

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
 300 SCHOOL STREET  
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: April 28, 2026, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Tarlecki at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Candace Anderson	Present
	Melanie Catanese	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Present
	Alexander Groce	Present
	Anji Fazio	Absent
	Star Little	Present
	Susan Manning	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Borough Solicitor, Gregory Gifford, Chief of Police, David Erenius, Assistant Borough Manager, Danielle Ervin, and Public Works Crew Leader Thomas O'Mara.

Manager Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

Chris Toto, 416 Smith Street, asked the Council to consider adopting a new ordinance, if one didn't already exist, to regulate signs and flags displayed on lawns in the Borough. He submitted Council photos of houses, one of which has approximately 20 signs on the lawn, and another displaying a flag containing a message with an expletive. He felt that in one case, the number of signs on the lawn is excessive. In the other case, there's an obscenity displayed on the flag, which is visible from the street, which he finds to be inappropriate, especially for children in the neighborhood. Mr. Toto went on to request an ordinance that would limit signs or flags to a certain number — he suggested no more than four, along with size limits, and a time limit of 90 days for displaying a sign, since he suspects some have been displayed since around the November 2024 election. Lastly, he requested a prohibition against profanity on the signs or flags visible to the public.

Council President Mark Tarlecki thanked Mr. Toto for the comment and deferred to Solicitor Gifford for his input. Mr. Gifford responded that any such discussion would need to tread carefully and that while the Borough does have ordinances currently on the books with regard to certain signage, any restrictions on political speech may be vulnerable to challenge on First Amendment grounds. He added that there are certain stances that are dictated by federal and state laws, but that it was something that could be looked into.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, stated that he is adamantly opposed to strengthening any of the rules or regulations currently in place to prohibit people from putting up signs, in general. He continued that since it was on their property, they should be able to do what they want, with certain exceptions that are probably already on the books.

President Tarlecki replied that he appreciated the feedback from both residents.

Dan Levy, 213 Church Street, thanked Council and Manager Hart for their help and cooperation while setting up the North Wales Farmers Market. He added that the market will run from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Caitlin Coppick, 524 Sumneytown Pike, added that the goal is to make the event family-friendly and that there will also be live music and activities.

**Presentation: DCED 2025 Annual Audit Report**

Chris Herr, Partner, Maillie, started the discussion by stating that the audit opinion was a qualified adverse opinion, which is common with many municipalities that present their financials in this format. The difference is that with this format, there is no tracking of capital assets (roads, vehicles, infrastructure items, etc.), and because the reporting is done on a specialized state accounting format and not GAAP. He further added that the numbers are great. He had no scope limitations, no findings for non-compliance, and the internal controls are good. He only found five closing entries which, in his experience, is phenomenal. In addition, Mr. Herr touched upon the outcome of police and non-uniform audits, and informed Council that both are fully funded.

President Tarlecki pointed out that the continued clean audits are attributed to Manager Hart's incredible job and financial background, stating she is the strongest financial manager the Borough has had.

**Consideration: Appointment to Human Relations Commission, term ending 12/31/2026**

Kathleen Kiely, 308 Windsor Way, introduced herself and explained her background and interest in joining the Commission.

Member Catanese made a motion to Approve the Appointment of Kathleen Kiely to the Human Relations Commission, term ending 12/31/2026. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Consideration: Appointment to the Shade Tree Commission, term ending 12/31/2030**

Erin Sweeney, 235 S. Ninth Street., introduced herself and summarized her reason for wanting to be appointed.

Member Manning made a motion to Approve the appointment of Erin Sweeney to the Shade Tree Commission, term ending 12/31/2030. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Discussion: Review and Adoption of SALDO Ordinance and Public Hearing Process**

Solicitor Gifford stated that every municipality is required to have a Subdivision and Land Development ordinance. It is being presented for open comment. Manager Hart added that SALDO will be open to public comment and that notice will be sent for a public hearing.

Member Collins asked for a tentative time of the hearing, to which Manager Hart responded that it has to be advertised for at least no less than 30 days, with two advertisements, for the public hearing

**Consideration: Appoint Alex Groce as PSAB 2026 Voting Delegate**

Manager Hart informed Council that Vice President Groce will be attending PSAB 2026, as he is in the process of achieving his Certified Borough Official credential. President Tarlecki recommended Vice President Groce be appointed as PSAB 2026 Voting Delegate.

Member Collins made a motion to Approve the appointment of Alex Groce as PSAB 2026 Voting Delegate. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Consideration: Approval of Center Street Sidewalk Extension Bid Award**

Manager Hart explained that the grant will fund the installation of a connecting sidewalk from Washington Street to Center Street. This is a continuation of the Safe Routes to School and Center Street Gateway Project. This will provide 100% sidewalk connectivity from Upper Gwynedd Township into the Borough of North Wales, allowing people to safely walk to Nor-Gwyn Pool. She further explained that this has been a six-year project. The project is funded through a federal grant by PennDOT; therefore they will appoint the project inspector rather than Bowman, the Borough's current engineer. In addition, Marino Corporation, which is familiar with North Wales and previously served as the contractor for the Safe Routes to School project, was approved as the low bidder in the amount of \$542,000. Manager Hart also reviewed the projected costs and noted that sufficient funds are available to cover the project.

Member Catanese made a motion to Approve the Center Street Sidewalk Extension Bid Award. Member Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Consideration: Approval of Minutes: April 14, 2026**

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve the Minutes from April 14, 2026. Member Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Consideration: Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness – 125 S. Main Street**

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness – 125 S. Main Street. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Consideration: Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness – 223 S. Main Street**

Member Catanese made a motion to Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness – 223 S. Main Street. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Consideration: Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness – 211 W. Walnut Street**

Member Catanese made a motion to Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness – 211 W. Walnut Street. Member Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Consideration: Approval of Disbursements – \$152,312.84**

Vice President Groce made a motion to Approve Disbursements of \$152,312.84. Member Collins seconded the motion.

Manager Hart explained that the buildings and facilities tend to have a lot of annual inspections around this time of year, as well as the high energy costs in the first quarter, which all contribute to the high number of disbursements for this meeting.

Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

**Old Business / New Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications**

There was no Old Business.

Member Anderson asked if Council discussed the use of solar panels on businesses, to which President Tarlecki responded that it should be put on a future agenda.

Manager Hart pointed out the approved minutes from the Planning Commission and Shade Tree Commission.

There were no Zoning applications.

**Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Chief / Public Works / Manager**

Solicitor Gifford had no comment.

Mayor McDevitt gave a huge thank you to everyone who made the Earth Day Extravaganza a success. He used the day to drop off some old tires and engine oil at Hink's. He emphasized that these events are great ways to keep our community and our environment cleaner than they would otherwise be. He also shared a reminder that folks need to register to vote for the primaries by May 4th for the election on May 19th. All the information you need is at [vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov).

Member Anderson thanked the Borough for the great Earth Day event. She was amazed at how much was collected and how such a small community put together such a large event.

Member Catanese mentioned that a recent TV documentary aired entitled “Nightmare in North Wales” about a murder that occurred in Montgomery Township. She added that aerial and local footage of the Borough was shown throughout the show. She wanted to point out that, despite the title, the murder did not occur in the Borough but rather in Montgomery Township. She also thanked the new HRC member for joining the Commission and reminded everyone that there was still one position open. She also shared that she had an opportunity to attend Senator Pennycuik’s event, which was very informative regarding the process around grant awards.

Member Neiderhiser thanked the two individuals who recently joined the two commissions.

Member Little participated in a project at North Wales Elementary for Earth Day and asked if anyone had any pictures from prior years of the school’s garden, to let her know.

Vice President Groce welcomed the two new commission members and thanked Council for voting him as the Delegate for PSAB.

President Tarlecki reported that he and Member Little attended the Montgomery County Association of Boroughs Dinner during which information on America250 was presented. It was mentioned that North Wales will have someone read the Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Police Chief had nothing to report.

Public Works Crew Leader, Tom O’Mara presented the Public Works report. Member Catanese asked about the one activity – “Checked and maintained traps for sick wildlife” – for further clarification. Mr. O’Mara responded that this is not something that is typically done, but was an isolated attempt to trap a fox in the residential area thought to have had mange.

Manager Hart reported that the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center was nominated for the Governor’s Award, for which the Borough received Honorable Mention. She also mentioned there will be a joint public presentation on a regional fire study with Upper Gwynedd Township, Lower Gwynedd Township, and Ambler Borough on May 28<sup>th</sup> at Gwynedd Mercy University. The meeting will be posted in all four municipalities, on social media, and perhaps covered by the press. It is not a voting meeting, so there will be no formal advertisement. She also reminded everyone about the upcoming puppet show on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and mentioned that three more shows will be held from now until December at NWACC. Additionally, on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Bethlehem Quintet will be performing. On Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Parks and Recreation will be having their Community Garden Spring Planting Event.

**Adjournment**

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Manning seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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