

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PA

MEETING: September 13, 2016 7:00 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER by President McDonald.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by President McDonald.

Public Comment

Ed Neiderhiser, 508 E. Montgomery Avenue, thanked Council for addressing the concerns of the hearing impaired.

Loretta Weigner, 430 Shearer Street, said she is enjoying the Neighborhood Pace Car program. Manager Hart said six pace car magnets have been distributed. They take an oath that they will obey the speed limit. She said evidently, we participated in a pace car program twenty years ago, because our gateway signs say "Drive at 25". She said this is a county wide effort.

Discussion: Comcast Franchise Agreement

Manager Hart said we entered into a contract with Comcast and Verizon over ten years ago. She said the Verizon contract expires in 2018 and Comcast expired this year. She said she and Solicitor Gifford went over the contract with a Comcast representative. Manager Hart said Member Amato sent in a list of questions and she can answer some of them but others she is referring to the solicitor.

Solicitor Gifford spoke about the FCC 1992 Cable Act. A discussion ensued regarding the terms of the contract and Member Amato's questions regarding tier costs, term of contract and property damage.

Member Davis said in the contract public buildings get free cable and he asked if the library and fire house are considered public buildings. He said if they have cable maybe we could lower their costs. Solicitor Gifford said we do not have the authority to ask for that. He said we got everything that we could get. Member Davis voiced his concern that in ten years the cable box will disappear and the fees will diminish.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes June 14, 2016

Member Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2016. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: One Year Contract for Social Media Service

Manager Hart said some of the concerns that came up at the last meeting have been addressed. The proposal was made into a contract for a one year term.

Member Scott asked where the money would come from. Manager Hart said possibly out of the Recycling Fund or add it to a line item in General Fund.

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve a one year contract with Dan Natale for Social Media Service. Member Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Employees' Pension

Manager Hart said Act 205 of 1984 requires us to make a minimum contribution to the employees' pension plan. She said currently we have two pension plans, one for the police (uniformed) and one for the other full time employees (non-uniformed). The non-uniformed plan is with PMRS and the uniformed is with Sterling Advisors, which just merged with BB&T. Manager Hart explained how the amount of the MMO is calculated.

Member Sando asked about the administrative expenses and the funding adjustment. Manager Hart said under the previous manager, Dan DeMeno, the pension committee decided to liquidate from mutual funds to independent funds and they charge 1½% on the funds although they receive 3 to 4 % return, hence they are meeting on Thursday. She said the police approve who is on the Pension Committee and it is important for them to understand. She said the fees were for converting from mutual to independent funds and the funding adjustment because they used a number from 2014.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if other than the amount on line 9 are all the others amounts the Borough's responsibility to pay. Manager Hart said the fund pays the administrative fees and the employees contribute.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation as presented. Member Tarlecki seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Old Business/Committee & Board Reports/Zoning Applications

Manager Hart reviewed some of the outstanding issues regarding 402 E. Walnut Street. She said there is nothing pending in zoning. She reported that Station Place is still in limbo, they have an extension until the middle of October.

OLD BUSINESS – Manager Hart said the newsletter will be delivered to homes next week. She said we have not received funding from the Northern Recycling Commission because the 2014 funding was just released.

Manager Hart said the Parks and Recreation Committee has met and they are sponsoring Soldiers Christmas, which will be on December 4th. She said the committee has asked permission to locate the playground equipment received from St. Rose in Hess Park. She said she has estimates between \$5,500.00-\$6,500.00 to install the equipment and she would like to utilize the funding that is coming in for the installation

Member Tarlecki made a motion to approve the installation of the playground equipment in Hess Park. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Manager Hart said the Station Place agreement is on extension until November 30th.

Member Davis asked about the crosswalk at Center and Walnut Streets. Manager Hart said she spoke to Guidemark and they won't come out unless there is \$1,500.00 to \$1,700.00 worth of work. She said we need to contact Penn DOT because Walnut Street is a state street.

Member Neiderhiser asked about the status of the veteran flags. Manager Hart said they are not forgotten but there are a lot of things to take into consideration.

Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager

Mayor D'Angelo said he was at a family wedding a few weeks ago, and someone said he looks familiar and asked where he lived. He told the person that he lived in North Wales Borough. The person responded you are the mayor; I saw you give your speech on the 4th of July. Mayor D'Angelo commented it pays to be on your best behavior because you never know who will be in the audience.

Member O'Connell said DVRPC has a Safe Routes to Transit Grant, which ties in with our 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He said it would be ideal for the Wawa triangle to have sidewalks to the train station. He said the deadline is October 7, 2016.

Manager Hart said she walked the town with Maggie Dobbs and they looked at the parks, land uses, industrial areas, etc. She said as we work thru the Comprehensive Plan we can do projects if an opportunity arises we can take advantage of it but not this year. She said Montgomery

County Planning Commission has grant writers. Manager Hart said walking through the Borough was eye opening. The infrastructure is not where it should be and we have a lot of work ahead of us.

Member Tarlecki said Pat Graham has taken it upon herself to cleanup Weingartner Park and wants to know when public works can pick up the trash.

Member Sando asked where we are with the domestic animal policy. Manager Hart said she reached out to various municipalities and did not finish compiling the information.

Member Davis asked if there is anything new in public works. Manager Hart said we facilitated a job fair and she posted the opening in the hallway. She said the person running it asked if we had considered using an agency. Manager Hart said she responded no and she may prepare something for Council to consider.

Member Cherry said Hess Park needs attention, there are weeds and dead trees there. He said he would like the work done before putting the playground equipment in there. He thanked the chief for patrolling the park and said positive things are happening. Manager Hart said Maggie Dobbs commented that Hess Park is a nice park. She said a lot of things were discovered for example not all parks are labeled, some have rules posted, some have hours posted, some allow dogs and others do not. Manager Hart said Hess Park is a DCNR funded park and we need to comply with their requirements. The rain gardens are on our MS4 permit and they must be maintained and if they are abandoned they need to be replaced.

Member Cherry said as a certified arborist I am telling you that there are dangerous trees in that park. They can fall at any time. He said he told the landscape architect, who designed the park, that what he was doing was wrong and it would cause problems later. He said now five years later we have problems. Member Cherry said someone did fix the lights but the weeds need to be cut down. He said Mr. Kratowicz has offered to take down a few trees because he needs the firewood.

Manager Hart said Saturday is North Wales Day of Service and anyone who wishes to volunteer can do so. President McDonald said Saint Rose of Lima is hosting the kickoff. Manager Hart said a new LED street light was installed on the 100 block of W. Montgomery Avenue. She said the cost for replacement was about \$543.00 and it was cheaper to replace it than to fix it. A brief discussion ensued about replacing other street lights with LED lights.

Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager