

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
 300 SCHOOL STREET  
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: December 10, 2024, 7:02 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	Remote
	Wendy McClure	Absent
	Sally Neiderhiser	Absent
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Greg Gifford, Borough Solicitor, David Erenius, Chief of Police, and Braeden Bussman, Junior Council Person.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

Erin Thompson from North Wales Area Library summarized the success of the library's Santa and Mrs. Claus event at the library.

### **Consideration: Approval of Escrow Release #1 – 515 E. Prospect Ave.**

Assistant Manager Turock reviewed the release letter from the Borough Engineer.

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve Escrow Release #1 – 515 E. Prospect Ave. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Tax Collector Agreement**

Assistant Manager Turock explained that this is an agreement to codify the processes that the tax collector and Borough must follow with regard to collection, turnover, and record keeping.

Member Groce made a motion to Approve the Tax Collector Agreement. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Approval of Employee Handbook Amendments**

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the Employee Handbook Amendments. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Adoption of 2025 Fee Schedule**

Assistant Manager Turock highlighted the addition of the rental fees for the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center to prepare for its opening in 2025.

Member Fazio asked how the rental fees were determined. Assistant Manager Turock explained that the fees were derived from conversations with the caterer, review of numerous comparable sites, and review of the estimated expenses the Borough will incur from the use of the space.

President Amato pointed out that the fee schedule is approved each year and thus these fees can be reviewed after a year of operation and adjusted accordingly next year.

Member Fazio made a motion to Adopt the 2025 Fee Schedule. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Approval of Advertisement of 2025 Meeting Schedules**

Member Groce made a motion to Approve the Advertisement of the 2025 Meeting Schedules. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Approval of 2025 Holiday Schedule**

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule. Member Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Discussion: 2025 Boards and Commissions Openings**

Assistant Manager Turock reviewed the list of terms expiring and current vacancies on the Borough's boards and commissions. He also explained the process that will be followed to notify people of their expiring terms and accept letters for reappointment or new appointments.

Member Collins asked what the policy is on Council members serving on Boards and Commissions. Assistant Manager Turock explained that it depends on the board or commission as some have restrictions that prohibit Council members while others limit the number of Council members.

### **Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$102,365.87**

Assistant Manager Turock reviewed the bills noting that the escrow release is a large portion of the disbursements.

Member Whelan made a motion to Approve Disbursements of \$102,365.87. Member Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Approval of Minutes: November 26, 2024**

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the Minutes of November 26th, 2024. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Cancellation of Borough Council Meeting – December 17, 2024**

Member Whelan made a motion to Cancel the Borough Council Meeting of December 17, 2024. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

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

There were no committee and board reports or zoning applications. President Amato stated that the parking lot will be reviewed in January.

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

Solicitor Gifford celebrated longtime resident Herb Kavash's dedication to helping community members.

Mayor McDevitt expressed his condolences to Member Neiderhiser and her family in the wake of Herb Kavash's passing.

He recognized another amazing Tree Lighting event hosted by the North Wales Community Project Alliance. As done in years past, he read "The Night Before Christmas" in American Sign Language and was accompanied this year by Mr. Shawn Nichols from Action Karate. Action Karate is a proud member of Main Street North Wales and they were happy to have him and Ms. Felicia represent them!

He had the pleasure and privilege of joining North Wales Baptist Church and Pastor Rodney Ragwan as they kicked off a weekly lunch for people in our community who may need some food or some company or both. A huge thank you to the volunteers at the Church who graced them with a delicious lunch last week.

Before Halloween, North Wales Borough was one of the first municipalities to enact a burn ban - recognizing the significant dryness and drought. Since that time, Montgomery County also instituted a 30-day ban on November 14<sup>th</sup> which supersedes the Borough's ban. With all of the recent rain, we expect the County's burn ban to end on December 16<sup>th</sup> as well and will announce accordingly.

As this will be the last meeting of the year, he expressed his fondest wishes to all for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and looks forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Junior Council Member Bussman asked the community to keep all of the people serving our country abroad in their minds during this holiday season.

Members of Council wished the community Happy Holidays and a safe and happy New Year.

Member Fazio recognized the wonderful turnout of the community for the annual tree lighting.

Vice President Tarlecki reviewed Planning Commission's work on the design standards for the rewriting of the SALDO. They expect to have a draft for Council in late spring or early summer of 2025.

Vice President Tarlecki also recognized John Strobel who passed recently and was a dedicated resident of North Wales who served the fire company and the Water Authority board.

Junior Council Member Bussman thanked everyone for allowing him to serve in this role as he just found out that he will be receiving the Weidner University Leadership Award which provides a scholarship and guaranteed admission to the school. He feels his service as a junior council member was a major factor in earning that reward.

Chief Erenius reminded everyone that Shop with a Cop is happening this weekend and anyone who would like to volunteer can come do so.

Assistant Manager Turock reviewed upcoming events at the library. He encouraged residents to complete the Comprehensive Plan Audit Survey prior to the year-end deadline. Finally, he wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and New Year.

### **Adjournment**

Member Fazio made a motion to adjourn. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

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