

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
300 SCHOOL STREET  
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: January 11, 2022, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Present
	Vacant	
	Alexander Groce	Present
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Eion O'Neill	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

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

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

Roseanne D'Angelo, 915 East Montgomery Avenue, read a letter she wrote to Mayor Neil McDevitt, expressing her disapproval of his 2018 Facebook post that compared members of the Republican Party to Nazis. She then questioned why he would make that comparison and she provided him with the book, Man Search for Meaning which she encouraged him to read. She wished him well as Mayor and insisted he issue a public apology.

### **Discussion: 2022 Boards & Commissions Appointments**

Manager Hart reviewed the list of 2022 Boards and Commissions openings. Vice President Tarlecki asked if the Borough has received any letters of interest. Manager Hart confirmed yes and she would share them at the following Council meeting.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the individuals seeking reappointment would be notified. Manager Hart confirmed they would be.

Member Collins asked why Officer Custer is listed as to be determined. Manager Hart explained that she has not confirmed if she would like to be reappointed.

Vice President Tarlecki announced that there is an opening on the Human Relations Commission and encouraged residents to submit a letter of interest.

### **Discussion: 2022 Council Member Subcommittees**

President Amato stated that Council would fulfil the subcommittees after the vacant Council seat has been filled. He added that there will be some changes to the subcommittee structure. Manager Hart added that she has already received one letter of interest so far for the Council vacancy.

Member McClure asked if the new Council members could read about the roles of the subcommittees. Manager Hart showed the Subcommittees of Council list on the Borough website.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if there are procedures in place for voting on the Council vacancy. President Amato stated the vacancy would be filled using Robert's Rules of Order as recommended by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

### **Consideration: Appointment of Solicitor**

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the appointment would include other attorneys from the same firm. Manager Hart confirmed it would.

Member McClure made a motion to appoint Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg and Gifford, P.C. as Borough Solicitor. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Solicitor Gifford stated he is honored to continue serving Borough Council.

### **Consideration: Resignation of Herbert Schlegel, Civil Service Commission**

Member McClure made a motion to accept the resignation of Herbert Schlegel from the Civil Service Commission, effective immediately. Member O'Neill seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

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

Manager Hart announced the Borough had no pending Zoning Hearing Board Applications. Manager Hart stated she had no other reports.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced an executive session was held after the previous meeting to discuss the Chief of Police search and no action was taken. He then announced that another executive session will be held after tonight's meeting to discuss two personnel matters and action may be taken following the session.

Mayor McDevitt asked to address Roseann D'Angelo's earlier comments. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, objected and said he should not be able to address her comments under his Mayor's comment. President Amato confirmed that Mayor McDevitt can only speak to matters under his purview as Mayor and he must address her comments during Public Comment. Mayor McDevitt agreed he would address her comments at the next Council meeting during Public Comment.

Mayor McDevitt made the following announcements: He received a speeding complaint on South Seventh Street which he has turned over to the Police Department, COVID infection rates are increasing and he encouraged everyone to wear masks and he asked that everyone make sure they have working smoke detectors in light of the recent tragic house fire in Philadelphia that claimed the lives of 12 people.

Interim Chief Bentzel reviewed his activity report for the month of December. He then thanked Public Works for their efforts with a snowstorm that occurred on Friday, January 7.

Public Works Supervisor Sleicher thanked residents for moving their vehicles and not putting out their trash/recycle receptacles in preparation for the snowstorm.

Member Whelan encouraged everyone to utilize the services of the North Wales Area Library.

Manager Hart made the following announcements: Tuesday At Noon Organ Recitals, Human Library event on April 9, Make Art Monday event on January 17, After-School Art Club, NPAA CLASSES Winter 2021-2022 and list of Boards and Commissions vacancies.

President Amato announced he met with the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company to discuss an initiative to make smoke alarms more readily available for residents and he added that Borough officials will meet with the Company monthly to discuss initiatives that the Borough can assist with.

Manager Hart announced a local resident is requesting permission to complete a Junior Council Program internship with the Borough. She added she will work with the Solicitor on preparing a draft of the program guidelines for Council's consideration.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Council reconvened at 9:04 P.M. following an executive session.

Member O'Neill made a motion to approve a conditional employment offer to Candidate No. 2 for the open Chief of Police position. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

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