Easton, Pennsylvania  March 5, 2015

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Margaret L. Ferraro, President; Glenn A. Geissinger, Vice-President (via telephone); Mathew M. Benol; Kenneth M. Kraft; Lamont G. McClure, Jr.; Scott Parsons; Hayden Phillips; Seth Vaughn; Robert F. Werner; Linda M. Zembo, Acting Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

Mrs. Ferraro led County Council in a moment of silence to open the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Werner led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. McClure made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Stephen Barron, 2239 Lincoln Street, Bethlehem, PA - stated his office had completed 80% of the work they had to do for CliftonLarsonAllen, which would allow them time to get other work accomplished.

Mr. Barron advised he had requested County Council allow time on the agenda for a Controller’s Report and he hoped they were considering it.
Public Hearing on the Ordinance Providing for Seven Working Day Notification of Appointments by the County Executive to County Council

Mrs. Ferraro stated the following ordinance was introduced by Messrs. Werner and Phillips at the meeting held on February 19, 2015:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SEVEN WORKING DAY NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Home Rule Charter empowers Northampton County Council to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of heads of agencies immediately under his direction and supervision and members of authorities, boards and commissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED in order to facilitate an adequate deliberation, the County Executive is directed to provide County Council all information, including letters of recommendation, resumes and job history concerning the proposed candidate for heads of agencies immediately under his direction and supervision, as well as for members of authorities, boards and commissions, at least seven (7) working days prior to the Personnel Committee meeting held prior to the presentation of the candidate to County Council.

Public Hearing

Mrs. Ferraro asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Barron advised since he became Controller, he saw a lot of things brought to County Council at the last minute, including the extensive report regarding the selling of Gracedale. He further advised even though it was within the County Executive's purview to choose the individuals he wanted, he felt this ordinance was a step in the right direction to allow County Council time to scrutinize the appointments.
Mrs. Ferraro asked if there were any questions or comments from the members of County Council.

Mr. McClure stated there was very little disagreement amongst the members of County Council about this particular measure and he thanked the sponsors for their leadership. He further stated in the age of Google, seven days should be enough time for County Council to find information regarding an individual.

Mr. Phillips advised this ordinance not only covered the cabinet members, but also those appointed to authorities, boards and commissions.

Mr. Kraft stated this should not pertain to re-appointments because County Council already had their information.

In answer to Mr. McClure’s question as to whether it was his intention to include re-appointments, Mr. Phillips replied it was.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Benol, "yes".

The ordinance was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Executive Session

Mrs. Ferraro advised County Council would be entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Lauer stated County Council entered into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. and returned at 6:58 p.m., at which time they discussed a personnel matter.

Mr. McClure advised he would like to nominate Mrs. Linda Zembo for the position of Clerk to County Council as she had been acting in that position since the retirement of Mr. Frank Flisser and had done very well in that capacity. He further advised she had been a long time and loyal staff member to many County Councils and it was his pleasure to nominate her.
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Messrs. Kraft and Werner both seconded the nomination.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes" and Kraft, "yes".

The nomination passed by a vote of 9-0.

Open Space Committee Report

Mr. Parsons stated the Open Space Committee would be meeting on either March 16th or 17th to review the results of a study that was conducted to show how open space economically impacted the County.

Council of Governments Report

Mr. Werner advised the Council of Governments met on Monday and discussions were held regarding assist living, mobile health clinics, public safety and prisons. He further advised it was very well attended by many municipal representatives who were looking for regional programs and money was becoming available that the County and smaller municipalities could tap into.

Courts and Corrections Committee Report

Mr. Benol stated the Courts and Corrections Committee would be meeting on March 18, 2015, following the Personnel and Finance Committees meeting.

Northampton County Gaming Revenue and Economic Redevelopment Authority Liaison Report

Mr. Kraft advised the Northampton County Gaming Revenue and Economic Redevelopment Authority met and they were now taking applications for the next round of grant money to be distributed.
Conservation District Liaison Report

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Conservation District Environthon would be held in April, noting more information would be forthcoming.

Adjournment

Mrs. Ferraro made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council