

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: May 24, 2016 7:06 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	Absent
	Jim Sando	Absent
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Mayor Greg D'Angelo	Present

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

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked about the progress of the Safe Routes to School Program. Manager Hart said Upper Gwynedd has just approved the segment we need from them. Now we can start notifying the residents. We still have to acquire some easements. Mr. Berenson asked the solicitor what is the status of the litigation regarding the Sunlight of the Spirit House. Solicitor Gifford said that is still in the pleading stage.

Pat Graham, 324 S. Fourth Street, asked how long an abandoned car can stay in place. Manager Hart said she was not aware there was an abandoned car. Officer Hammerstone said we send a certified letter to the owner and after ten days they can contact a towing company. There are guide lines we must follow. Ms. Graham also reported loud music at the corner of Summit and Fourth Streets.

Mike Fellmeth, President of the North Wales Borough Business Alliance, 122 S. Main Street, asked about the status of community development. Manager Hart said we signed a contract with MCPC that starts June 1. She had them on the Planning Commissions May agenda but due to illness and vacation it was cancelled. She was trying to get a jump start on forming the Steering Committee but it did not happen. In June, MCPC will be at the Planning Commission meeting to talk about the Steering Committee.

Disbursements: \$109,374.30

Manager Hart gave a brief overview of the larger bills to include: SWIF, worker's compensation for the fire company; Independence Blue Cross, health insurance; Moser Construction, return of escrow for the new homes on Beaver Street; MRM, property and liability insurance; Thomas Insurance, public officials liability; Boucher & James, subdivisions and engineer review of the Septa parking lot plans; McMahon and Associates, Safe Routes to School.

Member Davis asked if we pay the engineer for other projects. Manager Hart responded yes. She said they do a plan review for subdivisions and land development.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$109,374.30. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Minutes 03/22/2016

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2016. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

**Certificate(s) of Appropriateness: Update of Pending Applications
(206 School Street/201 W Walnut Street/108 W Montgomery Avenue)**

Manager Hart said we had 3 applications: 206 School Street, for solar panels, was a preliminary review before HARB and it is being rescheduled; 201 W. Walnut Street was continued and conditionally approved pending submission of side elevations; 108 W. Montgomery Avenue did not receive a certificate because the work was already done.

**Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications
(Update/Discussion: Chapter 90-12 Prohibited Animals)**

Manager Hart said there is a zoning hearing on June 7th, for 108 Royal Avenue. They are proposing an addition to the front of their home and an accessory building.

Andrew Berenson asked if the board has asked the solicitor to be present. Solicitor Gifford said he has reviewed the plans and they are okay.

Manager Hart said she has received a waiver request of the subdivision process for 208-210 S. Fifth Street. The applicant was granted zoning relief to allow subdivision.

OLD BUSINESS – Manager Hart said there is an extension of time on a cease and desist order related to Chapter 90, Animal Ordinance. She further reported research had been done in volume on all animal ordinances in Montgomery County. She said 62% allow chickens, several allow them but have regulations and 38% prohibit chickens. A discussion ensued regarding regulations on chickens. Solicitor Gifford said there is a lot of information about chickens and Council needs to think about it and look at the information that they have received. Then they

need to decide where they want to go with the regulations. Solicitor Gifford suggested asking Montgomery County for a model ordinance.

Manager Hart said there is an issue regarding feral cats in Ward 2 at Highland and Fairview. I have received five complaints in the last two weeks about property damage, feces in flower gardens and other animals eating the food that is left out. There is evidence of people feeding cats on Fairview Avenue. We do not have an ordinance to tell people not to feed cats.

Manager Hart said she has contacted various agencies and each one has a different approach. A discussion ensued regarding feral cats. Several residents from Pennsylvania Avenue voiced their concerns and grievances. Manager Hart said the only thing she can put it under is a nuisance and she has to prove it is a nuisance. Manager Hart said she will utilize the pictures that she received tonight and with five complaints she will identify it as a nuisance. Solicitor Gifford told the residents to call the police when there are incidents with the cats. Then whoever is feeding the cats can be cited because we have documentation that they are creating a nuisance.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Solicitor Gifford said he had two matters for executive session with no action required.

Mayor D'Angelo reported that Officer Hammerstone has been acting as the Officer in Charge in the absence of a Police Chief and he is doing a fine job.

Member Tarlecki asked when Council would be getting financial reports and if the tax receipts were coming in regularly, since the disbursements for May are so high. Manager Hart replied the receipts were coming in nicely.

Member Amato announced that he is resigning from the Planning Commission immediately. He submitted a letter late today.

Member Scott made a motion to accept Member Amato's resignation from the Planning Commission. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

President McDonald thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressing their concerns. He asked for a moment of silence for Tom Costella, a longtime resident of the Borough. Mr. Costella was our mayor at one time and he worked in public works as foreman for many years.

Tabitha O'Mara, 424 S. Tenth Street, said she had pictures of her chickens and how they are taken care of. She said you cannot compare them to feral cats.

Tiffany Maclean, 517 Summit Street, said she is aware that some of the neighbors have chickens and some take care of them and some don't. She said the only thing she doesn't like is the crowing.

Manager Hart reported that North Wales Family Pharmacy has reopened. They are having a Grand Opening in June. They have asked that we spread the word that they are back.

Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager