

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
300 SCHOOL STREET  
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: November 24, 2015 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

ROLL CALL:	James Cherry	Present
	Michael McDonald	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Daniel H. O'Connell, Sr.	Present
	Ed Redstreak	Present
	Christine Hart	Present
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	James Sando	Present
	Mayor Gregory D'Angelo	Present

Also in attendance was Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor.

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Commendation:** Officer Robert Calvin Wiley was recognized for a self-initiated arrest.

President McDonald asked for a Moment of Silence on the passing of John Byrne.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Approve Minutes: May 26, 2015**

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2015. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

### **Disbursements: \$40,872.97**

Interim Manager Levy gave a brief overview of some of the larger bills to include: SWIF, Workers Comp for the Fire Company; Maillie, final bill for the 2015 audit; McMahon and Associates, two months billing for the Safe Routes to School project; Keystone Fire Protection, new alarm system in Borough Hall; Widman's Heating and Air Conditioning, quarterly billing for the maintenance contract.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the disbursements. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Adoption of Ordinance 801**

Member Cherry asked if the advertised ordinance had the correct amount of the loan since there was a slight change from the original figure. Interim Manager Levy indicated that the advertised ordinance had the correct amount of money.

Member Hart made a motion to adopt Ordinance 801, the 2015 Promissory Note for the radio loan program. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Advertisement of Proposed Budget**

President McDonald spoke about the process and how it was affected by not having a manager and he thanked Member Hart for her efforts in putting the budget together.

Member Hart highlighted and explained some of the larger revenue items. Member Hart talked about the enactment of Act 32 and the requirement to have one tax collector in each county. Berkheimer is the tax collecting agency for Montgomery County.

Member Hart then summarized the expenses, noting that salaries and benefits are \$750,000.00 for a budget of approximately \$1,500,000.00. Member Hart also noted that health and hospitalization has gone up significantly for 2016.

Member Hart reviewed the summary page of the budget and the fact that we have not gotten the interest we anticipated for our Reserve Fund. Our fund balance carried forward is decreasing so we have to look at other measures.

Member Tarlecki mentioned that Council can look at the line items again in January.

Member Hart recommended that we do not increase taxes because we are in the black. We will continue to work with the numbers to get an accurate assessment of our position. Member Hart said we are \$100,000.00 below our projected income.

President McDonald said the tax millage must be advertised after this meeting. He said the downward spiral of income must be noted, remembered and taken seriously. He said that reviewing the actual numbers will give a better picture but at this point, he did not favor a tax increase.

Member O'Connell said that the current numbers are not always accurate. Member Hart mentioned that there are larger items on the Borough's 'wish list' that we may be able to do without, which will help our position, but these items are still in the proposed budget.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked why there was a decrease in the tax revenue. Member Hart said the single entity handling the money now makes it more accurate in disbursements so we are getting exactly what we were due.

Member Sando asked about the public works employees and why they are only getting a 1% raise. Member Hart explained that public works employees got a bump in their salary in 2014 to bring them up to standard. One makes \$19.50/hour and the others make \$18.00/hour. Member Tarlecki suggested checking with other municipal part time public works employees to see how their salaries compares. A discussion ensued regarding the pay and hours of the public works employees; whether or not there should be a full time public works employee and one or two part time employees; and the pay of the public works employees compared to the pay of the part time police officers. Member Cherry suggested having one full time public works employee to coordinate their activities.

President McDonald said that all aspects of running the Borough must be evaluated and examined carefully to make sure we are doing things correctly and efficiently.

Herb Schlegel, 301 W. Montgomery Avenue, asked whether or not the lack of a State budget has affected our budget. He also asked if one of the public works people is the boss. Member Hart said State monies have been received. She told Mr. Schlegel that one person is paid more money but he is not really the supervisor.

Member Hart made a motion to advertise the 2016 Proposed Budget. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Member Hart also made a motion to adopt the 2016 tax millage as follows: 3.056 for General Fund, .201 for Street Lighting, .226 for Debt Service, .254 for Highway Improvement, .132 for the Library Fund, and .132 for the Fire Service Fund totaling 4.001 mils. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion was passed 9 yes, 0 no.

### **Old Business/Committee Reports/Zoning Applications**

Tim Weigner, 430 Shearer Street, wanted to know if there was further information regarding 432 Shearer Street subdivision. He asked about the easement, the width of the sidewalks and storm water runoff. Member Hart told him that none of the waivers that Mr. Caracausa asked for were approved and he was instructed to go back to his engineer. Solicitor Gifford told him that easements were not controlled by the Borough and they would be between the developer and the new home owners.

Andrew Berenson asked about the legislative program involving the school. Member Hart said if you are referring to the Junior Council Person Program, nothing has been done. She said Council has to set protocol and decide how to implement it. Member Sando said the main issue is the need for clearances and that complicates matters.

Joanne Matthews, 421 Shearer Street, wanted to know about the status of the work on Walnut Street. Mayor D'Angelo said that the original plan was to have everything completed before winter but now it won't be finished until spring. Also, the NWWA found a problem with the sewer on Swartley Street, which will add about 2 weeks to the project. Completion of the project is expected to be towards the middle of December.

Mel Magee, 511 E. Montgomery Avenue, told everyone that the Trego Historic Sign is now back up.

Interim Manager Levy said there were no zoning applications.

PERSONEL COMMITTEE – President McDonald reported that Council has offered the manager’s job to a candidate and the candidate has accepted the position.

Member Hart summarized her time on Council over the past eight years and resigned her position effective November 30, 2015, and she has accepted the offer of Borough Manager effective December 1, 2015.

Member Scott made a motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Hart effective November 30, 2015. Member Tarlecki seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention (Member Hart).

Member Redstreak made a motion to hire Christine Hart as North Wales Borough Manager, effective December 1, 2015. Member Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 1 no (Member O’Connell voted nay).

Herb Schlegel, 301 W. Montgomery Avenue, asked about replacing Member Hart’s position on Council.

Solicitor Gifford explained the timeline of replacing the empty seat. He said Borough Council has until the end of the year to fill the empty spot (full 30 days). If it is not filled, effective January 1, 2016, under the new election, the new position will create a vacancy in that ward. Council has thirty days to fill the slot in Ward One. Council will have the obligation to fill that spot until the next municipal election, which is two years. If Council does not fill the spot by February 1, 2016, the Vacancy Board chair person gets involved with Council and they make the final determination on filling the spot and if that does not occur, the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County will fill the spot. The person who is selected will serve a two year term. In two years, voter registration will be notified that a new election will take place for a two year term for the seat on Council. Once that term is expired, the election for the Council person in Ward One will go back to a four year term.

President McDonald asked Mr. Sokil, the reporter in attendance, to publicize that Council is looking for volunteers to sit on Council and the various boards that serve the Borough.

### **Solicitor, Mayor, Council, Manager**

Members Tarlecki, Neiderhiser, Scott, Sando and Redstreak congratulated and welcomed Member Hart.

Member Cherry congratulated Member Hart. He said he attended the BBA meeting at the library and he was impressed with the success of the library and their involvement with the community. He said currently they are campaigning for funds to pay down their mortgage. Member Cherry

also mentioned that members of the North Wales Business Owners Association, who were at the meeting, are fully behind TRIAD and they hope Borough funds will be made available. Member Cherry also mentioned gas lines being replaced and how it affects traffic flow in the Borough.

Member Redstreak mentioned that the library has been recognize by the State as a Star Library. It is one of three libraries out of 4000 in the State to achieve this level.

President McDonald congratulated the Borough which is now under the great leadership of Christine Hart as the manager. He again mentioned the death of John Byrne and the memorial service for him on Saturday at St. Peter's Church.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked about the appeal process for E. Montgomery Avenue. Solicitor Gifford said they have 30 days to appeal.

Mayor D'Angelo congratulated Member Hart and said she is bringing a lot of experience with her. He said Thursday is Thanksgiving Day and the Borough has a lot to be thankful for.

Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.