

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: March 8, 2016, 7:00 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Absent
	James Cherry	Present
	John Davis	Present
	Michael McDonald	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Absent
	Daniel O'Connell	Present
	James Sando	Present
	Paula Scott	Absent
	Mark Tarlecki	Present – Arrival at 7:02 PM EST
	Mayor Greg D'Angelo	Present

Also in attendance were John Filice, Borough Solicitor and Chief Alex Levy.

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, wanted to know if the Borough's insurance has accepted the claim related to the lawsuit filed by Sunlight of the Spirit House located at 509 E. Montgomery Avenue. Solicitor Filice said that there will be no comment because it is a matter subject to litigation.

Discussion: Montgomery County Planning Commission Scope & Cost

Manager Hart met with representatives from the MCPC and discussed the proposal, the costs, the time frame, the services suggested, and the billing cycles. The Borough would be making payments of approximately \$6,000.00 twice each year over a three year period.

Manager Hart said the first three to six months are spent gathering information and obtaining a feel for what the current status of the Borough is. MCPC helps form a steering committee made up of a cross section of Council, citizens, businesses, and professional staff. They work in areas of economic development, zoning changes, and land development for all three years. This will tie into updating the Comprehensive Plan required in 2017.

The MCPC is currently working in many townships and boroughs and they have sufficient personnel to handle all related tasks. The contract provided by MCPC will be reviewed by our solicitor. MCPC proposed a start date of June 1, 2016. They have offered to have the team that will be working with the Borough meet Council at a future meeting.

Member Sando asked if the first payment is due in October of this year, is there money in the budget for this. Manager Hart said \$25,000.00 has been earmarked in the 2016 budget for this type of expense (planning, improvements, or services).

Member O'Connell also asked about the allowance in the budget and he asked if the Comprehensive Plan is behind schedule. Manager Hart said the plan expires in 2017 so although we should be working on it now, we are technically not behind.

President McDonald said that the MCPC are professionals and will assist in the Comprehensive Plan.

Linda McAdoo, 412 Shearer Street, asked if the Borough has checked with other municipalities about the performance of MCPC. President McDonald said that he spoke with Jenkintown and they are very happy with the performance of the MCPC.

Member Sando asked about the time line and if it is reasonable. Manager Hart said she thinks it is an attainable goal.

Discussion: Fee Schedule Amendments

Manager Hart said it is prudent to review our fees to make sure we are in line with other municipalities and current accepted practices. Manager Hart specifically mentioned the demolition fee and that it is a flat fee as compared to a flat fee plus an additional cost per square foot.

Member Tarlecki asked what the current fees are used for and what tasks the Borough has to undertake. Manager Hart talked about public safety issues, barricades, dirt, debris, etc., related to the demolition.

Mayor D'Angelo asked about adding escrow provisions for demolition to the fee schedule. Manager Hart replied no. They would be incurred upon the proposed work. She recommends a flat fee of one hundred dollars plus ten cents per square foot.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the flat fee would stay if there was a square foot price. Manager Hart said the flat fee would stay.

Member Cherry asked what the fee is for a re-roof permit. Manager Hart said that fees for roof permits were previously related to the cost of the job. Currently, if only shingles are replaced, then no permit is required. However, if sheathing has to be replaced or other major work is done, permits are required. Manager Hart spoke about H.A.R.B. requiring a certain type of roofing that is more expensive than other roofing and these people were paying more for the

work to be completed and therefore more for a permit. As a result of this inequity, the Borough decided not to require a permit for simply replacing existing shingles.

Joanne Matthews, 421 Shearer Street, said she was on H.A.R.B. at the time and they felt that some people comply with the permit requirement and some don't, so they thought it was a good idea to just get rid of the permit requirement. H.A.R.B. hoped that the people would follow the recommendations. Some people did follow the recommendations and some people did not.

Member Davis asked if contractors are licensed and if so, wouldn't it be good to have a nominal fee so we can check the contractor. Manager Hart said the Borough does not require contractors to be licensed unless it is a commercial property and then they have to follow a different set of standards and requirements.

Member O'Connell said the old law made people liars because everyone said they were just repairing the roof and not doing work that required a permit.

Manager Hart said she will survey local municipalities to see how they handle roofing permits.

There was a discussion about the set fee of \$100.00 for services provided by the Borough. It was recommended that it be changed to \$60.00 per hour for each police officer and \$30.00 per hour for each public works employee.

There is an alarm fee schedule, which will be reviewed. Currently, there is not a mechanism in place to get people to register alarms, especially new alarms.

There was a discussion about deed registration fees and they will most likely be changed.

Member Tarlecki asked about pool permit fees and the language related to air blown pools if it included kiddie pools. Manager Hart said the language for pool permits needed to be more specific.

Approve Minutes: 07/14/2015; 07/28/2015; 02/09/2016; 02/23/2016

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the minutes from 7/14/2015. Member Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no. (Member Sando left the meeting briefly for a personal reason.)

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the minutes from 7/28/2015. Member Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no. (Member Sando was still out of the meeting.)

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/9/2016. Member Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/23/2016. Member Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

There was no old business.

Manager Hart said she changed it from Committee Reports to Committee and Board Reports because she thinks it is important to ask for reports from all committees and boards. They should submit important items to Council for consideration and/or review.

The February minutes from Parks and Recreation were included in the packet for all Council members to review.

Linda McAdoo asked for a list of Committees and their members. Manager Hart said she will work on having that available and she will also announce when they meet. She said the committees meet on an 'as needed' basis.

Manager Hart said 201 W. Walnut Street and 208-210 S. Fifth Street are currently on the Zoning Hearing Board's schedule for April 5, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

Member Davis asked about a house in the Borough that is a single family house and is listed as a duplex. Manager Hart said that the house can be used as a duplex or a single family home. The buyer can decide which way they want to use the property but if they use it as a duplex, they would have to comply with the requirements of having a duplex property.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Solicitor Filice said there will be an executive meeting tonight with no action required.

Member Cherry said both the Parks and Recreation Board and the Shade Tree Commission had a meeting. There will be a fundraiser on May 7, 2016 at the North Penn Social Club, 141 S. Main Street.

Manager Hart said she got three estimates to remove and reinstall the playground equipment but they were high (\$6,857.00 to \$8,600.00) so Member Cherry and others have volunteered to remove the equipment. It will be stored in the NWWA garage until it can be determined where to put the equipment. Monies from the Recycling fund will be used to reinstall the equipment.

The Borough will celebrate Earth Day on April 23, 2016. Tex Mex Connection will host an event on April 22, 2016 with proceeds being used to purchase rain barrels. A future date will be determined for residents to receive training on rain barrels and upon completion of the workshop training, they will get a free rain barrel for their property. On Saturday, there will be places for shredding, recycling various items, i.e. eyeglasses, flags, cell phones, etc. Several businesses and the Borough are sponsoring these events and hosting drop off sites. There will *not* be a household hazardous waste materials or electronic recycling event because it is too expensive. The County hosts these events at places throughout the County several times each year (including Norristown and Ambler). The Spring Newsletter will have details of the activities that are being offered.

Manager Hart said Upper Gwynedd is currently surveying people about a community center. It is on their web site. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey.

Member Cherry made a motion to adjourn. Member Sando seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager