

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PA

MEETING: October 25, 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	Present
	James Sando	Present
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Absent
	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

Linda McAdoo, 412 Shearer Street, said as of yesterday, McKeever's had not been cut. She is concerned that the second 90 day extension ends in November and she wants to know if Council is going to deny the plan. Manager Hart said she has contacted them because she is aware that the extension expires at the end of November. Mrs. McAdoo asked what can be done about the overgrowth on the property. Manager Hart said they have made multiple promises that they will take care of it. We can cite them for noncompliance.

Loretta Weigner, 430 Shearer Street, said since May when Mr. Caracausa acquired 432 Shearer Street, the property is the worst she has seen it in the last 39 years that she has lived here. He has said he wants to be a good neighbor but he is not because he is not maintaining the property.

Presentation: Eagle Scout Project Completion, Lending Libraries

Zach Blanchard, Boy Scout Troop 84, gave a presentation about the installation of the lending libraries at the various parks. Member Amato asked for an explanation of how they work.

Master Blanchard said they are on the honor system if you see a book you want you can take it and return it when you have finished reading it. He said he checks the boxes every week after school.

Manager Hart gave a brief history of the acquisition of the boxes from Montgomery News; the installation at Ninth Street, Wee Whalers, Weingartner Park and Parkside Place; and the reasoning behind the art work on the boxes.

Discussion: Animal Ordinance Amendment/Revision Draft

Solicitor Gifford said he had put more in the ordinance than what was discussed. He said it is easier to remove things than to add. This gives Council the opportunity to remove those they don't want. He said he incorporated the three ordinances that Council liked and added information to cover feral cats and chickens.

Member Amato asked if the list of animals could be incorporated by reference in another document rather than the actual ordinance. Solicitor Gifford said that it is possible. Manager Hart said we could have a referred to document "as advertised". Solicitor Gifford said it would actually be "published" every year. The most recent list would have to be published every year.

Member Amato said some residents have contacted him about wild dogs and asked if the definition of feral could be generic. He asked if we could put in the definition of a "feral" or stray animal and will we have another chance to review the ordinance. Solicitor Gifford said the first step is for Council to review it. He said at the next meeting there could be more comments or suggestions then Council can review it again.

Member Amato said there is nothing in the ordinance about inspections, e.g. chicken coop, maintenance, size, etc. Solicitor Gifford said the animal control officer would be responsible for the inspections.

Member Sando said Section 13 through 25 is something that we do not need. He feels that we do not want to get into having an animal control officer, inspections and fees. He thinks it should be generic enough that if something is an issue we can deal with it. He believes it will not get policed and reviewed every year. Solicitor Gifford suggested that less is more; he kept everything in from the three sample ordinances and incorporated them into one. Solicitor Gifford believes that it is up to Borough Council to make that determination.

Manager Hart said we need direction on the number of chickens that can be kept. She asked how we would word the ordinance that chickens must be well maintained and a certain number is allowed. Solicitor Gifford said that is under Section 90-16.

Member Amato said you could use generic terms that would cover those types of things. He said his concern is that someone will try to break the rule and then you have to deal with it. Solicitor Gifford said Section 90-16 states the number of chickens based on acreage. He wants Council to tell him what to do.

Vice President Cherry said he is concerned that if a number is not specified, then someone will go beyond the number the Borough wants to allow. A discussion ensued regarding the restriction on the number of animals, barking dogs, removal of animal control officer and Borough Council. Solicitor Gifford said much of the information included can be removed and at the next meeting Council can make more comments.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the definition of a domesticated and non-domesticated animal was meant to include birds, reptiles and fish. Solicitor Gifford responded yes. Mr. Berenson asked about the people who put up bird feeders, how you can control them. Solicitor Gifford said if someone put out something that would attract Canadian Geese under 90-26 the Borough could do something about it.

Manager Hart said typically, these items come about because someone complained. She said if someone has a complaint about a neighbor who has six chickens on his back porch and they live in a row home; the Borough needs to be able to do something.

Solicitor Gifford said there are two reasons for looking at the ordinance and they are the number of chickens and feral cats. He said we need some of these sections.

Consideration: HARB – Certificate(s) of Appropriateness, 213 School Street and 118 Shearer Street

Manager Hart said the application for 213 School Street was expedited because they had a leak. She said they are replacing the roof with architectural shingles and HARB has approved it as presented.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 213 School Street. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Manager Hart said they are replacing the existing porch columns at 118 Shearer Street. HARB approved the application as presented.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 118 Shearer Street. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Disbursement - \$128,397.98

Manager Hart gave an overview of the bills to include: PECO, electricity; Home Depot Credit Services, work the Chief and Joe did downstairs; Aflac; Verizon Wireless, amount is more because County is no longer paying for the modem; PMRS, pension; Fire Relief is a pass through; \$65,757.00 to BB&T for the police pension 2015 MMO.

Manager Hart gave a report on the meeting with the Police Pension Committee and BB&T, the plan administrators, and Sterling Advisers. The administrative fees were questioned because they were high and it was realized that they were charging more than they should have. They are going to rectify the issue.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if there was any legal action that can be taken as a result of the fees being more than they should have been. Manager Hart said there will be no action taken because they will be returning the money.

Vice President Cherry asked if the Valley Power bill was for replacement of the existing lumens or an LED replacement kit. Manager Hart said this was for an LED light at Main and Shearer Street. A discussion ensued regarding the repair of street lights and the feasibility of obtaining grants. Manager Hart said there may be some grants.

Member Scott made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$128,397.98. Member Amato seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval Minutes, June 28, 2016

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of June 28, 2016. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Reports

Manager Hart said there is one application pending and that is for 401 E. Walnut Street. The Planning Commission and Council did not find in her favor. Manager Hart said the applicant does not want to be on the agenda for the November zoning hearing because she will be out of the country.

Manager Hart said the application for 402 E. Walnut Street is not being processed because no plot plan or measurements were provided.

OLD BUSINESS – Manager Hart reported that the Steering Committee meeting is after the Planning Commission meeting next month. In November, we will be discussing housing. She said HARB is hosting a seminar on how to repair old windows on October 27, 2016.

Chief Fantry spoke about the drug take back initiative and coffee with a cop. He said he had conversations with several residents. He reported that he collected just under 14 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs in a one day event and there was just over 6 pounds in the med box in the hallway. He said it was a success.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Solicitor Gifford said he had one matter for executive session involving real estate. He reported that no action was taken after the executive session from the last meeting. He said he had a brief update regarding the real estate matter for executive session this evening.

Mayor D’Angelo said St. Rose of Lima celebrated their 50th anniversary and he is preparing a proclamation congratulating them on their anniversary. He reminded everyone about the upcoming election and the importance of voting.

Member Scott said she saw “We Support Our Police” signs, and she would like to have one on her lawn. Vice President Cherry said there is a local company, Traditional Sign Company, who was selling them at Community Day.

Member Amato said he saw the water authority flushing out hydrants and the worker said there was dirt in the system. He asked the mayor if he knew anything about it, since he is on the NWWA board. Mayor D’Angelo said he did not know anything about it.

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

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager