

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PA

MEETING: JULY 12, 2016 7:00 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

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

Also in attendance was Gregory Gifford, Borough solicitor and Officer Hammerstone.

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Consideration: 12/08/2015 and 12/15/2015 Minutes

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2015. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2015. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Authorize Advertisement for IGA/TMDL Alternative Plan

Member Scott voiced her concerns about the language on page 4 of the plan. She said it says monetary contribution shall be provided by each party. Although contribution and fee are somewhat synonymous, this is a fee and not a voluntary contribution. Manager Hart said maybe they chose to use contribution instead of fee because the cost is not set in stone and the number of members. Member O'Connell said remember it is only a two year commitment and if we did it on our own it would cost more.

Member Tarlecki asked what fund we would take the money from. Manager Hart said we could take it from the Recycling Fund. Member O'Connell asked why not put it under professional service. Manager Hart responded we are over budget in that line item but we could do a budget transfer or just go over budget.

Member O'Connell made a motion to authorize the advertisement of the IGA/TMDL Alternative Plan. Member Sando seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Discussion: MCPC Update – North Wales 2040 – Steering Committee

Manager Hart said we signed a contract for three years for the Revitalization and Comprehensive Plan for North Wales, being called North Wales 2040. Montgomery County Planning Commission came in and set goals and duties. They also sent letters to residents, who they thought should be on the panel. The committee should be made up of members from the local and county Planning Commission, Borough staff, Council, business owners, houses of worship, school districts and colleges, the library, residents, fire company, Ward leaders, transportation elements, state representatives and the North Wales Water Authority. They suggested that we keep the committee to 10-15 members.

Manager Hart said no one from Ward 1 has applied but we have Mr. Clark from Ward 2 and Beth Ann Sinotte from Ward 3. The business owners that have replied are the owner of North Wales Pharmacy and Jason Graham, builder and resident. Ray Tschoepe has been invited to attend as a representative for HARB and the Historic Commission and Bob Bender for North Wales Water Authority. Manager Hart said Martha Lottes has applied as a resident but she is a member of the Parks and Recreation Board and she was not sure whether Council wanted to consider her as a resident or a board member. She said she has not reached out to the houses of worship, transportation, or the state representative. We need to finalize the process on how the Steering Committee will be selected, appoint a chair and vice chair, and establish a meeting schedule.

A discussion ensued regarding who should be a member and what groups should have a liaison. Manager Hart said she recommends a minimum of two Council people, one as a regular and one as an alternate. The local and county planning commission is a given. It is up to Council to decide who sits on the committee. We will always have to have an invitation as needed to experts in each field. President McDonald suggested that Council members rotate through the Council seat that way everyone would know what is going on.

Member Sando asked if there were any letters that Council did not receive. Manager Hart said there were no other letters. She said there are no voluntary applicants from Ward 1. Member Sando said it makes sense to extend the time period. Manager Hart said she will post the open positions on the website and kiosk.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart said Station Place is new/old business. The engineering report came back. It is very extensive. There are 71 bullet points regarding storm water management, setbacks, variances, etc. Although they were awarded 10 lots by zoning, there are still critical items left open. She encouraged Council to review the information so that they are informed when it comes up again.

She said the Montgomery County Planning Commission review came back. They had great suggestions regarding placement. They are not favoring the garage frontal on Fifth and Sixth Street. We are still waiting for some professional reviews to come back. We received one from Officer Hammerstone regarding pedestrian traffic, safety, and maneuverability coming out of the driveways on Fifth and Sixth Streets. The review from Bill Kaelin discovered that the fire hydrant was removed from the plans and not replaced. She said they are currently scheduled to go before the local planning commission on August 3, 2016.

A discussion ensued regarding the plan for Station Place and the issues that were recognized. Solicitor Gifford said typically you go through zoning, which governs height, lot size, and other zoning requirements; then subdivision and land development, which is for building codes, style, and architecture. They are given all kinds of suggestions by the county and local planning commissions and the engineer to reduce the number of waivers they are requesting. He said Council has the ultimate authority in granting waivers.

Manager Hart said we have two zoning applications to be heard on August 2, 2016. The first is for 432 Shearer Street, which is a vacant lot; the application is for a twin facing Shearer Street. The Planning Commission has reviewed the plan and they favor the plan. The builder is asking for a variance on side yard setback and use. The other hearing is a Special Exception for 401 E. Walnut Street, 311 E. Walnut Street and 113 S. Third Street to create a parking lot for Artisans' Alley. The applicant owns all three parcels. She is asking to demolish the storage units except one facing Third Street. Solicitor Gifford said he has walked the property and there is no pervious surface as it now exits. Manager Hart said Ms. Keyes plans beautification along Walnut Street and handicapped parking spaces. In April 2016, the Planning Commission reviewed the plan informally.

President McDonald took a poll of the Council members present and all supported Ms. Keyes plans for a parking lot for Artisans' Alley except for Members Tarlecki and O'Connell, who would like to remain neutral until they see a visual concept of the plan.

President McDonald said since we took a poll on the parking lot, we should do one for Mr. Caracausa. Manager Hart said we met with the builder to ensure storm water management would be taken care of because Council was not willing to provide \$15,000 in improvements without a guarantee of relief to the Walnut Street residents. The developer presented a less

aggressive plan and the issues seemed to be addressed nicely. A brief discussion ensued regarding water runoff and the proposals that were presented.

President McDonald polled Council members and all favored the plan as proposed except for Members Cherry and O'Connell who remained neutral.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Officer Hammerstone said he is asking Council to advertise for part time officers before a new chief is chosen. He said overtime has been kept at a minimum and he anticipates the loss of two part time officers. If they leave before a new chief is chosen, we will be shorthanded. Manager Hart said the Borough has participated in the consortium, so we could draw from that list. Manager Hart said Officer Hammerstone submitted the Police report along with his overview.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Solicitor Gifford said he has several matters for executive session regarding personnel, real estate and litigation. He said there is a possibility Council will reconvene.

Mayor D'Angelo thanked the manager and public works for getting things ready for the parade. He also talked about establishing a system where we can check on the elderly. He said the problem is how to get to them. He said maybe we could send notices out and people can sign up. Then the police can check in on them if there is a code blue.

Member Sando said in light of what happened in Dallas, we need to be thankful for the people that do the job and the fact that they put their lives in danger every time they go out. We need to take an opportunity like this to tell them how much we appreciate what they do for us.

Member Cherry spoke about helping elderly neighbors. He said if you see someone in your neighborhood that needs help, give a helping hand that is what we are here for.

Member O'Connell said it should not take a situation for us to extent help and support to our neighbor.

Member Tarlecki reminded everyone to lock their windows and doors at night and even your car doors.

Member Neiderhiser said even if you cannot help someone, know where to send them for help. She thanked the organizers of the 4th of July parade and picnic. It was wonderful.

Member Scott said we love our men in blue and we are grateful that you keep our community and residences safe.

President McDonald said his sentiments were voiced by Members Sando and Scott. He said the best way to stay safe is to use your common sense. He said the parade was a fantastic piece of

Americana. He said we should take a moment to think about how to make our town a better place.

Manager Hart thanked the police department and public works for the work they did. She said when she was driving home on Friday night she noticed that there were no “No Parking” signs on Main Street for the parade on Monday. She thanked Officer Hammerstone for having the part time officers put up the signs. She also thanked the fire company for their service to the community and the North Wales Community Project Alliance for organizing the parade and picnic.

Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member Amato seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager