

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: August 22, 2023, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Present
	Anji Fazio	Present
	Alexander Groce	Present
	Brittany Kohler	Present, participated remotely
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present, participated remotely
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Gregory R. Gifford, Esq., Borough Solicitor, Alex Turock, Assistant Borough Manager, and David Erenius, Chief of Police.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked for clarification regarding the Planning Commission sending the proposed zoning changes to Borough Council. Manager Hart confirmed that the Planning Commission did vote to send the proposal to Borough Council and continue the process. Manager Hart also confirmed that Council approved the changes being advertised and the public hearing will be held on September 12, 2023.

Consideration: Authorization to Open and Maintain Bank Accounts with Univest Bank and Trust Co.

Manager Hart commented that we are looking to move our day-to-day accounts from Truist to Univest. Member Collins asked why we would change. Manager Hart answered that Univest has a better online banking platform, better rates, and customer service. Member McClure commented that she personally feels that Univest has great customer service.

Member McClure made a motion to Authorize Opening and Maintaining Bank Accounts with Univest Bank and Trust Co. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passes 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of a Waiver of Building Permit Fees for the Renovation Project at 125 N. Main Street – North Wales Arts and Cultural Center

Manager Hart asked Council to approve a waiver of the building permit fees in the amount of \$33,195 for the renovations at 125 N. Main Street. She commented there are 2 funding sources for the renovations but neither funding source will reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for administration processing permits. President Amato also commented on the additional process of tracking the fees due to grant requirements. Member Collins asked what the fees are comprised of. Manager Hart responded that it is a combination of the building, electrical, plumbing permits paid to the Borough. Assistant Manager Turock confirmed the permits are Building, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and an Alarm Update. Manager Hart confirmed there would not be a waiver of the applicable State Fees.

Member McClure made a motion to Approve a Waiver of Building Permit Fees for the Renovation Project at 125 N. Main Street – North Wales Arts and Cultural Center. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$101,098.75

Manager Hart reviewed the list of bills. President Amato asked which payment was for the Zoning Officer. Manager Hart responded it may be the \$75 bill but would investigate it.

Member Fazio made a motion to approve August disbursements in the amount of \$101,098.75. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion approved 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: August 8, 2023

Member McClure made a motion to approve the minutes from August 8, 2023. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart reviewed current vacancies on the Boards and Commissions. Manager Hart also reminded residents that the public hearing for the proposed zoning ordinance changes would be on September 12, 2023, prior to the Borough Council meeting and that assuming everything moves forward, Council would vote on approving the amendment to be effective October 1, 2023.

Manager Hart commented that as part of the Comprehensive Plan, the next phase would be possible expansion of the Historic Architectural Review District. Manager Hart, Assistant Manager Turock, and President Amato have met with Ray Tschoepe, Chair of the Historic Architectural Review Board and a representative from the State who works for the Historic Division of the State of Pennsylvania. They did a walk through of the District and previously proposed areas that are currently not in the District. Manager Hart confirmed there is a process of making the changes, and that HARB would make recommendations to Council, and that residents that would be affected would be contacted. Mr. Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked when residents would be contacted as part of the process. Manager Hart confirmed they

would be contacted before any changes are made. Mr. Berenson asked for clarification on the boundaries regarding Washington Avenue. Manager Hart confirmed that they looked at encompassing going up to Washington Avenue, but only encompassing some corner properties that have historic value. Mr. Berenson commented that he thought the map boundaries were a little confusing. Manager Hart commented that this was very preliminary and that nothing has been decided yet and the residents' comments would be very important moving forward. Member McClure commented that in regard to the proposed Zoning changes, many people said they did not know about the changes and that this is the start of a conversation that she hoped residents would attend the meetings and be more aware of. Manager Hart confirmed that HARB only weighs in on structural additions or changes on a front facing façade. Ronald Little, 118 School Street asked if School Street was included. Manager Hart confirmed School Street is already included in the HARB district.

Manager Hart commented there are no Committee and Board Reports at this time. President Amato commented that he, Member Tarlecki, and Member McClure are working on a new manual regarding Sub-Committees and rethinking how the Safety Committee is managed.

Manager Hart confirmed no Zoning Applications at this time.

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

Solicitor Gifford commented there will be 2 short matters for executive session, one regarding personnel and one regarding potential litigation. There is no anticipated action going to be taken.

Mayor McDevitt remarked that the donation funds from Donna Mengel in honor of former Council Member Daniel O'Connell will be used to purchase two portable speed display devices to give Borough Police more tools to address speeding in the Borough. He thanked Donna Mengel and the O'Connell family for making this possible.

Mayor McDevitt reminded residents that school will start in 7 days and to drive safely.

Mayor McDevitt remarked that the district received funding from the State to implement a Disability Inclusive curriculum. He testified last year in front of the PA House Committee on Special Education and is thrilled to see it benefiting the district.

Member Fazio asked Manager Hart about the potholes on Walnut Street. Manager Hart confirmed they are sunken manhole covers and that she called the Water Authority regarding them. She confirmed they temporarily sealed them because they need a riser to make proper repairs, which are unavailable at the present time.

Manager Hart confirmed that the Borough hired a full time Public Works Supervisor, Benjamin Raybold. He will be attending meetings in 2024, but currently has other obligations. She also confirmed they hired a part-time laborer, as well.

Manager Hart informed Council that the Montgomery County Borough's Association is starting meetings again, and the Annual Dinner is open to all Council members, residents, and volunteers. The dinner will be hosted at the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company on September

28, 2023, and Commissioner Cook from the State Fire Commission Office will be a guest speaker. The Cost is \$10 per person at the door.

Member Kohler wished everyone in the district a happy, healthy, safe, and fun upcoming school year.

Manager Hart reminded Council and residents about the upcoming Community Day and that we are up to 95 Vendors. She also confirmed we have 235 residents signed up for Savvy Citizen. She also confirmed the newsletter will be on its way to residents prior to Community Day.

Adjournment

Member McClure made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager