

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: March 12, 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
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Absent
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, David Erenius, Chief of Police, Alex Turock, Assistant Manager, and Braeden Bussman, Junior Council Person.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Jocelyn Tenney, 801 E Walnut Street, complimented Borough staff, Council, and the Chief on the recent newsletter. She particularly liked the Chief's cover page article.

Discussion: Subcommittees of Council

President Amato summarized a proposal for a new structure for subcommittees of Council which will include three standing committees for ongoing needs, the Public Safety Committee, Employee Relations Committee, and Finance Committee. Issue focused ad hoc committees will be used for any other issue brought before Council that requires a committee. These issues will be generated from a running list kept by the executive team.

A discussion was had to clarify various nuances of this process and President Amato stated that he will bring all these ideas together into a guidance document for a formal approval by Council.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: February 27, 2024

Member McClure made a motion to Approve the Minutes of February 27, 2024. Member Whelan seconded the motion. The motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports/ Zoning Applications

Vice President Tarlecki summarized Planning Commission's recent review of the Comprehensive Plan and stated that many high-priority target areas have already been improved. The Planning Commission will now work on re-prioritizing the remaining target areas.

Manager Hart stated that there will be a zoning hearing on April 2nd for 405 School Street, applicant is seeking relief to convert single-family attached home into a split two-unit building, principle, and accessory dwelling unit. Council members discussed several questions they had about the application and concerns over parking and the ability of a trust to be considered a primary resident.

Gregory D'Angelo, 915 E Montgomery Avenue, commented on many concerns he has over the application including parking and a trust being an occupant of the principal unit.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the applicant is seeking relief from the owner occupancy requirement. Assistant Manager Turock responded that the applicant has stated their intent to live in the principal unit.

Member Fazio made a motion to send the solicitor to the zoning hearing to oppose the zoning relief. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

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

Mayor McDevitt stated that two years ago he was sending a snow emergency alert on this day and now he is thankful that there will be several inches of sun in the forecast this week. He also recognized the great leadership from the women at the federal, state, and local levels of government in celebration of international women's month. He also stated that he met with the North Wales Elementary Home and School Association which is looking to bring a new playground to the community. He stated that he will be proclaiming March 15th Jayne Blackledge Day at the gala in her honor later this week.

Member Whelan wished all women a Happy International Women's Month.

Member Kohler also wished all women a Happy International Women's Month and thanked all the social workers in the Borough because it is also National Social Workers Month. Lastly, she wished everyone who celebrates it, a happy Ramadan.

Member McClure asked if Council can be notified when a house is purchased in their Ward.

Manager Hart said staff could send the transfer tax report to council monthly. Currently police deliver a well-stocked welcome packet to new homeowners.

Member Whelan suggested a biography sheet for Council members included in the welcome packet and staff can highlight the ward representatives.

Manager Hart announced upcoming events including Senator Pennycuick's Tele-Townhall Meeting on March 19th, Taste of Montgomery on April 11th, Montco Roots on April 13th, the Borough's Earth Day Extravaganza Recycling and Shredding Event on April 20th, Senator Pennycuick's Youth Fishing Derby on April 27th, and the Health and Wellness Fair on April 27th.

Manager Hart gave an update on grants the Borough has open. The DCNR Grant for the 9th street park is almost ready to go out to bid to create a paved walkway and mini meadow. The North Wales Arts and Cultural Center is under construction and right on track. Right-of-Way

agreements are still being sought to complete the TASA grant for the Center Street Sidewalk Extension project.

Manager Hart also showed the NBC news report from this evening's news about Braeden Bussman joining Council in the Junior Council Person position.

Adjournment

Member Fazio made a motion to adjourn. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager