

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: February 28, 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
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Absent
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, David Erenius, Chief of Police, Brian Sleicher, Public Works Supervisor and Alan Guzzardo, Assistant Borough Manager.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Kimberly Little, 118 School Street, announced that an unleashed dog bit her dog last week. She said that her dog is okay, but it needed medical treatment and she filed a report with the Police Department. She explained that the owner of the dog had been previously warned about keeping their dog on a leash and she said she was unaware that she should call 911 if she observes a dog that is not on a leash. She suggested a public outreach effort to notify residents to call 911 if they spot a dog that is not on a leash. Member Fazio thanked Mrs. Little for her comments, and she said the Communications Committee will look into a public awareness campaign on the issue.

Consideration: Appointment of Pamela Romeo to the Historical Architectural Review Board, Term Ending December 31, 2023

Pamela Romeo, 711 Church Street, announced that she submitted a letter of interest for the HARB vacancy and said she can answer any questions they have at this time. Manager Hart explained that Mrs. Romeo must leave early. Council decided to vote on the matter prior to the other topics on the agenda to accommodate Mrs. Romeo.

Member McClure made a motion to appoint Pamela Romeo to the Historical Architectural Review Board, term ending December 31, 2023. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Proclamation: In Memory of Jason J. Connelly, Volunteer Firefighter and EMT

Mayor McDevitt read a proclamation that he issued on February 15, 2023, honoring the life of Jason J. Connelly who passed away on February 10, 2023, after a three-year battle with cancer. Jason served as a member of the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company and the Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lansdale.

Discussion: Resident Input Workshop Feedback

Justin Copenhaver reviewed the results of the Resident Input Workshop, held on Monday, January 30 at Borough Hall.

Member McClure asked if Justin would be contacting the new businesses in town. Jason confirmed he will. President Amato requested a synopsis of the survey. Justin summarized the results which indicated that the Borough is small, but mighty and they would like the Business Alliance to foster this idea. Some participants said that North Wales is behind the times, but they believe that can change. Others felt the town was lethargic or lacking energy. Lastly, Justin said the Borough needs more gateway signage at its entry points.

Jeff Fazio, 111 South Seventh Street, asked how the Business Alliance would work cooperatively with the Borough. Justin said he will be contacting Borough officials to discuss cooperative initiatives and he will be attending the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow night to discuss the Zoning Code.

Manager Hart explained that the Planning Commission is working on a Zoning Code update, and she said she hopes business owners will reignite the Business Alliance and work cooperatively with the Borough.

Discussion: Council Vacancy Appointment Process

President Amato reviewed the document titled, Vacancy Appointment Process. He recommended that Council vote on every candidate and said he would like to have council members ask the candidate(s) questions first. A discussion ensued regarding the appointment process.

Albert Tenney, 801 East Walnut Street, asked if the first vote fails to give a majority, then does Council get to vote again. Manager Hart said yes, they can vote again.

Jocelyn Tenney, 801 East Walnut Street, asked for clarification on the duties of the Vacancy Board Chair in the process. Solicitor Gifford explained the process.

President Amato explained he will amend the guidance document and send it out after the next vacancy.

Manager Hart announced that the Borough is currently accepting applications for the vacancy and Council will vote at their meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 14.

Consideration: Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness: 213 W. Walnut St and 126 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

Justin Copenhaver asked if sidewalks would be installed along Swartley Street. Manager Hart explained that Council cannot mandate a sidewalk installation because it did not go through the Subdivision and Land Development process.

Member McClure made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness, as presented for 213 West Walnut Street. Member Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Member McClure made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness, as presented with the recommended conditions for 126 South Pennsylvania Avenue. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement Extension for the Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan

President Amato asked if Council is still funding this initiative. Manager Hart confirmed that the Borough is contributing \$5,000-\$10,000 per year and funds have already been budgeted for this year.

Member Groce made a motion to approve an extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan through December 31, 2023, or ninety (90) days after final approval of the Plan, whichever occurs later. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Towing Storage Garages and Rates

Manager Hart explained that the schedule is reviewed periodically. Member McClure asked Chief Erenius for clarification on the towing selection process. Chief Erenius explained that the officer on duty will call the list of towing companies.

Member Fazio made a motion to approve the list of towing storage garages and rates. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: February 14, 2023

Member Whelan made a motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2023. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$98,972.42

Manager Hart reviewed the bills list.

Member McClure made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$98,972.42. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart announced that enclosed in Council's packet is the 2022 Historical Architectural Review Board Annual Report.

Assistant Manager Guzzardo announced that he received Zoning Hearing Board Application No. 23-02, regarding a Special Exception request for 107 South Main Street. The Applicant is requesting a Special Exception for a cat adoption agency. Mr. Guzzardo added that the hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 4 and he will provide a copy of the legal notice at the next Council meeting.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced that there will be an executive session to discuss three personnel matters and one real estate matter; no action will be taken following the meeting.

Mayor McDevitt announced that he attended the History Commission presentation with Steven Moyer this past Saturday at Borough Hall and he said we are so fortunate to have so many people who care so deeply about our history and so willing to share their memories.

Mayor McDevitt announced that he attended the North Penn Fire Company banquet, and the following individuals received awards for their services:

- CPR Save - Erick Myers and Jim O'Hara
- Chief's Award - Brad Taylor
- President's Award - Jim Almo
- Firefighter Of the Year - Jim O'Hara
- QRS Award - Nate Ameal
- The Horace S Madtes Jr. Award - Jim Almo
- Lansdale VFW Firefighter of the Year - Matthew Traynor
- 50 Years of Service - Tom Byron

Mayor McDevitt reminded everyone that today is the last day of Black History Month, and earlier today, Pennsylvania elected and swore in Rep. Joanna McClinton as the first black and the first female Speaker of the House for the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Member Whelan announced that the Iron Knights Triathlon is Saturday, May 20 and she encouraged parents to get their kids signed up. She then announced that the Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 1 and encouraged people to bring their kids.

Chief Erenius announced that the Borough has been receiving calls, comments, and complaints from community members about drones overflying private properties. He requested residents to call 9-1-1 when drones are seen flying over their properties and try to keep an eye on what direction they are traveling to and from. He added that the Chief is working with the FAA on enforcement.

Manager Hart announced the following events: Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1, Earth Day Extravaganza on Saturday, April 22 and The Partnership TMA of Montgomery County's 30th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meetings on Friday, May 19. She added that the TMA is seeking sponsors for the event and requested that Council consider sponsoring the event.

Member McClure made a motion to adjourn. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager