

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
November 5, 2024

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. All members were present: President Patrick K. Morgan, Vice-President Michael H. Kurtz, Bryant J. Glick, William Clisham, Harry M. Klinger, D. Michael Ireland and John S. Taylor. Also present were: Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender, Police Chief Bill Leighty and reporter Megan Gockley. Others in attendance included residents Lino Vescovich and Bill Kassinger and members of the Fire Company Vinny Tennis and Brendon Harnish.

President Morgan 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 October 1, 2024, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Harry Klinger 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.

Police Chief Leighty then reviewed his monthly summary Report. There was a total of 397 incidents last month, of which six were felonies or misdemeanors; with three DUIs. Of the 27 accidents, 16 were reportable. There were 30 warnings and 19 citations. There were five juvenile contacts, all of which were referred to District Court. Twenty-five alarms were responded to. The usual monthly summary of officers and Chief are included in the Report as well as copies of a number of other general items.

Mayor Bender asked if the larger than average number of incidents the past month was due to any particular unusual situation or circumstance.

Chief Leighty responded that he has not had a chance to review all the incident reports yet but is not aware of any cause in particular for the number. There were a number of fraud related incidents which are probably part of this number.

Member Glick inquired if the upcoming Shred-It even still takes two boxes of paper for shredding.

Chief Leighty noted it is not limited to two boxes.

Member Klinger stated he felt the Report indicated an active month by the officers which is good to see. It was also good to see a letter from Senior District Magistrate Rod Hartman noting the excellent work of officer Halstead at a recent hearing in Domestic court.

Finance Chairman Clisham next reviewed the proposed preliminary 2025 Borough budget, as discussed during Council's continued meeting in October. The first question usually relates to the proposed millage rate, which is to remain the same as 2024, 3.75 mills. The expenditures for the police department are projected at \$3,211,900, three percent less than last year's projection. The administrative support donation recommended by the Inter-Municipal Funding Committee to Garden Spot Fire Rescue is to provide the 10 percent increase requested by the Fire Company for a total of \$129,339; of which the Borough's share is \$42,682. The Borough in addition provides \$52,054 as its proportional share towards the Fire Company's lease-purchase five or so years ago for three new engines. The lease-purchase is for a 15-year period of which 2025 is the fifth year. Under the Wastewater budget a replacement maintenance truck with crane is planned at a projected cost of \$98,179; and under the Highway Aid budget a replacement pickup truck is planned at a projected cost of \$48,730. In order to meet costs, the community trash and recycling program is to be increased by \$60 for the year; taking it from \$280 to \$340 for the year. The \$10 prepay discount if paid for the year in January will still be applicable. He believes the Borough's new program rate still remains reasonable for this service. Council has increased the donation to the ELANCO Library for 2025 to \$20,000.

Chairman Clisham then made the motion that the proposed Preliminary Budget for 2025 be approved and so advertised. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz and passed.

Chairman Clisham next made the motion that Council approve the use of Council chambers by the Board of the Community Memorial Park Association for 2025. He noted they generally only meet a few times per year. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed.

Property Chairman Klinger reported that November is the usual month for Council to publicly recognize those area residents and businesses which provide volunteer and donated services to the Borough through the year. He wants to first recognize the Board members of the Park Association. They continue to volunteer their time to reuse donations to assist with various capital needs at Community Memorial Park which over the past few years has included the new walking path and a

mower. It has also served on special situations as the sponsor of open space areas for the Borough. This included Towne Centre Green in the past and currently is the sponsor of the Borough's upcoming Butterfly Garden. Along with the Park Association Board, there are two local businesses which continue to provide donated services to special areas. Showcase Lawn Works continues to maintain Towne Centre Green as a very attractive open space and is a major participant involved with the Park Board's detail elements of the Butterfly Garden. Another local business which also still donates maintenance services to a special location of the Borough is Clean Energy Maintenance, which maintains the plantings area at the Timbers Playground. These folks are sent formal thank you letters from the Borough.

There were no Water, Wastewater or Personnel action items presented.

Streets Chairman Glick made the motion to approve the request of the New Holland Business Association to allow it to cover the downtown parking meters for the holiday season, from Thanksgiving week to January 6, 2025. This was seconded by Harry Klinger and passed.

Chairman Glick next made the motion that Council approve the ordering of a 2024 Ford F250 pickup truck as a replacement for one in the Streets, Parks, Maintenance Department, from New Holland Auto Group under the state's Co-Stars bid program, at a projected cost of \$48,730; with payment to be approved at the January 7, 2025 Council meeting. This was seconded by Bill Clisham and passed.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the police department the past month as: \$656.89 from District Court; \$75 from accident reports; \$30 from parking fines; \$125 from fingerprinting; \$1,700 from alarm fines. He also thought the note from Senior District Magistrate Hartman was a positive for officer Halstead and the Department.

President Morgan then made the motion that Donald W. Reed be again appointed to the Planning Commission, for a four-year term, beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028; and further that Michael H. Kurtz and Lino J. Vescovich be again appointed to the Borough Authority, for five-year terms beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029. This was seconded by Mike Ireland and passed. President Morgan noted Council's appreciation for those persons to be willing to continue to volunteer to serve in those positions. Lee Vescovich, ELANCO Library Board representative to the Borough, reported that on November 1, local Congressman Lloyd Smucker visited the Library and

toured the remodeled Children's area. Additional STEM kits are now available in the Library, including Human Anatomy, Rocks and Minerals, Dinosaurs and SNAP Circuits. There is also a special program being offered for those teens nearing graduation and planning for their future goals. They continue to have many other programs as noted in their monthly Newsletter.

President Morgan thanked Mr. Vescovich for his report. He then noted there were several firemen in the room and inquired if they had anything they wish to say.

Vinny Tennis stated they were here to answer any questions related to any fire activity information provided to Council prior to the meeting. A few of the highlights included: there were 71 calls responded to during October; 6 fire prevention events were held during the month; and there was a response to a fire alarm at Yoders on the 19th. The alarm was from a heat-detector in the bakery. It turned out to be a fire in the dryer but was very smokey. These heat detectors were a project a number of years ago led by former resident and fireman Jack Armbrust.

President Morgan thanked Mr. Tennis for his comments and noted that on behalf of Council, he expresses thanks for all the Fire Company does.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

December 3, 2024
Date Approved