

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: March 10, 2026, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Tarlecki at 7:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Candace Anderson	Present (Remotely)
	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; Danielle Ervin, Assistant Borough Manager, and Public Works Crew Leader, Thomas O'Mara.

Manager Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Gregory D'Angelo, 915 East Montgomery Avenue, spoke about the Mayor's message in the Spring/Summer Newsletter. An excerpt of the comments is as follows:

"Mayor Neil, I think you know that, beginning with an orientation and continuing thereafter, I have tried to support you in whatever way I can. Yes, there have been times when I didn't agree with something you said or did, but for the most part, I remained silent. I have the utmost respect for the office.

Tonight, however, I need to address something that you wrote in the Spring/Summer issue of the Borough's Newsletter.

In your Message from the Mayor, which overall I thought was well written, you stepped over the line. While speaking about our Police Department's recent accreditation, you said, and I'm paraphrasing, that the accreditation was vital because we read about federal law enforcement officers failing to uphold civil and human rights. That was an inappropriate and self-serving political statement.

First, any English professor would tell you that your statement should have been part of the previous paragraph. It shouldn't have been set off by itself. You chose to do otherwise for political effect.

Secondly, the message could have been phrased differently. You could have said something to the effect that we read about law enforcement officers who cross the line and/or betray their oath. Another possibility would have been that it's vital, as we see more and more law enforcement officers being confronted by a uniformed and, sometimes, hateful public.

Instead, you chose to zero in on federal law enforcement officers because it suited your political agenda.

When I was Mayor, I, too, wrote in the Newsletter, and I also had my *Mayor's Corner*. On more than a few times, I was told, "You can't say that. It will be viewed as political." I would also hear, "We'll be getting phone calls from residents about it." The fact is, my so-called "controversial" comments were not nearly as blatant as what you wrote. Your statement should not have been allowed.

One positive take on this is that you had to submit your article to the printer last month. If the deadline had been this month, you might have pulled a "Jamila Winder" and said that our officers were protecting us from a possible federal invasion.

Frankly, as the former Mayor, and the father of two sons in law enforcement, I find it absolutely appalling that you would use your officers, and their successful accreditation, to add credibility to your political rhetoric. It is beneath the dignity of your elected office. I worked hard to restore dignity to the Office of Mayor, something which had been missing for quite a few years. I was complimented the most on that after leaving office. I don't want to see that dignity become a thing of the past.

The Borough has a social media policy. It exists because you are a reflection of the Borough. You represent all of the residents – not just members of your own party or those who agree with you. You, however, were clever. You used the newsletter to say what you couldn't on social media. What's done is done. It can't be deleted. Very clever (and sneaky), but not subtle. People see exactly what you did.

Neil, you are the Mayor, and I will continue to support you when I can. On the other hand, I won't let you have Carte Blanche to say and do whatever you want politically. That said, right now I am angry and very disappointed."

Perry Francis, 125 West Walnut Street, asked whether the ICE policy discussed several weeks ago at the January 27th Council meeting would be made into a Resolution. President Tarlecki responded, saying that the statements made by the Mayor and the joint statement between the Montgomery County District Attorney and the Police Chiefs Association were approved by Council as the statement on the policy for all the residents of North Wales.

Consideration: Approval of North Wales 2040 Comp Report

President Tarlecki outlined the projects that have been completed to date as well as those that are in progress. Additionally, he listed the ones that are future projects that will take the Borough up to the year 2040. He added that it is a living document and can be changed over time. Manager Hart added that the approved version is posted to the North Wales website and reiterated that future projects will be reviewed within two to three years to ensure that they are still priorities of the community. Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve. Member Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: February 24, 2026

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the Minutes for February 24, 2026. Vice President Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Reduction of Public Activity Permit Fee – MSNW Farmer’s Market

President Tarlecki explained that the market will be in place for twenty-six weeks and held on Summit Street in front of North Wales Elementary School every Sunday. He explained that the reason for the reduction to the fees is to help the organization, since it runs from May to October, but there is also a cost associated with the event, which is why only a reduction is being requested. The standard fee is \$35 per 26 weeks, or \$910.00, and a 50% reduction would be a total of \$455.00.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the Resolution was only for the 2026 season and if the Resolution would specify that. President Tarlecki and Manager Hart both confirmed that the Resolution would specify that the fee reduction was only for the 2026 season.

Member Manning asked if the \$455 covers all the Borough expenses. Manager Hart responded that it mostly covers the expenses; however, it’s also a collaborative gesture to assist in the success of something that is new and just starting out. Member Star further pointed out that there are additional costs that are being incurred by MSNW and that the reduction applies only to the Borough’s permit fee.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve the Reduction of the Public Activity Permit Fee – MSNW Farmer’s Market. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Acceptance of Donation to NRPD - \$25.00

Member Neiderhiser made a motion for the Approval of a \$25.00 donation to NRPD. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

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

President Tarlecki reviewed the 2025 Annual Report of Activities by North Wales Borough Planning Commission, which identifies by month the activities and notable events accomplished by the Planning Commission.

President Tarlecki announced that he has established a Communications Committee, which is comprised of Members Collins, Manning, Catanese, and Little, to study technology options that can help improve outreach and provide better options for Council to use to share documents and any other technology-related items that have not already been considered. He has asked that Council report at the May 12th meeting.

Solicitor Gifford added that the discussions during the Communications Committee meetings must be fact-finding only and that the Council as a whole would discuss any findings and make

any necessary decisions during their Council meeting. President Tarlecki reminded the Committee that its function is to gather data and then share it with the Council as a whole, at which point any decisions would be made.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the Committees are open to the public, to which President Tarlecki said that they were not because the meeting had to consist of five or more council members in order for it to be required to be made public. Mr. Berenson asked for further clarification from the Solicitor because he felt that what Mark described sounded like a committee meeting where the public should be allowed to attend. Ultimately, Mr. Berenson deferred to Solicitor Gifford on the matter. President Tarlecki stated he planned to move ahead with the Committee, as there is a precedent set of having sub-committees like the Finance Committee. President Tarlecki suggested that the Committee could put together a progress report and share it with the public at an upcoming meeting. Manager Hart also suggested that, as the meetings are scheduled, the Committee should let her know so she can make a note in the Council Meeting Packets.

Manager Hart indicated that the meeting minutes for the Planning Commission for December, January, and February were included in the Council packet.

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

Solicitor Gifford indicated that no executive session would be held.

Mayor McDevitt shared his condolences to the family of Corporal Timothy O'Connor - a PSP Trooper killed in the line of duty in neighboring Chester County over the weekend. He asked for all in attendance to share in a moment of silence on behalf of the slain Trooper.

The Mayor also thanked Mr. D'Angelo for his comments.

He also added that March is International Women's History Month. "It's easy to shrug it off, but we need to remind ourselves that women's right to vote is just over 100 years old, that I'm older than the right of women to get credit in their own names, and that the people who GSD - get stuff done - in North Wales are predominantly women. We are represented by women in our higher elected legislative offices as well as here in North Wales Borough Council and Staff."

Chief Erenius announced that there is a fox with mange running through Weingartner Park. The Police Department has set up a trap to catch and release it humanely. Member Collins asked if caught, would the fox be treated, to which Chief Erenius responded that it would be taken to one of two organizations that handle this type of issue.

Manager Hart announced that Nor-Gwyn pool memberships were available and that they sell out fast. Additionally, they are hiring assistant managers, lifeguards, and other employees, and if anyone is interested, they can contact Beth at ngpoolmng@gmail.com.

She also reminded everyone that State Representative Hanbidge will be having mobile hours on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, she reminded everyone that North Wales Area Library is hosting an event, The Human Element, on March 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center. The cost is \$60 per person. Sign-ups can be made through the library's website.

Lastly, Manager Hart updated everyone that she had circulated the RFP summary for the Police Department Pension Plan to all members of Council. Interviews were conducted on March 5th. She asked for questions to be forwarded to her in advance of the March 24th meeting, as she would like to have a decision finalized by the end of the first quarter. She then turned her comments over to Assistant Manager Danielle to give an update on the Ninth Street Park Streambank Restoration project.

Danielle explained that during their visit to the park, they were able to identify trees that would be replanted and were able to upgrade the size of the trees to be replanted. All neighboring residents have been notified of the work and closures, and all signage has been placed to indicate those areas that are closed due to the work being done.

Adjournment

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager