

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: May 9, 2017 7:02 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

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

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

Vice President Cherry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Loretta Weigner, 430 Shearer Street, cautioned people about deer ticks that can result in Lyme's Disease. She also announced a new infection called Powassan Virus that is also caused by deer ticks. According to McAdoo, it is almost impossible to treat with antibiotics and has serious health impacts including death. She said there is a case in Northern Pennsylvania involving a child that is near death as a result of the virus. She cautioned people to cut their grass to reduce the number of ticks in the Borough. Member Amato asked if there is a process in place to investigate health issues.

Manager Hart explained that the Montgomery County Department of Health oversees investigating major health issues and disseminating that information to both municipalities and the public via the "Ready Montco" alert system and other media sources. Manager Hart explained we have a news and alerts tab on the Borough website that provides information on current health and environmental issues including Lyme's Disease, the Emerald Ash Borer and the Zika Virus. Manager Hart announced that there is a new pest called the Spotted Lantern Fly. Assistant Manager Guzzardo gave a brief introduction about the pest. He announced that the State has done a great job containing the pest and has been notifying municipalities which have the pest. There are no reported sightings of the Pest in the Borough at this time. Vice President Cherry stated the Borough needs to ensure that Borough parks are being maintained to reduce the potential number of ticks and mosquitos.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked who will pay for containment efforts if the Spotted Lantern Fly is found in the Borough. Manager Hart believes the State would help subsidize remediation, but was not 100% sure. Assistant Manager Guzzardo explained that the Borough would have a responsibility to educate the Public about the pest, similar to how the Borough does with the Emerald Ash Borer.

Discussion: Review Draft Animal Ordinance

Solicitor Gifford reviewed the changes that were made to the Animal Ordinance from the previous Council meeting including: altering the “owner” and “stray cats” definitions, prohibiting the keeping of roosters, only allowing chickens in residential zoning districts and instituting a minimum lot size requirement of 5,000 square feet for keeping chickens, tenants must have written permission from landlords to keep chickens. Member Davis stated the Borough should not be responsible for making sure tenants have written permission from their land lords to keep chickens. Further, he contended that it should be part of a lease agreement between the tenant and the landlord. Solicitor Gifford explained that it strengthened the Borough’s ability to regulate the keeping of chickens. Manager Hart agreed that it is good, but the keeping of chickens will require a zoning permit. Manager Hart asked if tenants have the ability to apply for a zoning permit because they are not the property owner.

Member Tarlecki asked if there are rental properties that meet the 5,000 square foot minimum lot size requirement. Manager Hart confirmed that yes there are rental properties that meet that requirement. Member Sando asked if the ordinance should prohibit drakes if it prohibits roosters. Council discussed the issue and agreed to only prohibit roosters in this case.

Member Amato asked where the Borough will keep animals that have been impounded. Chief Fantry explained that the County has a nearby kennel that can detain dogs.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, stated he agreed that the provision prohibiting the keeping of roosters should not be altered.

Manager Hart and Solicitor Gifford explained that the Borough will amend and prepare an advertisement for the next Council meeting.

Updates: TMDL Strategy Plan – Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership

Manager Hart explained that the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership is comprised of municipalities including North Wales Borough and Waste Water Treatment Plants that are directly connected to the Wissahickon Creek. Together they are working with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve the health and quality of the Wissahickon Creek.

Manager Hart explained that the Borough contributes \$6,000 annually towards these efforts and has been attending monthly meetings to develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL) strategy. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant a stream can sustain in a single day without being considered compromised by environmental standards. Manager Hart explained that the Partnership is on track with developing a plan. The Partnership is also collecting data which will be used to identify action items for partnership members. Member Amato asked if changes to the EPA will impact this coalition and what would be the result if the coalition runs out of funding.

Manager Hart explained that DEP has accepted an overall strategy for every member of the coalition and therefore, will back the coalition to ensure it does not fail.

Member O'Connell expresses concern that more funds will be needed for implementation efforts after the planning phase has been completed. Manager Hart explained that the matter will be discussed at future Partnership meetings. Manager Hart explained there would be a fair allocation for each member. She then explained that the Borough would ultimately be responsible for developing a TMDL strategy for the Wissahickon Creek. So it was in the best interest of the Borough to join the coalition to reduce the cost of developing a TMDL strategy. Member Scott asked if there are any estimates as to what the future costs will be for implementation. Manager Hart reiterated the current status of the Partnership and that they are working towards developing a funding strategy for implementation effort.

Vice President Cherry asked who determined the possible areas for improvements in the Borough. Manager Hart explained that engineers have identified these areas for improvements. Member Davis asked if any of the areas were in Hess Park. Manager Hart said they were not. Member Davis explained that anything the Borough can do to help will help downstream areas because North Wales Borough is near the head waters of the Wissahickon Creek would be beneficial. Manager Hart encouraged Council members to review current efforts and report back with any questions or concerns.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart explained that the Borough has received a response back from the Governor's Office on the gerrymandering issue in Pennsylvania. The Governor's Office reported they were working on the issue. Linda McAdoo, 412 Shearer Street, explained that there are currently 88 state representatives supporting these efforts, but State Representative Kate Harper is not one of them. She also explained she has reached out to other state legislators to get them to support these efforts.

Manager Hart announced a state bill permitting emergency procurements, which if adopted would waive requirements of municipalities to seek approval for procurements totaling more than \$19,700 for emergencies such as water main breaks. She then announced another state bill that would allow Boroughs to assess a fee for planning and installing infrastructure that would be paid for by the developer. She stated 1st Class Townships already have this power. This bill would allow Boroughs to have the same or at least some of that authority.

Chief Fantry announced House Bill No. 27 which protects the identity of police officers who are involved in shooting incidents. Chief Fantry explained it has already passed through the House and is now under debate in the Senate. Chief Fantry expressed his support for the Bill.

Manager Hart explained the strains of Pennsylvania's Right to Know Law on municipalities including staff hours spent gathering information and the short amount of time afforded to municipalities to fulfill a right-to-know request. She explained that State Senator Kate Harper is working on revising the Law to reduce that strain on municipalities.

Manager Hart explained that the Borough successfully auctioned off the 2002 John Deere Tractor previously used by Public Works for \$7,000 on Muncibid. She explained that this money would be spent on lighting improvements to the Public Works facility and installing new Borough decals on their vehicles.

Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Manager

Solicitor Gifford announced there is one legal matter update for executive session on the “Sunlight of the Spirit House” case and there is one personnel matter for discussion, involving insurance and worker’s compensation.

Chief Fantry explained he has one personnel matter for executive session.

Member Amato explained he has two matters to discuss. He expressed concern about the unsafe conditions of a rain garden in Hess Park. Manager Hart explained the Borough has already taken measures to handle the issue including both temporary and long term solutions. Some of the possible solutions included filling the rain garden in with stone, underground retention facilities and improving drainage. She stated Public Works will install a temporary fence to keep people from entering the rain garden area.

Member Amato asked if Council should require Borough Boards and Commissions to make periodic presentations to Council or at least provide updates. Manager Hart explained that the Borough is still working on that issue and that she has emailed and/or attended the meetings to inform the members they should be making monthly and/or quarterly reports to Council.

Vice President Cherry thanked the police department for monitoring Hess Park more closely which according to Mr. Cherry has resulted in less criminal activity in the Park. He also thanked Borough staff for helping to improve the Park through high quality maintenance and having new playground equipment installed.

Manager Hart read a note from Mayor D’Angelo who is attending the PSABS conference. He congratulated Member Tarlecki for receiving the Cecil K. Leberknight Award for 10 years of dedicated service to the Borough.

Member Tarlecki thanked Council for nominating him for this award. He also congratulated Mayor D’Angelo who won an award for attending a leadership conference.

Manager Hart explained that the Borough received the Partnership TMA Community Award. She also announced the “Yoga in the Park” program being offered by Whole Body Yoga Studio in Weingartner Park during the summer. She also announced that the Borough is offering free rain barrels to residents who attend an information class. Tex Mex has generously donated the rain barrels again this year.

She also announced that the Borough will be participating in the “Hometown Heroes Banner” program. The program allows people to submit applications for those who have served in the military and have resided in North Wales Borough. Council discussed the program’s processes and eligibility requirements.

Rosemary Schlegel, 301 W. Montgomery Avenue, disagreed with the “Hometown Hero” definition. She explained it does not include those who were not raised in the Borough, but may have resided in the Borough for many years. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, agreed with Mrs. Schlegel’s point. He also asked if older veterans would be considered such as those who served in the Civil War or Revolutionary War. Council again discussed the eligibility requirements at length. Hebert Schlegel, 301 W. Montgomery Avenue, stated the application should state that the person must have lived in the “Borough of North Wales”, rather than just

“North Wales”. Council agreed that it should specifically state Borough. Mr. Schlegel then suggested that the applicant should also have been a resident of the Borough.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager