

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: January 9, 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 - Remote
	Wendy McClure	Present - Remote
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Absent
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Absent

Also, in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, and David Erenius, Chief of Police.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Discussion: Boards and Commissions Vacancies and Expired Terms

Manager Hart explained that Council had agreed at the January 2nd meeting that they will be voting on appointments at the January 23rd meeting and that the process for nominations and appointments would be similar to that of the January 2nd reorganization meeting, but with Council President Amato running the proceedings instead of the Mayor. Manager Hart also presented a list of letters of interest that have been received by Borough staff as of January 8th; this list is a mix of people seeking reappointment and new volunteers seeking appointments. Borough staff will create, and distribute to Council, a packet of all letters received by January 22nd.

Member Fazio stated that she appreciates the social media blast that has been done to garner interest in the Boards and Commissions vacancies and knows of more people that are interested but have not submitted letters yet.

Consideration: Approval of RACP Cooperation Agreement NPVFC

Manager Hart explained that this is needed for the Fire Company to be able to receive their RACP reimbursement as they must have an agreement with our municipality.

Solicitor Gifford added that Council approved supporting the Fire Company's RACP submission in 2021 and this is part of that support.

President Amato asked if Solicitor Gifford reviewed the agreements.

Solicitor Gifford stated that these documents were reviewed in his role as solicitor for the Fire Company.

President Amato asked how the Borough can ensure that it is not required to extend additional funds if any of the expenses are not approved by the state as stated in the agreement.

Solicitor Gifford explained that all approvals have been completed and this is a final step in the reimbursement process.

Manager Hart added that it is atypical for the state to front money in advance and that the clause about holding the municipality responsible for spending which was not approved is not applicable to this project since it is a reimbursement.

Member Collins asked if this was for a capital project.

Manager Hart explained that this was for the renovation of the millhouse and the expansion of the tiller bay. She also explained that there were other supplemental grants included in this project.

Member Fazio made a motion to approve the RACP Cooperation Agreement for North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2023

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve the Minutes of December 12, 2023. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: January 2, 2023

Manager Hart pointed out a typographical error under the swearing in section where Vice President Tarlecki's name was missing a "r".

President Amato stated that there were no outgoing officials so he would like the statement that he thanked the outgoing officials amended to thank anyone who has served.

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the Minutes of January 2, 2024. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$13,240.56

Manager Hart announced that the Borough had additional year-end expenses in the amount of \$13,240.56 which came in January but are 2023 expenses. This includes advertising, pension contributions, and the consultant for the RACP for the Arts and Cultural Center.

Member Collins made a motion to pay the bills. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports/ Zoning Applications

Manager Hart reminded everyone that Borough offices will be closed on January 15th in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and that there is a special election for North Penn School District on January 16th.

Manager Hart announced that there will be a zoning hearing scheduled for February for variances involving an enclosed deck at 214 S. 8th Street. The application was reviewed by the Planning Commission last week.

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

Vice President Tarlecki reported that the Planning Commission reviewed a request to enclose a deck at 214 S. 8th Street and requested that the applicant provide more information at the zoning hearing. Planning Commission did not reorganize due to vacancies. They also discussed that they will be scheduling an audit of the 2040 Comp Plan to determine what has been accomplished and what still needs to be accomplished which they expect to be ready for Council in March. They will also be reviewing the SALDO. Vice President Tarlecki also shared information from the County Planning Commission's housing audit of 2022 stating that North Wales has 1,370 housing units with a median price of \$317,500; there are three types of housing, single family detached, single family attached, and multifamily; the median price for single family detached houses was \$430,000, the median price for single family attached houses was \$274,000, and no price was given for multifamily, this shows a price increase of \$7,500 from 2021 to 2022. Vice President Tarlecki summarized to say that this shows North Wales is a very attractive place to buy property.

President Amato thanked Vice President Tarlecki for that update and stated that the desirability of the Borough shows the importance of keeping the comp plan up to date.

President Amato reviewed what happens during the meetings of the executive members who meet on the Thursdays prior to Council meetings. In these meetings the executive members work to actively manage the affairs of Council to achieve objectives. They work on creating processes and guidance documents to maintain institutional knowledge and ensure that those processes and documents are regularly reviewed. One of the goals of this group in 2024 is to have Council review the list of objectives which will include a review of how Council can achieve the list of goals through a new subcommittee model.

Member Fazio asked how that objectives list is created. President Amato answered that the list will be created by all of Council. Member Collins asked how suggestions should be brought forward. President Amato answered that a council member would bring it forward at a meeting and the entire Council would address its level of priority.

President Amato highlighted January 9th is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and he thanked all Law Enforcement Officers for their work. He also highlighted the Senator's constituent outreach which takes place at Borough Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Manager Hart explained that Public Works has prepared for the ongoing rainstorm. Barricades have already been placed at 9th and Montgomery due to heavy flooding and the police will keep a look out for other problem areas.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager