

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: February 27, 2024, 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 - Absent
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Present - Absent
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, and Benjamin Raybold, Public Works Supervisor.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Greg D'Angelo, 915 E Montgomery Avenue, thanked the administration for co-hosting the Borough's Association dinner as it was a wonderful event with great speakers from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. He also commended the Borough for their work cleaning up the snow and asked that the residents of the town learn where their taxes go and how the small percentage of taxes that the Borough receives affects departments like Public Works.

Consideration: Appointment of North Wales Junior Council Person for the 2023-2024 school year

President Amato gave a brief history of the PSABs Junior Council Person Program and stated how important it is to have a youth voice in a seat around the Council table to represent that portion of the Borough's population. President Amato also clarified that this term would end when the school year ends in June.

Braeden Bussman told council of his accomplishments and his enjoyment of living in the Borough. He stated that he is the class senator at Lansdale Catholic High School, plays various sports, and enjoys going for a daily run in the Borough.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Appoint Braeden Bussman to the Position of North Wales Borough Junior Council Person for the 2023-2024 school year. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Following the vote, Braeden Bussman took the Junior Council Person pledge.

President Amato welcomed Braeden to Council and encouraged him to speak his mind, ask questions, and learn as much as possible during this term.

Consideration: Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness: 443 Beaver St, 200 W Walnut St, 202 W Montgomery Ave, and 213 S. 2nd St

President Amato asked for a summary of why these need to be issued.

Assistant Manager Turock explained that properties within the Historic District, when they wish to make improvements must first apply for a certificate of appropriateness which is reviewed by the Historical Architecture Review Board and then they make a recommendation to Council about the historic significance of that improvement.

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the COA for 443 Beaver St. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Member McClure made a motion to Approve the COA for 200 W Walnut St. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve the COA for 202 W Montgomery Ave. Member McClure seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the COA for 213 S. Second St. Member McClure seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$96,626.90

Member Fazio asked what the difference is between the two street light bills.

Assistant Manager Turock responded that the PECO bill is for the electricity and Armour and Son does the maintenance and repairs. The bill for Armour and Son was for the replacement of a decorative streetlight at Main and Summit.

Member Collins asked what type of training was provided by Defense Tech.

Assistant Manager Turock said he would ask Chief Erenius to provide an answer to Council.

Member McClure made a motion to pay the bills. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: February 13, 2024

Member McClure made a motion to Approve the Minutes of February 13, 2024. Member Groce seconded the motion. The motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports/ Zoning Applications

Assistant Manager Turock stated that there will be a zoning hearing on April 2nd for 405 School Street, applicant is seeking relief to convert single-family attached home into a split two-unit building, principle and accessory dwelling unit.

Member Tarlecki asked Council to consider sending the Borough Solicitor to represent the Borough at that hearing. He feels it would be prudent to consider this at a March meeting once Council has the recommendation of Planning Commission.

Solicitor Gifford clarified that Council could send him either to support, be neutral, or oppose and that they should state this in their motion if they make one to send him.

Andre Berenson, 439 Washington Ave, asked what the costs to the taxpayers would be if the Board requests the solicitor's presence at the hearing.

Solicitor Gifford explained that it is only for matters of litigation that the solicitor charges an additional hourly rate.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced that there will be an executive session for two legal matters that will not require reconvening to take any action.

Mayor McDevitt congratulated Braeden on his appointment as Junior Council Person and thanked him for stepping up to take the position. He also highlighted an event he attended in Schwenksville to see an affordable housing development. Lastly, he highlighted the Whole Home Repairs Program and encouraged residents to visit the website for more information about that program.

Member Neiderhiser, Member Fazio, and Member McClure also welcomed Braeden to Council and thanked him for serving.

Vice President Tarlecki asked if we will be able to give Braeden all of the information that Council gets for future meetings.

Assistant Manager Turock answered that Braeden will receive the same packet information as the rest of Council along with a manager's report with the exception of any matters related to executive session which would not be provided to Braeden.

Vice President Tarlecki also asked if the Borough is testing out LED streetlights since the new light at Main and Summit is LED and is much brighter and more energy efficient.

Public Works Supervisor, Ben Raybold, stated that eventually they will all be LED.

Vice President Tarlecki also summarized a bill currently in the state legislature that would allow local police departments to use RADAR similarly to how the State Police utilize it and encouraged people to support that bill.

Assistant Manager Turock highlighted the NWAL Gala celebrating Jayne Blackledge on March 15th and the Montco Roots program which the Historic Commission is hosting to help residents learn about the history of their homes and the Borough on April 13th. He also reminded residents to join SavvyCitizen to get alerts about road closures, weather emergencies, and community events.

Adjournment

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager