

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: January 13, 2026, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Tarlecki at 7:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Candace Anderson	Present
	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, Gregory Gifford; Chief of Police, David Erenius; Assistant Borough Manager, Danielle Ervin.

Manager Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Recognition: Retirement of Officer Terry Hammerstone

Mayor McDevitt bid Officer Hammerstone a grateful farewell and recognized his 26+ years of service. He described Officer Hammerstone as a steadfast presence in our community and announced he is now recognized as an Honorary Sergeant. The Mayor proceeded to read his Proclamation and honored Officer Hammerstone by declaring January 13, 2026 as, Officer Terry Hammerstone Day in the Borough of North Wales.

Chief Erenius presented Officer Hammerstone with a badge and custom shadow box.

Manager Hart played a video of photo memories from Officer Hammerstone's career and paid tribute to his character and congratulated him on his retirement.

Officer Hammerstone praised his wife's devotion and support throughout his career. Officer Hammerstone spoke about the relationship between the Borough and the Police Department and attributed that success to Chief Erenius and Manager Hart's structure, stability and harmony as leaders.

President Tarlecki opened the testimonials to Council. Council Members, Fazio, Catanese, and Neiderhiser shared stories and fond memories about their time with Officer Hammerstone.

President Tarlecki welcomed comments from the public. Officer Custer spoke about her close relationship with Officer Hammerstone and shared her appreciation for his support over the years.

Gregory D'Angelo, 915 E. Montgomery Avenue, spoke and referenced a graduation commencement speech by former County Commissioner and District Attorney, Bruce Castor, who said, a police officer's goal isn't always to get the bad guys, the main goal is to keep everybody safe, and Officer Hammerstone is a shining example. Mr. Gregory D'Angelo gifted Officer Hammerstone with an official London Bobby whistle in appreciation of his service.

President Tarlecki again thanked Officer Hammerstone, wished him luck and said, "You can take the man out of public service, but you can't take public service out of the man."

Chief Erenius expressed thanks to Officer Hammerstone for his support in the restructuring of the Department when the new chief came onboard.

Solicitor Gifford praised Officer Hammerstone for his impact and commitment to the DARE program, calling out the positive impacts he has made in our community.

Discussion: Board and Commission Vacancies and Expired Terms

Manager Hart updated the Council on the status of Boards and Commissions and the importance of recruiting volunteers for openings. President Tarlecki discussed that appointments would take place at the next Council meeting on January 27, 2026.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: December 23, 2025

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve the Minutes of December 23, 2025. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: January 5, 2026

Member Catanese made a motion to Approve the Minutes of January 5, 2026. Member Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements \$28,069.91

Member Groce made a motion to approve the remaining December 2025 disbursements in the amount of \$28,069.91. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Acceptance of \$400.00 Donation from Curling, Cut, and Spa

Member Collins made a motion to Approve Acceptance of \$400 donation, to be split equally between the Police Department and General Fund. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Appoint Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg & Gifford as Borough Solicitor

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Appoint Rubin, Glickman, Steinberg & Gifford as Borough Solicitor. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Solicitor Gifford thanked Council and said he is honored to continue to serve.

Consideration: Appoint Maillie LLP as Borough Auditor

Member Fazio made a motion to Appoint Maillie LLP as Borough Auditor. Member Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Appoint Bowman Consulting Group as Borough Engineer

Member Catanese made a motion to appoint Bowman Consulting Group as Borough Engineer. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Keystone Municipal Services, Inc. to serve as Building Code Official

Member Fazio mentioned that the Finance Committee meets with the Manager to discuss the best and most economical services for all professional appointments.

Member Collins made a motion to Appoint Keystone Municipal Services Inc. to serve as Building Code Official. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

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

Manager Hart reviewed the Public Parking Plan and downtown streetscape created by our consultant, Tim Konetchy, which will be discussed at an upcoming Planning Commission meeting.

Member Little commented that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and SALDO revisions should be circulated for new Council Members.

Member Catanese shared that the county hosts events for Veterans and residents and she suggested the Borough could assist in circulating the information to residents, especially for Veterans.

Member Little inquired as to when the new Council Members' orientation and tour of facilities would occur. Manager Hart replied that once the weather breaks, staff would schedule a tour and notify Council accordingly.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the facilities tour will include the Arts and Cultural Center. Manager Hart replied, yes.

Member Anderson requested guidance on the guidelines for using AI as a government agency. Manager Hart and Solicitor Gifford explained only using secure AI systems for basic tasks is recommended.

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

Mayor McDevitt expressed the following, “I was so happy to join fellow elected officials from the Borough as the County’s Orientation Session. It was fascinating to learn that Montgomery County has more residents than ten states and to hear about the services that the County provides to its residents. Many folks know the significant part of our property taxes go to the county and we should be glad they’re trying the best they can to solve the challenges we see across the county.”

President Tarlecki spoke about the Montgomery County Orientation and the resources available. He discussed upcoming Zoom meetings with newly appointed Council Members to discuss important aspects of their positions as well as discussions for executive and sub-committees.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked for clarification on the wording of “Executive Committee,” as it is not to be confused with “Executive Sessions.” He requested that going forward we refer to it as Leadership Team; Council agreed.

Manager Hart gave her report and touched upon the January organ recital turnout and the Manna on Main donation of 264lbs of food, as well as our ongoing sock drive. She announced our new membership to the Valley Forge Tourism Board, as well as a anticipated planned future visit to the Arts and Cultural Center. Manager Hart shared that the NWCPA will be hosting a reenactment of the reading of the Declaration on the Fourth of July in conjunction with the Annual 4th of July Parade and Picnic. She announced that Main Street North Wales business group will be hosting a Snow Ball in February and has started talks regarding a Farmer’s Market.

Adjournment

Member Fazio made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager