

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
 300 SCHOOL STREET  
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: December 8, 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
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Absent
	James Sando	Present
	Mayor Gregory D'Angelo	Present

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

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

Dennis Miranda, Executive Director of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, spoke about an upcoming seminar on Friday in Lansdale, dealing with storm water management. He also talked about a resolution that he is asking municipalities to participate a stake holder's process, which is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Andrew Geliebter spoke about renting the property at 109 Church Street, but his family decided not to move in because of lead paint issues. There were extensive renovations done to the house and the owner did not handle the lead paint correctly. There are significant health hazards related to lead paint and lead dust. He said there are Federal regulations related to lead paint for all houses built before 1978. Mr. Geliebter said his goal is to make the Borough aware of the issue and possibly enact an ordinance related to lead paint. Mr. Geliebter said he notified the EPA and they have initiated an investigation.

Member O'Connell asked if covering the surfaces with fresh paint would contain the lead. Mr. Geliebter replied that painting over it would contain the lead but because of the renovations the dust is still in the home.

Joanne Matthews, 421 Shearer Street, said there are many rentals in the Borough that may not be abiding by the lead paint guidelines.

Solicitor Gifford said Federal and State law covers lead paint issues and if the Borough decided to enact an ordinance, the Borough would have to hire certified inspectors and then there would be liability issues for the Borough.

Member Cherry asked if the property had permits for the renovations. Manager Hart said she did not have an answer to that question.

### **Presentation: Audio Visual System**

Julius Walker, Vice President of NU Millennium Audio Visual Systems, Inc., reviewed his proposal for the audio visual system. Mr. Walker spoke about adding 12 speakers in the ceiling to push the audio downward. He also talked about wireless microphones and different components of the system that can be added in the future.

Member Sando asked about “Work by Others” on page 7 of the proposal and what that means. Mr. Walker said there may be some electrical work he cannot do.

Member Scott asked if all the items in the proposal are necessary. Mr. Walker said that there are options. Member Sando asked if 4 microphones were enough. Mr. Walker said that more microphones may be needed in the future.

Member O’Donnell asked why there are 12 speakers in the proposal. Mr. Walker said that it would make it easier for everyone to hear. Member O’Donnell asked about a microphone for members of the audience. Mr. Walker said the microphones were for Council but you could put one on a stand for audience use.

President McDonald asked about recording the meeting and what would be needed to accomplish this. Mr. Walker said the device needed to record was not included but it could be added.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the layout of the room would affect where the speakers are located. Mr. Walker said the 12 speakers would cover the room regardless of the layout.

Sal Amato, 201 S. Tenth Street, asked if hanging microphones would be more beneficial. Mr. Walker said that hanging microphones are difficult with a ceiling below 16 feet.

Member Cherry said he thinks the Borough should look into the processor that record.

Member Neiderhiser asked if hearing people who face a different direction would be a problem. Mr. Walker said the microphones pick up from the side too.

President McDonald asked Mr. Walker if our room was laid out correctly and Mr. Walker said that it was a normal set up.

Member Scott asked about the system affecting hearing aids and Mr. Walker said that it

would not have a negative impact on people with hearing aids.

Member Sando asked if the goose neck microphones have on/off switches. Mr. Walker said that they would.

Manager Hart asked Mr. Walker if a local municipality has a system that we could see and test. Mr. Walker said they would accommodate the area where Sally sits.

### **Discussion: 2016 Budget**

Manager Hart presented a power point overview of the 2016 budget. The revenue sources and operating expenses were reviewed. Manager Hart spoke about a six step process to establish a budget; strategic planning, draft goals, adoption of goals, preparation of the budget, adopting the budget, and working to achieve our goals. Manager Hart summarized the projected income and expenses for 2016.

Member O'Connell asked where the apartment rental registrations are listed. Manager Hart said they are listed under Use and Occupancy Permits.

Member Sando asked why our proposed budget for the solicitor is less than what our expenses are for this year. Manager Hart responded that she took an average over the last three years.

Member Cherry said he thought \$12,261.00 was low for building permits considering the building that is going on. Manager Hart said that she will check to make sure permit fees are categorized correctly.

Member Scott mentioned that the electrical permits seemed high and she wanted to know if they were accurate. Manager Hart said she will recalculate the line item to make sure it is correct and adjust accordingly if necessary.

Member Cherry asked about miscellaneous revenue. Manager Hart said that Safe Routes to School money was put into that category.

While reviewing the Street Light Fund, Manager Hart told everyone that we pay for each street light whether the bulb is working or not.

Member Sando suggested putting the money in the Weingartner Park Fund into a laddered cycle of CD's with access to the money depending on the length of the CD. Manager Hart said that she would look into doing this with some reserved funds also.

In the Capital Equipment Fund, Member Cherry asked about the proposed reduction in capital expenditures compared to this year. Manager Hart explained that we elected not order a new dump truck so it is less.

Manager Hart explained what the capital expenses proposed for 2016 will be and said her goal was to keep the Reserve Fund at \$3,000,000.00. However, Council could elect to put more funds

in the capital budget. Member Scott asked for Manager Hart's recommendation and Manager Hart said she would not recommend going over capital expenditures of \$100,000.00 until she has a better understanding of the budget.

Manager Hart reviewed the salaries of the public works employees and she did a quick analysis of full time versus part time public works employees. A brief discussion ensued regarding the advantage of having three part time public works employees compared to one full time and one part time public works employee.

President McDonald asked if Triad was in the proposed budget. Manager Hart said that their program was considered in the budget.

Manager Hart asked for clarification on: increasing the solicitor to \$45,000.00; keeping capital budgeted items at \$65,000.00; how public works will be structured; and will salaries be increased 2% for all non-contractual salaries?

Council agreed to give all employees a 2% increase; to fund \$50,000.00 to the Capital Improvement Fund, which may be used for Triad and possibly the audio enhancement program for Council chambers; to fund \$65,000.00 for capital expenditures; and to increase the solicitor's expense to \$45,000.00.

President McDonald reminded everyone that they have to keep an open mind in terms of increasing revenue in the future.

Solicitor Gifford reminded Council that they must vote on the budget at the next meeting and that the millage has already been advertised.

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

Manager Hart said there are no zoning applications.

Mel Magee, 511 E. Montgomery Avenue, reported that 6 people now live in the Trego house. Ms. Magee was told to call the police if there are issues related to the property in terms of noise, etc. Solicitor Gifford said that Council will be talking about the property in executive session.

Joanne Matthews announced there is an opening on the History Commission because Manager Hart is no longer on the commission.

### **Solicitor/Mayor/Council/Manager**

Solicitor Gifford reported that there will be a short executive session and no action will be taken.

Member Scott thanked everyone for decorating the Christmas tree. She also thanked the manager for doing the budget.

Member Redstreak reminded everyone that they will be meeting again next week.

Member Cherry mentioned that the Mayor read “The Night Before Christmas” at the tree lighting festivities.

Maria Sweeney, 330 W. Walnut Street, said she finally received an email communication from the Borough and she thanked the Borough for fixing some of the issues with the website.

Manager Hart announced that the e-mail blast on the website has been fixed. She reported that the Parks and Recreation survey is out and we are waiting for returns. Also, people have been calling about the standing committee related to TRIAD. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact the Borough office and I will add your name to the list.

Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member O’Connell seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christine A. Hart  
Borough Manager