

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: June 27, 2017 7:00 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	Present
	Daniel O'Connell	Present
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	James Sando	Absent
	Mayor Greg D'Angelo	Present

Also in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, Donald Fantry, Chief of Police and Alan Guzzardo, Assistant Borough Manager.

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, thanked Council for updating Chapter 90, the Animal Chapter of the Borough Code. He then questioned the status of the Safe Routes to School Program. Manager Hart explained the Borough is working on getting the required signatures from property owners to start the program. Mr. Berenson asked if the program would fail if the Borough was not able to secure the needed signatures. Manager Hart explained that construction costs have been inflated, due to the process taking longer than anticipated. She explained the Borough would complete the program, otherwise the Borough would be responsible for the total financial loss.

Discussion: Council Appointment Process: Boards, Commissions, Elected Positions

Manager Hart provided a brief introduction of the topic. She explained that Section 901 of the State Borough Code provides the procedures for replacing elected officials. She stated that Borough Staff has researched the topic and Council is able to adjust the process if it wishes to do so. Member Amato gave a presentation on the selection process for elected and appointed officials. He explained that Section 901 of the State Borough Code provides a specific timeframe for filling a vacancy, but does not provide a process for nominating and selecting candidates. He then explained he would provide another presentation at the next Council meeting on adopting bylaws for the selection process.

Member Scott explained her concern with the questioning process for appointed positions because there is not an influx of candidates. She is also concerned that candidates must make a presentation to Council. Member Amato agreed that presentations for appointed positions should not be required and explained that the Borough could alter the process to resolve this issue.

Member Tarlecki asked Member Amato about the voting process if there were a tie and the Mayor was unable to break the tie. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if there are only seven members of Council voting, then the Mayor would not be able to break the tie. Council confirmed Mr. Berenson's question. Manager Hart explained that Council may have in the past adopted Robert's Rules because it is common in Pennsylvania. She expressed concern with Council being held liable for an unfair selection process. She explained that the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's (PSABS) Director stated if the first candidate gets the majority vote, then they should be selected. Member Amato explained that it is only an interpretation of Robert's Rules. He explained if the Borough does adopt a resolution for selection procedures, it should be reviewed every two years. Member Amato explained that other Boroughs have procedures in place. Member Davis asked about advertising for elected and appointed positions. He did not support the voting procedure and expressed concern with the interviewing process. Member Amato explained that the candidates should be present if they want to serve on a board. President McDonald explained that candidates for elected positions should be required to be present, while candidates for volunteer positions should not. Member Tarlecki explained that future Councils may not enforce these standards.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked about a mandatory requirement for candidates for elected positions to be present when they are unable to do so. Council stated they would make exceptions for emergencies as needed. He then asked about two possible candidates having a majority vote of Council. Member Davis asked about two possible vacancies in the same ward. Member Amato agreed that must be addressed as well. Solicitor Gifford explained that the Borough is limited by state laws for filling vacancies. He explained that we cannot really amend bylaws for elected positions. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, expressed concern about people taking advantage of appointment bylaws. Council agreed and that it would be taken into consideration.

Consideration: Planning Commission Appointment term ending 12/31/2017

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the appointment of Linda McAdoo to the Planning Commission, effective immediately, with a term ending 12/31/2017. Member Amato seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Disbursements: 51,259.26

Manager Hart reviewed the bill listing with Council. She explained the pension costs, engineering costs and new lettering for the public works vehicles. Member Davis asked about the PECO rebate program for converting street light bulbs to LED bulbs. Manager Hart explained that we have (8) telephone poles converted to LED. Mayor D'Angelo announced to the public that he received a reimbursement to attend the annual PSABS conference in Harrisburg. Manager Hart then explained the costs for "Movies in the Park" and mulch and playground border work performed at Hess Park for the new playground equipment installed.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$51,259.26. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Certificate of Appropriateness: 302 Shearer Street

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve a certificate of appropriateness for a new porch railing to be installed at 302 Shearer Street. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Denial of Certificate of Appropriateness: 115 W. Montgomery Ave.

Member Davis asked about non-conforming LED signs in the Borough. Manager Hart explained that non-conforming signs are not subject to review.

Member Scott made a motion to deny a certificate of appropriateness for a LED ticker tape message sign at 115 W. Montgomery Avenue. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: SB 663 Opposition to Third Party Agency Mandate

Manager Hart explained the bill would require municipalities to provide three third party inspector options for builders. She explained the bill would result in a financial hardship on the Borough.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if it was limited to Boroughs or all municipalities. Council confirmed that all municipalities would be subject to the proposed law.

Member Scott made a motion to oppose to Senate Bill 663. Member Amato seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: 06/13/2017

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2017. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart explained that all Borough Boards and Commissions have been notified to submit quarterly reports to Council. She then explained that the History Commission is working on heritage plaques throughout the Borough and the “Walls of History” exhibit will be opening soon to the public.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Manager

Solicitor Gifford announced that an executive session would take place this evening to discuss a matter involving personnel.

Mayor D’Angelo explained the Borough is creating an information guide for assisting residents with heat related illnesses for the Borough website. He also invited the public to the Annual 4th of July Parade.

Member Tarlecki asked about three street lights that need ballasts. Manager Hart explained the Borough would fix those streetlights as soon as possible and that an electrician may be needed. Member Tarlecki then asked about the Borough's tax flows. Manager Hart explained that earned income tax revenue has decreased from last year. She then explained that the Borough is doing well on real estate tax revenue. She also stated that transfer tax has seen an increase in 2017. Member Tarlecki then explained the significance of Council's visit to the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. Council commended the North Penn Fire Company for all the hard work they do and how they manage their operations.

Vice-President Cherry invited the public to a cancer fundraiser on July 8th at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for a friend of his.

Manager Hart also invited the public to the Fire Company Fundraiser on June 28th at the Green Fork Restaurant on S. Main Street.

President McDonald invited the public to the Annual 4th of July Parade.

Manager Hart explained that an assessment of sidewalks on West Street was completed and the Borough will be receiving a donation for public improvements. She also stated that the Borough has already received 16 applications for the Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager