

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: August 27, 2024, 7:01 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
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, Alex Turock, Assistant Manager, and David Erenius, Chief of Police, and Braeden Bussman, Junior Council Person

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation: Proposed Eagle Scout Project – Troop 84

Manager Hart introduced Isaac Olson from Troop 84.

Isaac presented an Eagle Scout project which would identify and catalog the Shade Trees in Ward One of the Borough then distribute educational materials about the importance of Shade Trees to the identified properties. Isaac will call on his fellow scouts to help him walk Ward One, measuring the distance of trees from the road and log the trees on each property. They will also gather again to distribute the educational materials.

Members of Council expressed their gratitude for providing this service to the Borough and offered their assistance if needed.

President Amato asked if this project would include identifying the species of the tree. Isaac said the intention of this project is just to identify how many trees are on each property. Manager Hart explained that it could be a future project to identify species of trees.

Vice President Tarlecki asked what Isaac's timeline would be to complete this. Isaac responded that it will be completed by the end of October.

Presentation: Recognition of Junior Council Person for Six Months of Service

President Amato recognized Junior Council Person Braeden Bussman for his participation at an admirable level at Council meetings over the last six months. He expressed his appreciation on behalf of Borough Council and his hope that this program has encouraged future participation in community events, public service, and local politics.

Consideration: Consideration: Approval of Lease Agreement – 125 N. Main Street

Solicitor Gifford introduced the lease agreement reminding Council that it was discussed and reviewed in the executive session last meeting after which Council reconvened to ask the Solicitor to move forward with creating the final lease agreement.

Member McClure made a motion to Approve the Lease Agreement for 125 N. Main Street. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Exclusive Catering and Event Planning Agreement - NWACC

Manager Hart explained that the Council subcommittee and Assistant Manager Turock have been working on establishing the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center. One piece of that is identifying potential exclusive caterers to manage events in the banquet hall portion of the Center. This agreement would establish that partnership between the Borough and All About Catering (AAC).

Member Collins asked if this caterer would be responsible for advertising and soliciting clients. Manager Hart explained that AAC does this in other venues in the region and we would be added to their list of venues. They would handle booking and managing events like weddings, birthday parties, showers, luncheons, etc.

Vice President Tarlecki asked if the trash removal section of the agreement would include recycling. Manager Hart explained that we would have a trash and recycling receptacle on site and that the caterer would be required to place waste in those designated receptacles.

Member McClure stated that she was recently at an event catered by this company and thought it ran very smoothly and the food was excellent.

President Amato asked if we have sufficient furnishings for the banquet hall to be able to provide them per the agreement. Manager Hart responded that the Borough has submitted a grant application for new furniture. She explained that typically venues provide the basics like tables and chairs.

Member Kohler made a motion to Approve the Exclusive Catering and Event Planning Agreement. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of the Certified Local Government Agreement 2025

Manager Hart explained that this five-year contract allows us to apply for and receive grants from the state as a Certified Local Government. We are one of 49 certified local governments in PA. The contract up for approval tonight is a renewal of the previous five-year agreement.

Member McClure made a motion to Approve the Certified Local Government Agreement 2025. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$172,859.39

Manager Hart explained that an insurance bill came in today and was added to the bills list to avoid consequences for late payment. The new bills list total is \$173,327.40.

Manager Hart also explained that the bills list is high because \$100,000 of this list is a reinvestment of a CD which had matured and was moved to Victory Bank due to the great rate they offered.

President Amato asked what the bill for iPromoteU was for. Manager Hart explained that new training uniforms were purchased for staff, public works, and the Chief.

Member McClure made a motion to pay the bills. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: August 13th, 2024

Member McClure made a motion to Approve the Minutes of August 13th, 2024. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports/ Zoning Applications/Parking Lot

Manager Hart encouraged the community to complete the Summer Parks Tour promoted by the Parks and Recreation Board.

Manager Hart announced two zoning hearing board applications which will be held on October 1st, 2024. 708 E. Montgomery Avenue will be seeking a special exception for a detached garage and 690 E. Walnut Street will be seeking a variance to install a freestanding sign.

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

Mayor McDevitt stated that he had the pleasure of attending HealthSpark's event focusing on Building Public Will for Housing Solutions event last week. They pulled together state, county, and local elected officials together with the community organizations that are focusing on the basic needs of housing in our communities.

He also offered congratulations as well to the amazing teams behind Main Street North Wales and the Elmwood Park Zoo's Centennial Prowl. Both had great openings here in the Borough celebrating our community!

He also reminded everyone that tomorrow is the first day of school for North Penn School District and North Wales Elementary School and asked that residents drive safely and give the kids extra space and extra grace when they're on their way to school.

Member Whelan asked the community to beware of buses and stop appropriately for the buses. She noted multiple instances of witnessing drivers fly by buses with their stop arm out.

Member Kohler wished the teachers and students good luck as school is starting this week.

Member McClure and President Amato expressed their joy in seeing young people participating in Council meetings and serving the community.

Chief Erenius explained that this is the first year North Penn School District will be utilizing cameras on buses to capture violations of drivers passing buses with stop arms out. The police department reviews the video to determine if it is an accurate violation or an error, then, once approved by an officer, a violation is mailed to the owner of the car which assesses a penalty.

Manager Hart reminded residents that weeds growing in the curb and sidewalk are to be cleared by the property owner. Public Works will be out giving friendly reminders to clear the weeds from the curbs and sidewalks.

Manager Hart presented a Letter of Support for Montgomery Township and VMSC's joint application for a Safe Streets for All grant. She also presented the schedule of events upcoming at the North Wales Library. She shared the invitation for the Montgomery County Borough's Association dinner to be held on September 26, 2024.

Manager Hart also encouraged community members to take the Comprehensive Plan Audit survey which allows community members to share their opinions on the prioritization of projects and goals in the Borough's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The survey can be found on the Borough Website and was sent out through Savvy Citizen and the Fall newsletter.

Adjournment

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager