the New Holland Sales Stables for the use and closure of Fulton Street between South Railroad Avenue and South Custer Avenue on Friday, July 5, 2024, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. for its annual Special Horse Sale Day activities, be approved. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Chairman Glick next made the motion that the request of the New Holland Band for the use and closure of East Jackson Street between South Kinzer and Park Avenues on Sunday, July 14, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for its annual Antique Car Show, be approved. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Department the past month as: \$299.69 from the District Justice's office; \$30 from accident reports; and \$175 from fingerprinting. He noted he also wants to take this opportunity to thank Fire Chief Keiser and the other volunteers for their service to the community.

Manager Fulcher reported for information purposes that former Council member Richard Witmer recently passed away. He served 10 years on Council, from late 1998 through March 2009.

Lee Vescovich reported for the Eastern Lancaster County Library. The work on remodeling the Children's Library area on the lower level is underway and anticipated to be completed in May sometime. Children's items are still available for checkout, with many on display in the main area. There was a 29 percent increase in educational programs' attendance in 2023. There was a new record in book checkouts during 2023, totaling 146,963. The many activities scheduled at the Library are included in the Library's Newsletter. The fundraising continues for the Children's Library project. The postcard provided to Council members concerning the fundraising is to also be mailed out to the community.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

March 5, 2024
Date Approved