

Borough of North Wales
300 School Street
North Wales, Pennsylvania, 19454

MEETING: July 28, 2015 7:00 P.M. EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Michael McDonald.

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| ROLL CALL: | Michael McDonald, President | Present |
| | Christine Hart, Vice President | Present |
| | James Cherry | Present |
| | Sally Neiderhiser | Present |
| | Daniel O'Connell | Present |
| | Ed Redstreake | Present |
| | James Sando | Absent |
| | Paula Scott | Present |
| | Mark Tarlecki | Present |
| | Greg D'Angelo, Mayor | Present |

Also in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough solicitor, and Chief Alex Levy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President McDonald.

Public Comment

Rebecca Flannery, 405 School Street, asked that the "STOP" line be repainted at Fourth and School Streets. She said it has been less than a year since it was painted and it is coming up. Also, she said cars are still blowing thru the stop sign. President McDonald said he would have public works and the Safety Committee look at it and see if they can determine why it is peeling.

Mrs. Flannery voiced her concerns about the traffic from the new Septa Parking lot. Would they use School Street more than Beaver Street? Mrs. Flannery stated she was just curious about what is going to happen with the traffic flow and whether we can monitor it. President McDonald said as far as he could tell, people were exiting the lot onto Beaver Street. Mrs. Flannery asked are they? There is a 5 o'clock rush and most people do not stop at the sign and if they do, it is half a second and the other car going the other way nearly gets hit. She said she sees it every day. She said according to Chief Levy nothing can be done. Mrs. Flannery said if we cannot do anything else, could stop signs be placed at Second and Third Streets, rather than just the one at Fourth Street. President McDonald said we cannot just put a stop sign up. A discussion ensued regarding a traffic study, stop signs and speed bumps. Chief Levy said they monitored the area for about six weeks and issued several citations. He stated they did not find an overwhelming majority of people violating the stop sign.

Julia Lepore, 403 School Street, also voiced her concerns regarding cars speeding on School Street. She said she was almost hit and does not want it to happen again. She believes it would be a benefit to the Borough to have permits, speed bumps or even temporary speed bumps put in to slow people down. President McDonald said maybe we can look into what is entailed to put speed bumps on the street. Mrs. Lepore stated there would be a potential noise issue with the neighbors. My question is could I raise a petition from all of the neighbors, explaining to them that there will be a noise increase, but there will also be a safety factor increase. President McDonald said the fact that you are here certainly indicates there is an issue that we need to look into. From my perspective, the more neighbors that are involved the better.

Vice President Hart said she thought it would be more prudent for us to wait and gather what speed bumps would entail. A discussion ensued about speed bumps and loss of parking. Vice President Hart said she thinks the Public Safety Committee should look into this.

Mel McGee, 511 E. Montgomery Avenue, asked if everyone got their invitation to the Sunlight of the Spirit House, which is the Trego House, the other half of her twin, on Saturday, from 1:00 to 3:00 o'clock. If anyone is interested they still have two beds left, if you check their Facebook. They have not applied for any sort of permit. Why would they bother, it is already going on. That is my input, thank you.

Mary Jo Malone, 225 S. Fourth Street, said this morning while we were walking we noticed a huge wasp nest at 234 S. Seventh Street. She said she went by tonight on her way home and there was an older gentleman out in the yard, who lives there. If somebody throws something at it or the kids see it, it would not be a good scene. Someone may want to take a look at it and get it down. Manager DeMeno said he would go out there tomorrow and take a look. Mrs. Malone said if you go up the walk it is on the tree to the left. Vice President Hart asked if it was on the gentleman's property. Mrs. Malone replied yes.

Jane Keyes, owner of Tex-Mex Restaurant, said she wanted to float the idea of a Community Garden on Fourth Street. She said the double lot looks like it is not used for anything. It has a water main and it might make a great spot for a Community Garden. People can either buy into the garden or work in the garden and share in the harvest.

Member Cherry said that the Park and Rec Commission brought this up either last year or two years ago and we basically got word from the Fourth Street residents that it was their park and you are not doing anything in it. A discussion ensued regarding who owns the property; who maintains it; and the idea of putting in a community garden. Member Cherry said he thought a previous manager had looked into it, but there is grant money for a Community Garden. Member Cherry said it would be a co-op, with the Borough maintaining the outer structure, such as a fence. The inside would be maintained by the co-op community or committee that would take care of or basically take ownership of the garden. Some communities sell the produce that they grew. Others would say everybody come take a tomato or a piece of corn.

Ed Neiderhiser, 508 E. Montgomery Avenue, said if you have been paying attention to the news or newspapers, this is the 25th year of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We certainly have addressed that here. We have wheel chair accessible ramps, an elevator, handicap accessible toilets and brail signs. It occurs to me that we have not addressed accommodations for the hearing impaired. It is a disability that is far less visible. I have talked to a number of people in the community that are very interested in Council and what it does, but they have difficulty hearing. I have pretty good ears and I gotta tell you, I missed half of what you said, when you addressed it to the other side of the room. It seems to be a responsible goal to the community and to the standards of the ADA to really consider some kind of arrangement in this room, which addresses the concerns of the hearing impaired. I recognize that there would be some expense involved and it would not be as much as you think. Mr. Neiderhiser asked Council to consider making the Borough fully compliant with ADA standards. Vice President Hart thanked Mr. Neiderhiser, telling him it was very well said and she thinks it is long overdue. President McDonald stated they would look into what they could do and what was available to them.

A resident of School Street said she called the police department to complain about a car that was parked on the street all day and no one came to ticket the car. She said it is permit parking, but it is not enforced. She is not trying to be disrespectful. She is trying to understand the logic.

Mrs. Lepore said she had noticed that the lights on the flag pole are not working properly when she discovered a disoriented person on her porch. She contacted the police and they thought he may have come from TexMex. She said the light facing the American flag is not lit and the other light is flicking off and on all night. She said she has called it in a couple of times. She said the light that is focused toward the flag is out and the flag not lit at all, is incredibly disrespectful. President McDonald said they would have Public Works come out and replace the one and look at the other one, which may need to be replaced too.

Jane Keyes said for the record not every disoriented person in this town comes from Tex-Mex. Mrs. Lepore said he was definitely inebriated. Mrs. Keyes said it doesn't mean he came from Tex-Mex. Mrs. Lepore said it was the July 4th weekend. He could have come from anywhere, but I don't know what he was doing on my porch.

Linda McAdoo, 412 Shearer Street, said she had a couple of follow up questions. She asked what the cost was for a traffic study in regards to additional stop signs on Fourth Street and the cross streets. She said a couple of years ago on Shearer Street, signs went up at Pennsylvania Avenue and Swartley Street. It is hard for me to believe there is more traffic there then on School Street. Solicitor Gifford said that the traffic study is done by the police department first. Mrs. McAdoo said it seems to her that it would slow people down if they had to stop at every block. She said she wondered why they were put up at Pennsylvania and Swartley; they were not put up at Center and Shearer Streets, traffic goes down Center Street very quickly. In regard to the open space, she suggested the manager check with the County about possible restrictions under the Open Space grant to

make sure a community garden is allowed. Manger DeMeno said he would take a look at it.

Disbursements: \$53,029.66

Manager DeMeno gave a brief overview of the bills to include the engineer bill. Member Redstreak asked about the \$2940.00 for minor equipment. Manager DeMeno said it was for the hand guns.

Vice President Hart asked about the bill that is payable to the Borough of North Wales is that for the police pension. Manager DeMeno said he would check tomorrow. Vice President Hart stated Rudolph Clarke is the solicitor for Civil Service. It is a very small bill. Manager DeMeno stated it was for a review of e-mails. Chief Levy said he had called them and told them not to do it but they did it anyway.

Member Tarlecki asked what's with Central Media, it looks like advertising. When did we advertise? Manager DeMeno said it was for Zoning Hearing Board.

Vice President Hart said while you are following up on the police pension, there is another police pension payment made as well to North Wales Borough, on the second page. Manager DeMeno said it was his understanding that they are normally made out that way, but he will check that. He said he believes it goes into a fund in our name and that is why it is made out to us. President McDonald asked why are there two of them. Vice President Hart stated that one was June and one was July.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the July bills in the amount of \$53,029.66 minus the \$34.00 to Rudolph Clarke. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Presentation: Kevin Chavous and Brian O'Leary from MCPC to Discuss the Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan

President McDonald said this is being tabled.

Discussion: Review of Fire Alarm Quotes for System Replacement

President McDonald reported that they are still collecting data on the building and what is needed. There will be more discussion on this at the next meeting

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the Fire Chief had come to look at the fire alarm system. Manager DeMeno replied yes. Member Scott said she and Bill Kaelin walked through the building today. She said Bill is our Emergency Management Coordinator. Member Scott said Mr. Kaelin provided a though lesson on the needs of the building.

Review of Junior Council Person

Manager DeMeno said the brochure he provided to Council Members has information on the suggested program guides. He said he spoke with the person at the Borough Association who handles this and was told there really are no strict program guidelines. Essentially, we can tweak it any way that works for us. President McDonald said then we really do not have anything to vote on at this point.

Vice President Hart suggested that we start a draft of what the protocol would be. If this is worked on, around election time, interested individuals can put in their resumes, and then perhaps we could appoint the Junior Council person at the same time the new Council Members take their seats in January. That would be a good target date, rather than attempting to do this in the summer, when kids are away. Manager DeMeno said he could talk to Greg and John about it.

Joanne Matthews, 421 Shearer Street, asked if the gentleman that came in two or three months ago that was interested in the program, had a starting time. Was he looking at the school semester of September to June or something else? Vice President Hart said Council is not sure and also it is not a given that he would be picked. Member Scott said he just wanted to see the program get started again. Whether or not he was a part of it, it was something interesting he hoped to be a part of.

Member Redstreak commented that he sees on the brochure that we can have more than one.

Application and Updates

Manager DeMeno said there was nothing to discuss.

Old Business and Committee Reports

There was no old business and no committee reports.

Comments

Solicitor Gifford said there was one matter for executive session, with no action required.

Mayor D'Angelo said it was nice to see the street sweeper back in service and he is glad it was fixed.

Member Scott thanked Bill Kaelin for taking time to walk with her through the building today. He has given some valuable insight on how to read the proposals.

Vice President Hart said in light of the street sweeper being fixed, just a friendly reminder to all residents and business owners that although it is a public sidewalk, maintaining it is the home owner or business owner's responsibility. The Borough has

received numerous complaints of leaves being over six inches high over the edge of the curbs, between the cracks of bricks and sidewalks. Although she agrees that at Main and Walnut Street it may look horrible, the businesses own that walkway and sidewalk. I would just like to remind people that if they want the town to be a nice place and a clean place, then we all need to share in the responsibility.

Member Redstreak said he wanted to thank Jim for taking care of the trees; especially the dead tree that we had in the park that was a concern. He asked if a religious organization needed a solicitation permit. Manager DeMeno responded that religious organizations do not need a permit. Vice President Hart asked if there was any recourse as a resident or business owner if they continue to speak when you ask them to leave. Chief Levy said call 911.

Manager DeMeno said Community Day is still looking for vendors and volunteers. He said they are in the process of establishing a non-profit association that is not connected to the Borough in any way. It will allow Community Day and other events to solicit tax free donations from corporations, which is where the money is for donations.

Mayor D'Angelo asked if they would have the exemption in time for this year's Community Day. Manger DeMeno said it was doubtful. It is more for any event we have going forward. He said the paperwork is in the process of being submitted. Mayor D'Angelo asked if it had to be registered with the State. Vice President Hart asked about filing the 501. Manager DeMeno said it would be "North Wales Community Events Association". Vice President Hart asked if there were by-laws. Manager DeMeno said there are articles of incorporation.

Joanne Matthews asked what the date was for Community Day. Manager DeMeno replied October 3rd. Vice President Hart asked what the address was for the North Wales Community Events Association. Manager DeMeno stated that right now it goes to his personal home address. A discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of other Borough groups, i.e. The North Wales Community Project Alliance; Manager DeMeno's involvement in fund raising for this association; whether articles of incorporation were filed; bank account and mailings. Various Council members advised Manager DeMeno to disassociate himself from the association because he is the Borough Manager. Manager DeMeno said this was all preliminary. He wanted to know what Council thought before he did anything with it.

Manager DeMeno said he wanted to address the spam issue. He said starting tomorrow everyone should see a drastic decrease in spam in their Borough e-mail. There is a filter running and he asked everyone to get back to him about how the filter is working on their e-mail. Vice President Hart asked if the filter was being provided by Pennsylvania Boroughs Association, to which Manager DeMeno said it was. She also asked if the Borough was still contracted with the water authority for IT assistance. Manager DeMeno replied yes.

Vice President Hart made a motion to adjourn. Member Scott seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.