

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: January 26, 2016, 7:01 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

ROLL CALL:	Jim Cherry	Present
	Michael McDonald	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Daniel O'Connell	Present (arrived 7:08 PM)
	Salvatore Amato	Present
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Jim Sando	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.

Public Comment

Jane Keyes, Tex Mex Connection, wanted to let everyone know that she thought the snow removal efforts of the Borough were very good. Ms. Keyes made a comment that a Lamb Foundation representative came over and asked that nobody park on their property, which she thought was unfriendly because none of the Lamb Foundation tenants drive. She also talked about Earth Day on April 22, 2016, and her plans to have a party at Tex Mex with all proceeds going to rain barrels and other items related to Earth Day. She asked about having a shredding event and also a program for people to turn in hazardous materials. She also said that Point Service is going to cooperate on Earth day by giving residents an opportunity to turn in used oil, batteries, and other recyclables related to automobiles.

Member Tarlecki asked about the Ordinance requiring snow removal from sidewalks. Manager Hart said that the owner has 24 hours after the snow has ended and we will start to enforce this later this week when everyone has had ample time to clear the walks due to the severity of the storm.

Mike Fellmeth, President of the Borough Business Alliance, asked about the latest on hiring a development firm. Manager Hart said that she has contacted Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) about helping with our plan and at this point, there is no definitive time line in place.

Wendy McClure, 309 W. Montgomery Avenue, mentioned that she supports Jane Keyes and all of her Earth Day aspirations.

Jason Farabaugh, 136 W. Walnut Street, stated that he supports North Wales joining the partnership for storm water management with the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.

Discussion: Applicants Regarding Vacant Council Seat (Ward One)

Four people submitted interest in the vacant Council seat in Ward One but one applicant withdrew his application. The three applicants listed below answered the following questions:

1. What are your views regarding the Borough's budget, mainly those relating to taxes and spending?
2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing North Wales Borough?
3. What are your thoughts regarding development within the Borough, especially when it encompasses more than one type of district (i.e. Business and historical)?

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, currently member of the Zoning Hearing Board, suggested that we keep looking for alternative methods of generating revenue. If one has to choose between raising taxes and using Upper Gwynedd for Police services, he would vote to raise taxes. The Borough has to move forward and that may mean changing some of the rules governing older historic buildings and/or changing the codes to encourage development.

John Davis, 230 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Unit A, has lived in the Borough for two years. Mr. Davis currently works for Comcast Spotlight, selling space on the web site. Mr. Davis said he is currently involved with Manna on Main St. and Community Development. Mr. Davis said the Borough must look at smart spending to make our money work harder. Things like converting our street lights to LED. He said that Borough should look for grants for Main St. and similar programs. This is important for businesses. We should have additional ways to engage the community; block parties, car shows and things of that nature and also to make sure the residents know what is going on in the community. Mr. Davis stated that parking is also an issue.

Wendy McClure, 309 W. Montgomery Ave., said the most important thing is that she is available to the people in Ward 1 and that her high integrity and past experience makes her a strong candidate. She wants to encourage people and businesses to stay here. Take the train here like she does to other areas for dinner, etc. The historical section is important but we need to make it easy and friendly for the owners. She thinks McKeevers is a travesty but she thinks maybe people can purchase artifacts that will keep history here. Biggest issues are to encourage businesses to come here, stay here, and the same goes for the residents.

Member Sando commented that Mr. Berenson has shown his willingness to be here and he stated that he is the only person who regularly comes to meetings. Member Sando thanked the three candidates and said they all have something to bring to the table.

Member Scott said she is looking forward to new and enthusiastic change.

Member Scott made a motion to appoint John Davis to Borough Council. Second by Member Cherry. Roll Call Vote was taken: Members O’Connell, Tarlecki, Neiderhiser and Sando voted no; Members Scott, McDonald, Cherry and Amato voted yes. Tie Vote: 4 Yes, 4 No; Mayor D’Angelo voted yes to break the tie vote. Motion passed 5 yes, 4 no.

Mr. Davis will be sworn in at the next meeting on February 9, 2016.

Consideration: Termination Agreement North Wales Lions Club (Nor-Gwyn Pool)

Manager Hart explained the termination agreement for the North Wales Lions Club disengaging the Club from the Nor-Gwyn Pool Commission. President McDonald reviewed this document with the members of the former North Wales Lions Club and the document is in the process of being signed by all interested parties. It is encouraged that we finalize this document to coincide with our newly approved Inter-Municipal Agreement with Upper Gwynedd Township, which is soon to be adopted by Ordinance.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the Termination Agreement involving the North Wales Lions Club regarding the Nor-Gwyn Pool Commission. Member Tarlecki seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Advertisement Ordinance #803 Inter-Municipal Pool Agreement

The Nor-Gwyn Pool Inter-Municipal Agreement, which was approved by vote on December 15, 2015, must be adopted by Ordinance. Manager Hart asked Council to approve advertisement of the Ordinance.

Member Sando made a motion to approve advertising the Ordinance for the Nor-Gwyn Pool Inter-Municipal Agreement. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Advertisement Ordinance #804 Flood Damage Prevention (FEMA)

Manager Hart described how this Ordinance will affect the Borough and she mentioned that the deadline is fast approaching. Manager Hart asked for approval to advertise the ordinance that was reviewed by Amy Montgomery of Boucher and James, the Borough engineer as well as the Borough Solicitor’s Office.

Member Amato had concerns about flood plain districts and he asked about ‘grand-fathering’ people in the flood plain districts. He also asked if the Zoning Officer would be responsible for enforcing the ordinance. He also asked about specified soil types and he is concerned that it may have a negative impact on the Borough. Solicitor Gifford said that the Borough engineer will address these concerns at the next meeting. Member Cherry said that all the water from the Prospect Avenue area comes downhill and floods properties. He asked how this ordinance will affect these home owners. Member Sando said that this ordinance should be part of the process for grants and future development in the Borough. This puts the problem in the front.

Member O'Connell asked about the cost to the Borough to abide by the requirements of the Ordinance. He also asked about fines and how that will impact enforcing the ordinance.

Manager Hart will have the Borough engineer attend the next meeting to answer the questions and concerns of Council members and the public.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to advertise the short version of the Ordinance so that Council can vote on the Ordinance at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Second by Member Scott. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Wissahickon Valley Watershed Alternative TMDL Inter-Municipal Agreement Resolution

Manager Hart explained that the Borough Engineer, Amy Montgomery, has reviewed the resolution and she recommends that the Borough approve the resolution. Manager Hart said that the anticipated requirements needed to meet DEP regulations will be too costly and nearly impossible for our Borough to face alone. Manager Hart said that details regarding future costs and/or analysis will not be available until an actual Inter-Municipal Agreement is created. This resolution is the first step.

Member O'Connell asked about the ability to withdraw if needed because of costs involved. Solicitor Gifford said the Borough does have the right to withdraw.

Mr. Berenson asked if the engineer will be involved in reviewing the agreement. Manager Hart replied yes.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the resolution as described by Manager Hart. Second by Member Neiderhiser. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Denial of Certificate of Appropriateness H.A.R.B. (215 Church Street)

Manager Hart described that the applicant came before HARB for two separate hearings; one in December 2015 and one in January 2016. HARB has issued a detailed report and is asking Council to uphold their recommendation regarding denial of demolition. The applicant is currently not the owner of the property, however, he stated he has equitable interest. Since the decision by HARB to deny the demolition permit, the applicant has indicated he will be reapplying and will submit an alternative plan. Council must take action on the decision by HARB from last month.

Member O'Connell asked if the applicant knew he had to prove everything that is listed. Manager Hart said that HARB instructed him what needs to be done and he understands. Solicitor Gifford said the applicant must have an agreement of sale prior to the next HARB meeting.

Andrew Berenson asked if the applicant was advised that it would be discussed at this meeting. Manager Hart said he knew. Mr. Berenson said he thinks the Council should be careful in

general terms that we don't let history stand in the way of progress.

Herbert Schlegel, 301 W. Montgomery Avenue, said that he thought the Council should be careful in agreeing with HARB because of civil litigation.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness. Second by Member Scott. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no with Member O'Connell abstaining.

Consideration: Certificate of Appropriateness H.A.R.B. (122 S. Main Street)

Manager Hart reported that there is an application on file for signage at 122 S. Main St. Manager Hart gave all Council members pictures of the proposed signage.

Member Tarlecki asked about which version would be put up. Manager Hart said that there may be some minor changes to the sign depending on the company changing their logo so all possibilities are shown in the photos.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Approve Minutes: 03/10/2015; 06/23/2015; 09/08/2015

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to approve the minutes from 3/10/15. Second by Member Scott. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes from 6/23/15. Second by Member Neiderhiser. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to approve the minutes from 9/8/15. Second by Member Amato. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Disbursements: \$110,375.38

Manager Hart reported that this is different than the original amount on the agenda because of an additional \$31,713.11 disbursements.

Member Amato made a motion to approve the distribution of \$110,375.38. Second by Member Cherry. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Manager

Solicitor Gifford reported that there will be one matter for executive session. No action will be taken.

Member Amato asked about the Borough possibly talking to the people doing the trail in Upper Gwynedd behind Tenth Street and getting involved in some way and possibly connect the trails in some way.

Mayor D'Angelo thanked Manager Hart for her efforts in snow removal.

Member Scott also thanked everyone for snow removal and she said that the communication was very good from Manager Hart.

Member Neiderhiser also thanked Manager Hart for her efforts.

Member Tarlecki asked about the procedure for following up on snow removal from sidewalks. Manager Hart said that the Borough will prioritize clearing off sidewalks according to use and we will contact the homeowners to see if we can get them to comply.

Perry Francis, 125 W. Walnut Street asked about the walks being shoveled on abandoned properties in his neighborhood; 135, 126, 118, 128 are vacant properties.

President McDonald thanked Manager Hart for the job she did with snow removal.

Member Tarlecki asked about the Access Channel on Comcast and if it is used by North Wales. Manager Hart is not sure who has access to that channel or who put the information that is currently displayed on that channel.

Manager Hart thanked the members of the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company for their assistance during the storm. Manager Hart said the five men from NPVFCO and our one public works employee worked tirelessly over the entire weekend and spent time away from their families to assist the Borough. The men from North Penn Fire Co. who assisted were Bill Kaelin, Don Holt, Mike Taylor, Matthew Traynor, and Steve Forbes.

St. Rose offered to donate playground equipment that must be moved because of a construction project. The Parks and Recreation Committee is considering putting the equipment in Fourth St. or Hess Park. St. Rose needs an answer by the end of January because they are removing the building next to the playground equipment. Council agreed to take the equipment.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Tarlecki seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager