

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: November 1, 2016 7:00 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by Vice President Cherry.

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

Also in attendance was Gregory Gifford, Borough solicitor and Chief Fantry.

Vice President Cherry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Discussion: 2017 Preliminary Budget

Manager Hart guided Council through the budget presentation depicting two scenarios. Scenario one reflected no tax increase, whereas scenario two portrayed the budget with a tax increase. She gave an overview of the budget, explaining sources of revenue and expense.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked how many zoning hearings were residential versus commercial and whether a higher fee for commercial was possible. Manager Hart said we could charge more, but Council will have to look at that when we redo the fee schedule. She said we are taking a loss when we do zoning hearings. She said we are sending a lot of Zoning Board members for training so they become more educated.

A discussion ensued regarding the amounts for different line items in the various funds.

Manager Hart proceeded to review the expenses. She is proposing a 2% increase for all salaries and the police are contracted for a 2% raise. She is proposing an Assistant Borough Manager at \$21.00 an hour with benefits; wages part-time clerk (Claire's salary); and under administrative staff, a full-time code enforcement person, property maintenance, and public works liaison.

Andrew Berenson asked how efficient will it become if these people are hired. Manager Hart said her hope is that it would be extremely more efficient. She said it is hard to find part time help to fill these positions. Member Scott said she understands the wish list but she is against full time help with benefits. Manager Hart said part time help is not committed to doing a good job and these salaries are very minimum. Member Scott asked if this was proposing two full time people. Manager Hart said the part time help is leaving at the end of the year and a person is close to retirement.

Member Amato said we all agree that you need more help but what are we getting for this increase? Member Davis said we have a manager who is bogged down and doing a lot of things she should not be doing. He said if we have full time help a lot more would be done and less stress on the manager. Member Scott said extra help is how that is attained. Member Sando said currently we contract out for code enforcement and we get half of the revenue, if we hire someone how do we pay for his salary. Manager Hart said all the permit fees would cover the code enforcement salary.

Andrew Berenson said the manager is doing a good job compared as to what we had previously. He said if you don't support the manager you may lose her. Member Scott said there is no dispute that the manager is overworked.

Member Tarlecki said you have to analyze what are the benefits of raising the taxes, what are the benefits of hiring more people and what kind of benefits are we going to get as a result. He said he does not know if we have time to do that in this time period. He said we have some good observations as to what is going on. A discussion ensued regarding the need for full time help. Manager Hart said by law we need to have a budget. Member Tarlecki reminded everyone that in the new year, we can change any line item after the budget is passed. Manager Hart said we could do a budget transfer. Mayor D'Angelo said we need to see the positions as an investment not an expense.

Manager Hart said the police are contracted and Chief Fantry's wish list includes one full time officer and two additional part time officers. Chief Fantry said he did two different budgets; one with five part-time officers and the other is hiring a full-time officer and keeping the three part-time officers he has. He said he is out on the street full time. He said he has been an officer for 28 years and this is the first time he has worked with part time officers. He said it takes five years for a full-time officer to be competent and good at what he does. He would like Council to consider hiring a full-time officer. He wants to be able to provide a service that is competent.

Chief Fantry said he does not have a secretary and has an officer doing secretarial work. He would like to get a part time secretary. He said ideally, he would like to have two more full time officers.

Member Sando asked the chief what his ideal department would be. Chief Fantry said he has a good personnel base. He said he would like to have two more full time officers. He said he would like to do a schedule more than one month at a time. He said he never worked with a department with no backup. A discussion ensued regarding personnel for the police department.

Member Scott discussed the health benefits and said it is an item that needs to be discussed as it is an out of control expense. She said the current health plan is no longer a savings to the Borough. A discussion ensued regarding health insurance changes, equipment repair, road repair and vehicle maintenance.

Member Sando asked when the last tax increase was. Manager Hart said she thinks it was in 2011 with a ¼ mil increase. There was an informal consensus that column two with the tax increase was the way to go.

Member Sando said before we adjourn he would like a brief one question executive session on litigation. Mr. Berenson asked if any action would be taken. Member Sando replied none.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart said 402 E. Walnut Street submitted a zoning application for an addition, which will go before Planning tomorrow night. She said Station Place will not go before the Planning Commission because they just signed a new 90-day extension. She said the applicant for 401 E. Walnut Street, permitted use for a tattoo studio, decided to proceed with the application and that will be in December.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Solicitor Gifford said there is one matter for executive session and an update on the real estate matter with possible action.

Mayor D'Angelo said it came to his attention about an incident that happened on Halloween. Chief Fantry said last night was Halloween and he and Terry Hammerstone worked the 3-11 PM shift. He said it was great and while on duty he got to meet the residents. He said during the course of the night, he received a call from a resident who noticed a gentleman who appeared to be carrying a gun. He said they checked the area and saw someone sitting outside and spoke to him and during the conversation he saw the person they had received a call about and he was carrying a real gun. Chief Fantry said charges are pending. Manager Hart said she had received a call from Officer Hammerstone stating he did not have words to express how he felt working with Don. He said Don's actions were so incredible that he saw the individual while they were interviewing another individual. Officer Hammerstone said he was taken back and felt safe working with someone like him. Andrew Berenson asked if someone acts recklessly like that can you take his permit to carry away. Chief Fantry said they are going to test those waters if it goes to court.

Member Davis said the neighbors noticed the police go by several times. He said it is nice that the neighbors noticed and they felt comfortable.

Manager Hart announced two events being on December 4th. Soldiers Christmas will be taking place in the morning until mid-afternoon, which will then be followed by the Annual Tree Lighting at the North Penn Fire House on Main Street. The House decorating contest sponsored by NWCPA is currently underway and will be judged sometime in mid to late December.

Andrew Berenson asked if the voting wards would be published. Manager Hart said Ward 1 is the NWWA, Ward 2 is at Borough Hall, and Ward 3 is at the North Wales Elementary School.

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

The meeting reconvened at 10:15 PM.

Solicitor Gifford announced that the Borough has made an offer of \$350,000.00 to purchase the property located at 125 N. Main Street (St. Luke's) and if the offer is accepted, the church will then execute a commercial lease, leasing back portions of the church for church meeting space, office and music room. He said the cemetery will be another agreement transferring it for \$1.00.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to execute the agreement of sale between North Wales Borough and Saint Luke's United Church of Christ; the lease agreement between North Wales Borough and Saint Luke's United Church of Christ; and the Borough and the church will enter into an agreement to take possession of the cemetery at a future date. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

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

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager