

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: February 9, 2016, 7:02 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	James Cherry	Present
	John Davis	Present
	Michael McDonald	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Absent
	Daniel O'Connell	Present
	James Sando	Absent
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Mayor Greg D'Angelo	Present

Also in attendance was Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor and Chief Alex Levy.

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing In Council Member John Davis (Ward One)

Member Davis was sworn in by Mayor D'Angelo.

Public Comment

None

Recognition for Officer Jim Almo Retirement

Chief Levy presented a plaque to Officer Almo to recognize his commitment and service to the Borough over the last 34 years.

Recognition for Crossing Guard Eileen McCaul Retirement

Chief Levy presented a plaque to Eileen McCaul to recognize her for her service to the community as a crossing guard over the last 14 years.

Recognition for Volunteer Firemen & Public Works Employee (Snow Removal)

Borough Manager Hart recognized several North Penn Volunteer Fire Company members who spent many hours on snow removal during the recent snow storm. The men recognized were: Don Holt, Steve Forbes, Bill Kaelin, Mike Taylor, and Mike Traynor. Manager Hart also recognized Public Works employee Joe Rouse for his dedication during the storm (however he was not present at the meeting because he was out salting recently snow covered roads).

Presentation: Montgomery County Planning Commission

John S. Cover, Section Chief: Community Planning, from the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC), gave a brief presentation on what the MCPC has to offer to the Borough. Mr. Cover said the Planning Commission serves to help communities reach their goals. Mr. Cover said they get involved in planning, zoning, traffic control, grant writing, design support, project review, comprehensive planning and they have flexible assistance. Mr. Cover said the process normally takes place during the three year contract between the MCPC and the municipality. There are thirty professional planners on staff who are accessible, knowledgeable, experienced, flexible, and affordable. The program is subsidized for fifty percent of the cost of the work. The municipality is responsible for the other fifty percent.

Member Tarlecki asked if the MCPC has ever done a project where more than one municipality participates in a project. Mr. Cover said they do work with more than one municipality and they have also done projects that cross county lines. Member Tarlecki also asked about involvement of the MCPC in improving transportation. Mr. Cover said that SEPTA and PENDOT are an integral part of the MCPC process.

Member Amato asked what the commitment looks like in terms of the agreement and what the fees are. Mr. Cover said that it is a three (3) year contract and the contract will be written to address the goals and objectives of the community. The fee schedule is outlined in the contract and is exactly what is written for the three year period. The fee will be determined after meetings to determine what the Borough needs.

Member O'Connell asked if the price can change if needed because of budget constraints. Mr. Cover said that it is possible to do that and the contract can be terminated with 60 day notice by either party. Member O'Connell also asked if the Borough's comprehensive plan would have to meet the same goals and objectives of the MCPC. The answer was that the Borough and the MCPC don't have to have the same goals and objectives but it is a good idea.

President McDonald asked if the MCPC works with people like TRIAD and he was told that they do not partner with private entities like TRIAD.

Member Davis asked about the low and high ends of the fees. Mr. Cover said that Jenkintown has to pay \$10,000 each year for \$60,000 total of work done over the three year period. President McDonald said that the wish list of Jenkintown seems similar to what North Wales Borough may be interested in.

Manager Hart said she was attracted to MCPC because of the three year commitment and how that helps to keep the programs moving in times of change of leadership in government. Manager Hart said that she also thought the technology and resources of the MCPC would be very beneficial to the Borough. For example, their use of survey monkey to gather input from the community.

Member Amato asked if MCPC analyzes requirements of staffing in the Borough to satisfy the needs of the community. Mr. Cover said that they have not done staffing analysis in the past. Mr. Cover said that there may be a comment on budgeting numbers using national standards but they will not be specific on staffing.

Member Scott asked about the grant writing process. Mr. Cover that one should always look at a return on the dollar and they are successful in getting grants because of their knowledge and experience in writing past grants.

Perry Francis, 125 W. Walnut Street, asked about parking and if the MCPC would be able to mediate parking issues between property owners. Mr. Cover said that they can help bring people together but they can't perform magic. Manager Hart mentioned that the MCPC could help write codes to facilitate parking agreements.

Discussion: Flood Plain Management – Ordinance Revisions

Amy Montgomery said that the MCPC wrote the proposed ordinance that meets all the requirements of FEMA. This is important so residents can get flood insurance. Ms. Montgomery said that the ordinance needs to be approved by March 2, 2016. The purpose of the changes is to reduce the repeat claims of water damage. It does this by monitoring building permits in flood plain areas and requires those applicants to follow guidelines that will reduce the effects of flooding on their property.

Ms. Montgomery went over questions and statements by Member Amato from the last meeting.

Ms. Montgomery said that some municipalities send letters to residents about flood plains. Some agencies put the information on the web site. The zoning officer must consider flood plain issues for those applying for building permits. There are requirements in the ordinance dealing with floodplains in certain districts. There are also requirements depending on soil types. The soils are identified in the County Soils Mapping.

Ms. Montgomery said that if people get flood insurance, the elevation level determines the cost of the insurance.

Ms. Montgomery said that the Borough flood plain administrator should attend training on flood plains and this ordinance. This person is chosen by the Borough and can be the Building Permit Zoning Officer or the Manager.

Ms. Montgomery said that Section 122-15 allows for existing non-conforming structures in the floodplain and no changes are required unless improvements are made (grandfather clause). This

should be revised to reference 112-16, Improvements to Existing Structures in the Floodplain Conservation District.

Vice President Cherry said that the flood plain area is a small part of the Borough in the third ward and he said that there may be flooding areas that the previous government may have exacerbated. Vice President Cherry asked if the storm drain can be put under ground. Ms. Montgomery said that a stream enclosure is very difficult.

Ms. Montgomery said it is imperative that the planning commission, zoning officers, and all Borough staff are aware of the requirements of the new ordinance.

Mr. Gifford emphasized that there would be no more discussion or advertisements about this ordinance and that it would be voted on at the meeting on February 23, 2006.

Consideration: Appointment Zoning Hearing Board (5yr Term expiring 12/31/20)

Manager Hart reported that Mr. Perry Francis sent a letter of interest for appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to appoint Perry Francis to a five year term on the Zoning Hearing Board. Member O'Connell seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Approve Minutes: 10/13/2015

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2015 meeting. Member Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Member Amato thanked the firemen for helping with snow removal.

President McDonald welcomed new Member John Davis and new Zoning Hearing Board member Perry Francis. President McDonald also thanked the members of the Fire Company for their help and service.

Manager Hart said that the NWWA is finishing the sewers and water service and is working towards paving on W. Walnut St.

Manager Hart reported that Jane Keyes, owner of Tex Mex Connection, has been in touch with the office regarding Earth Day celebrations. We will be working with her and several other businesses and commissions within the Borough to promote Eco-friendly events.

Manager Hart reported that the North Wales Area Library Gala is now March 19, 2016. The Board has asked that Council promote one of their Silent Auction Items that is being promoted prior to the Gala due to the postponement of the original event (see Flyer's Ticket Flyer).

Adjournment - Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager