

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: February 24, 2026, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Tarlecki at 7:01 P.M.

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

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

Manager Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Mayor's Statement: Borough and Federal Immigration Enforcement Duties

Mayor McDevitt shared the Joint Statement issued by the "Montgomery County District Attorney and the Police Chiefs Association of Montgomery," along with the statement he and the Chief issued to the Borough of North Wales, "Limits on North Wales Borough Cooperation with Federal Immigration Enforcement Activities."

President Tarlecki emphasized that each Council member has sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and that the law applies equally to all. He reaffirmed Council's commitment to protecting residents' rights to peacefully assemble and be heard, while also holding accountable those who interfere with law enforcement. Council's top priority remains keeping the Borough safe for everyone.

He asked each Council member to share any opinions or concerns they have. Member Manning asked about the police department's role, to which Chief Erenius responded that the police would not interfere with any federal government law enforcement activities and, in fact, would most likely not be notified in advance.

Member Fazio reminded everyone that their personal beliefs are separate from their oath to the Borough as Council members. President Tarlecki wrapped up the discussion by summarizing that all Council members appeared to agree with the issued statements.

Timothy Clarke, 502 East Prospect Avenue, expressed his gratitude to the Council for considering the concerns he raised about ICE at the January 27th meeting.

Presentation: Certificate of Appreciation NPVFC Plow Drivers

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company's plow drivers who were instrumental in assisting with snow removal each weekend, including the two larger storms on January 26th and February 22nd. Certificates were awarded to Colin Beatty, Michael Taylor, Donald Holt, and Shawn Hart. Additionally, a resident donated gift cards to the Public Works Crew and NPVFC plow drivers as a 'thank you' for all their hard work.

Colin Beatty, North Penn Volunteer Fire Company, thanked everyone for their appreciation and pointed out that in addition to the visible snow plowing, there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes with Manager Hart coordinating in advance of the storm and Tom O'Mara coordinating efforts during the snowstorms. He also highlighted the work of the NPVFC during the storms and thanked them for the hours they have put in during the winter storms. Lastly, he formally invited the Council to come visit the firehouse, as there are many new Council members.

Member Neiderhiser brought up the idea of adding on to the tour of the North Wales Water Authority and Forest Park Water Treatment Plant to the itinerary of the Borough Bootcamp for the Council members. Manager Hart explained that these tours were lengthy and should be scheduled separately with NWWA.

Consideration: Approval of Growing Greener Grant – Wissahickon Trails

Erin Landis, Water Management Program for Wissahickon Trails, explained that the grant, which was awarded to Wissahickon Trails for designing stormwater improvement on the Borough's tract of land at 599 Elm Avenue. She emphasized that the agreement is not for construction but for the analysis and gathering of data for determining the best use of the property for community and water quality. She added that the grant will take them through design and permitting.

Member Collins made a motion to approve Landowner – Grantee Agreement with Wissahickon Trails pursuant to the Growing Greener Grant requirements. Member Catanese seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Appointment to Shade Tree Commission, term ending 12/31/2027

Member Collins made a motion to appoint Jeff Fazio to the Shade Tree Commission, term ending 12/31/2027. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed, 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2026

Manager Hart informed Council that in the minutes dated February 10, 2026, the question asked about fire hydrant charges was asked by Member Catanese, not Fazio.

Member Catanese made a motion to Approve the Minutes for February 10, 2026. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements \$91,119.83

Manager Hart highlighted several items on the bills list. The payment to Bowman Consulting Group is for developer escrow and will be reimbursed. The overall total is slightly higher than usual due to first-quarter insurance premiums and PECO rate increases, coupled with higher usage of electricity during the extreme cold temperatures, as well as additional evening and weekend use of Public Works facilities due to snow removal.

Vice President Croce made a motion to Approve the Disbursements in the amount of \$91,119.83. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness – 307 School Street

Member Neiderhiser made a motion for the Approval of Certificate of Appropriateness 307 School Street. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Waiver of \$100 Permit Fee - NWAL Taste of Montgomery Banner

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve waiver of the permit fee for the North Wales Area Library Taste of Montgomery banner. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

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

Manager Hart updated the Council that the Police Pension Committee will be reviewing RFPs with the submitting firms so that the Committee can recommend a new administrator for the Police Pension.

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

Solicitor Filice had no comment.

Mayor McDevitt shared his report as follows: “Another weekend, another storm. While we didn't get the wallop that the forecasters predicted, I do want to thank the crews from North Wales Borough Public Works and the NPVFC for doing an amazing job during this storm in keeping the roads clear. I also had the pleasure of working with my counterpart, Mayor Rachael Bollens, from Lansdale, on a joint letter to the Knight Crier and North Penn Now after an opinion piece by a North Penn High School student tried to compare (unfairly, in our joint opinion) the two Main Streets of our communities. We love seeing High School students getting into journalism and sharing their perspectives, and Mayor Bollens and I were happy to provide context where the article missed its mark. And I don't normally take off-the-cuff suggestions for Mayor report items from Dan Sokil - The Reporter - but he reminded me of a great story last week when Elana Meyers Taylor won gold for U.S. Bobsledding at MilanoCortina2026 and signed to her Deaf sons. Congratulations!!”

Member Catanese thanked the Public Works crews for all their hard work in clearing the snow, along with Manager Hart, Assistant Manager Ervin, and the Police Department for their support. She also asked for volunteers to serve on the Human Relations Commission.

Member Neiderhiser also thanked Public Works, the police department, Manager Hart, and the volunteer firefighters for all their efforts with the snow removal.

Member Little pointed out the great job the NPVFC has done for the Borough.

Member Fazio thanked everyone and welcomed Tom O'Mara as Public Works Crew Leader.

President Tarlecki passed along his thanks and appreciation for the snow removal work done by public works and the NPVFC.

He also stated that he plans to reestablish a Communications Committee and is looking for three to four volunteers to address the potential for streaming council meetings on YouTube by the end of May and improve outreach in the community and inter-council communication.

Member Neiderhiser wanted to thank the Mayor for his update on the deaf U.S. Bobsledder, Elana Meyers Taylor.

Chief Erenius announced that the police department will be getting new badges to commemorate the United States 250th quincennial.

Manager Hart announced that State Representative Hanbidge will be having mobile hours on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, Nor-Gwyn Pool Commission is getting ready to hire staff for lifeguards, assistant managers, etc. Interested parties can contact the Nor-Gwyn Pool. North Wales Area Library is hosting an event, The Human Element, on March 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center. The cost is \$60 per person. Sign-ups can be made through the Library's website.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager