

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: July 11, 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
	Brittany Kohler	Present
	Wendy McClure	Absent
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Absent
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Gregory R. Gifford, Esq., Borough Solicitor, Alex Turock, Assistant Borough Manager, and David Erenius, Chief of Police.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Consideration: Resignation of Sarah Whelan, Parks & Recreation Board

Members of Council thanked Member Whelan for her service on the Parks and Recreation Board. President Amato commented that Member Whelan has gone above and beyond with her service on the Parks and Recreation Board and will be missed.

Member Fazio made a motion to accept Sarah Whelan's resignation from the Parks and Recreation Board. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Appointment of Parks & Recreation Board Member, Term Expiring 12/31/2025

Kathy Schweitzer, 308 S. Main Street, apologized for missing the last meeting. Ms. Schweitzer commented that she has done her due diligence to understand the mission statement of the Board and is hoping this is just the start of her service to the Borough. She commented that she thinks one of the missions of Parks and Recreation should be to enrich the lives of residents of the Borough. She would love to see more affordable, diverse, educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities in the parks. Ms. Schweitzer said she would be honored to be nominated for the position. Member Kohler thanked Ms. Schweitzer for her passion.

Member Fazio nominated Kathy Schweitzer. Member Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: June 13, 2023, and June 27, 2023

Member Kohler made a motion to approve the minutes from June 13, 2023. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Member Kohler made a motion to approve the minutes from June 27, 2023. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart commented that she sent out quarterly reports for Shade Tree, Parks & Recreation and Planning Commission. The reports have also been posted online. Manager Hart reminded Borough Council to stay current on the activities of the Boards and Commissions.

Manager Hart commented there are no zoning applications to date. She also reminded everyone regarding the upcoming proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The final recommendation and any minor revisions will be presented at the Planning Commission meeting on August 2nd, 2023. Manager Hart anticipates the information will be presented to Borough Council on August 8th, 2023. If Borough Council decides this is sufficient, it will be advertised two times and then there will be a Public Hearing scheduled after the advertisement period, hopefully in September 2023. President Amato urged all residents to review the document. Solicitor Gifford commented that this has been a large undertaking, working with Montgomery County Planning Commission, staff, and officials, to clean up, fix, protect and beautify as well as add necessary language to clarify the zoning ordinance. Manager Hart commented there are links on the North Wales Borough website to review the proposed amendment. Joe Orbell, 416 S. Main St, asked when the public could comment on the amendments. Manager Hart asked that residents address their concerns prior to the Public Hearing meeting. Solicitor Gifford suggested that residents attend the Planning Commission meeting on August 2nd, 2023.

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

Mayor McDevitt thanked everyone who helped to plan and participated in the 4th of July Parade. He thanked the NWCPA, Borough Staff, Police, VMSC, and NPVFC. He also commented on how nice it was to see children racing in burlap bags, eating water ice and having so much fun.

Mayor McDevitt commented that he had dinner at the new Empanada Noshery on Main Street. He commented that the owners are also volunteer fire police officers for Montgomery Township and the food was delicious.

Mayor McDevitt recently spoke with students from the AIM Academy in Conshohocken regarding local government and how they can get involved. They mostly talked about checks and balances, which they were learning about in their classes.

Mayor McDevitt reminded residents that social media is a great way to find out what is happening in the community but is not a replacement for police reports. If residents see unsafe or invasive behavior, or have any damage to their property, they should contact the Borough Police by calling 911.

Member Kohler commented that she had an opportunity as President of the Montgomery County LGBT Business Council to go to the State Capital to meet with representatives about the benefits of equality and inclusivity within commerce, especially in small Broughs. Member Kohler said she got a full tour of the facilities and was able to meet one-on-one with several representatives; the experience helped impress upon her the importance of local government. Member Kohler also commented on how she was able to see the diversity of our community on the 4th of July at the Parade and that we, as a community, should celebrate that!

Member Neiderhiser commented that the 4th of July Parade was wonderful this year, and bigger and better, and was happy that her father, a veteran of WWII, was able to ride in the parade. She thanked Manager Hart, the fire company, and police for providing a great day.

Member Fazio seconded other comments from the Board and welcomed Kathy Schweitzer to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Member Tarlecki commented that he wasn't able to attend the 4th of July parade but was instead at the Statue of Liberty with members of his family who were visiting from Germany. He commented that many citizens take a lot for granted but was awed by the number of visitors from other countries, the inclusivity and history behind Ellis Island. His family from Germany were impressed by the phrase "We the People".

Chief Erenius updated Borough Council on the number of incidents in June, he indicated that the officers started giving out ice cream coupons through their partnership with Little's, and they participated in two PAL events.

Manager Hart reminded Council that Community Day is not far off and asked for any food trucks or vendors to register and asked all to pray for good weather.

Adjournment

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager