

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PA

MEETING: October 11, 2016 7:00 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

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

Also in attendance was John Filice, Borough solicitor.

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Loretta Weigner, 430 Shearer Street, asked if anything was going to be done about McKeever's yard. The vegetation is overgrown. Manager Hart said she has spoken to the contact yesterday, and he said he will have it done by the end of next week. If it is not done, we can cut it and bill the owner.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked for updates on the progress of sidewalk easements on Washington Avenue. Manager Hart said she will address that in her manager's report.

Liz Ann Iacovetti, 346 W. Walnut Street, said she wanted to say that Community Day was a success and she thanked Borough Council for their support. She said the weather held out and it was nice to see Borough Council involved. President McDonald thanked Liz Ann and her committee. Manager Hart thanked Liz Ann and the business owners. She said Liz Ann came to the office once a week to check emails. Manager Hart said it was a team effort and Community Day doubled in size from last year and we need to reconsider putting it back on Main Street.

President McDonald welcomed students from Gwynedd Mercy College who were in attendance.

President McDonald reported that Chief Fantry arrived at 7:06 PM.

Discussion: Zoning Text Amendment(s) – Chapter 208, Schedule I (Permitted Uses)

Manager Hart said a letter from the Planning Commission was included in the packet regarding a variance for a tattoo studio at 401 E. Walnut Street. The Planning Commission did not support it because they thought it should be a special exception not a variance. Today, a tattoo studio is considered an art. There are two things the owner can do; pursue the variance or a text amendment. She said she brought this up tonight because there are some things in zoning that are outdated and as part of the Comprehensive Plan a review of the ordinances will be done. We need to look at the uses and determine what is outdated and what needs to be added. She would like Council to look at the entire ordinance early next year.

Member Tarlecki said he would like to enlist help from Maggie Dobbs, from MCPC, to determine what would be special exceptions and perhaps help update the ordinance. He said he thought it would be beneficial for the entire Council to talk to her. A discussion ensued regarding the need for changes to the zoning ordinance, permitted businesses and text amendments. Manager Hart said Chapter 208 is the most extensive at 113 pages; there have been revisions in 2004 and 2009, but we have been remiss in addressing specific schedules and specific areas. It is a lot of time, energy and funds to fix one part of the ordinance. She said there are numerous items that need to be addressed i.e. drones, granny pods (a prefab tiny house that is connected to water and sewer), billboards, etc. We need to keep the ball rolling while working with MCPC.

Andrew Berenson asked if Schedule I could be done before redoing the rest of the ordinance. President McDonald said that is a legitimate suggestion and we should discuss it with Maggie Dobbs.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart said the only pending zoning application is for 401 East Walnut Street. The Planning Commission did not support the request for a variance.

Manager Hart said they have had a meeting with MCPC every month and discussed each topic that was presented; the logo was finalized; and she asked that Council members sign up for the Drop-Box. She gave an update on Safe Routes to School and there are seven properties that have not signed off. She said McMahan and Associates will schedule an evening or two at the end of the month to talk with homeowners individually. There are concerns about survey reports, how much they would like to be compensated, and some that are adamant about not having sidewalks. Hopefully, we will be able to wrap this up soon.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Solicitor Filice said there will be an executive session to discuss a real estate matter. Mayor D'Angelo asked the solicitor to explain an executive session, so the students would understand what it means. Solicitor Filice said an executive session is when Council meets outside of the public eye. He said the public is not allowed to attend and there are few items that can be

discussed. In this case, it is a matter of real estate and it would be detrimental to discuss in public because someone who is competing would know what Council is thinking.

Mayor D'Angelo said Community Day was a big success despite the weather. He said he was working at a booth with Maggie Dobbs to vote on some things that were a priority with the Planning Commission. He also reminded everyone of the importance of voting and commented that sometimes when you feel as if the choices are bad; you should vote for the bad or you could end up with worse.

Andrew Berenson asked about the new law regarding the Sunshine law. Manager Hart said we sent a letter to Representative Harper opposing it. Representative Harper acknowledged receipt of the letter but she is not on that committee. Manager Hart said she has not heard anything but there were other municipalities who opposed it.

Mel McGee, 511 E. Montgomery Avenue, said she wanted to give an update about the halfway house next to her. She said there are two cars parked in front and one out back. She said she reported the cars parked without parking permits and she thinks they were given a warning. She said now they came up with obtaining permits and using the temporary parking permit for whoever needs one. Chief Fantry said he would personally check on it tomorrow morning. The chief said they have tightened up on the requirements for a parking sticker. He said they must be a resident and show two forms of ID. Manager Hart explained that the police are working on enforcing permit parking.

Member Cherry mentioned the Community Day of Service.

Member Hart spoke about a number of items including: the Hess Park Cleanup scheduled for October 15th from 11-4 PM and they are looking for volunteers; on October 27th, HARB with Ray Tschoepe, is presenting a class on how to repair, restore or retrofit historic windows. Ray would like to run a series on historic renovations.

Manager Hart spoke about the clock donated by Steve Welsh. It is a 1921 Hershey Grandfather Clock in pristine condition, donated in memory of Bill and Amena Rosenberger. The Historic Commission is getting a plaque. She said since the newsletter went out we received about six donations. The Historic Commission is getting cabinets refurbished for display and the latest section of the Walls of History was received this morning. We hope to reach out to the elementary schools to utilize the upstairs for their local history class trips and local government.

Manager Hart reported that the lending libraries, Zach Blanchard's Eagle project, are up and running and well received. He did one for Upper Gwynedd Township and they registered theirs with the National Lending Library website and hopefully we can do that too.

Chief Fantry said he enjoyed Community Day. He said the police department is participating in the National Drug Take Back program on October 22nd 10 to 2 PM and he will offer a cup of coffee (provided by Wawa). This will be the first Coffee with a Cop in North Wales Borough. Chief Fantry explained the procedure that will be followed for the disposal of the drugs. He said we have a prescription drug box mounted to the wall in the hallway. He said the idea behind the

program is to get drugs out of the house, away from kids. He stated that he wrote a three page policy regarding drug take back.

President McDonald talked about the Tortoise and the Hare Alopecia 5K on Oct. 22. He said his son Matthew has alopecia and he is organizing a 5K run. He said it starts at St. Rose of Lima and registration starts at 7:30 PM.

Manager Hart mentioned that on October 15th the North Wales Library is having a Beef & Beer at St. Rose of Lima.

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

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager