

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: March 14, 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	Absent
	Brittany Kohler	Present, newly appointed
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Absent
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

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

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration: Approval of Council Appointment Process

President Amato reviewed the Council Appointment Process document, dated March 9, 2023.

Member Collins made a motion to approve the Council Appointment Process document, dated March 9, 2023. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Appointment of Ward 1 Council Member

Member Fazio nominated Brittany L. Kohler to fill the Ward 1 Council vacancy.

Brittany Kohler, 138 West Walnut Street, spoke about her qualifications and experience for the position. She added that she is excited for the opportunity to serve and said she wants to represent the LGBTQ community. Lastly, she said she is passionate about public safety, and she noticed that walkability is a key component of the North Wales 2040 Comprehensive Plan that she supports and would like to foster.

President Amato asked Brittany what her qualifications are for the position. Brittany explained that she has previously worked with different groups and government agencies and has pursued leadership roles within the communities she has lived in. She said she believes she is capable of being a great leader and she is very enthusiastic.

Member Neiderhiser asked if Brittany will be available to accomplish the duties of the position with her busy schedule. Brittany confirmed she is available to accomplish the duties and said she can balance her responsibilities accordingly.

Member McClure made a motion to appoint Brittany L. Kohler to fill the Ward 1 Council vacancy, term ending December 31, 2023. Member Collins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

Mayor McDevitt conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Brittany L. Kohler.

Public Comment

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, James Schiele, 307 East Montgomery Avenue, and Gregory D'Angelo, 915 East Montgomery Avenue, thanked Assistant Manager Guzzardo for his services to the community and all the assistance he provided to them in their respective capacities over the years.

Jacqueline Bringham, 102 North Main Street, reported that her dog was attacked by a dog residing at 298 Elm Avenue on April 5, 2022. She explained that the dog runs at large and has attacked other animals. She said that she has called the police multiple times and they have told her that there is nothing they can do. She said she carries weapons with her to defend herself from dogs running at large. She requested that Council do something about the issue. Manager Hart recommended that she contact the Police Department when incidents occur, and she said she is sorry that it came to this. Solicitor Gifford explained there are laws in place to address her concerns and he added that Chief Erenius can investigate the issue(s). Member McClure told her to contact her, if need be, as she represents Ward 1. Chief Erenius asked if he could review the incidents with her and said they could possibly contact the dog warden together. Jacqueline confirmed that she is available to meet.

Proclamation: Recognizing April as PA 811 Safe Digging Month

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to approve a proclamation recognizing April 2023 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month". Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Advertisement of Wissahickon Creek TMDL/PRP

Member Collins asked for clarification on the process. Manager Hart explained the process and Member McClure recommended that Member Collins contact the Wissahickon Watershed Association for more details.

Member Fazio made a motion to approve advertisement of the Wissahickon Creek Total Maximum Daily Load Plan and Nutrients Pollutant Reduction Plan, required by the Individual MS4 Permit, dated February 17, 2023. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Acceptance of Resignation of Alan R. Guzzardo, Assistant Manager

Manager Hart and Council thanked Alan R. Guzzardo for his services and wished him the best. Assistant Manager Guzzardo thanked Council for the opportunity to serve and wished them all the best.

Member Fazio made a motion to accept the resignation of Alan R. Guzzardo, Assistant Borough Manager and Zoning Officer, effective March 17, 2023. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Appointment of Keystone Municipal Services as Zoning Officer

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked if the interim zoning officer will be present at the hearings and said he hopes that there will be another person filling Alan's role as the Assistant Manager and Zoning Officer. Manager Hart explained that the interim zoning officer will not be attending the hearings unless necessary.

Member McClure made a motion to appoint Keystone Municipal Services as Zoning Officer. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: February 28, 2023

Member McClure made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2023. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart reviewed a set of minutes pertaining to the North Wales Community Arts Center Updates, dated March 7, 2023.

Manager Hart announced that enclosed in Council's packet is a set of draft minutes from the Planning Commission meeting held on March 1, 2023, and a memo from the Planning Commission pertaining to Zoning Hearing Board Application No. 23-02.

Assistant Manager Guzzardo announced that he received Zoning Hearing Board Application No. 23-02, regarding a Special Exception request for 107 South Main Street. The Applicant is requesting a Special Exception for a cat adoption agency. Mr. Guzzardo added that the hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 4 and enclosed in Council's packet is a copy of the legal notice.

Member McClure made a motion to recommend that the Application be approved with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Assistant Manager Guzzardo said that he reviewed Condition No. 1 with the Building Code Official, and he indicated that it has adequate ventilation. Council indicated they would strike that from the recommendations. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced that there will be an executive session to discuss two matters of personnel and Council will reconvene to act on one of the personnel matters.

Mayor McDevitt congratulated new Council Member Brittany Kohler. He then said he is both happy and sad to see Alan go. He said he remembered when Alan joined the Borough, and he thinks everyone in this room shares a sense of pride in how much he has grown in his role and how confident he is in representing the Borough. Lastly, he said he has been infinitely patient with him as a newly elected official learning the ropes. Lastly, he announced that he and Council President Amato had the pleasure of representing the Borough at Troop 84's Blue and Gold dinner for the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of our area. He added that seeing their investment in the Borough, it's fair to say, "the kids are alright." It was great to talk with many of them about Borough government, have silly conversations, and enjoy an event where the hardworking parents, leaders, and volunteers of Troop 84 celebrated each other for a night.

Council thanked Mr. Guzzardo for his services and welcomed Brittany Kohler to Council.

Vice President Tarlecki encouraged Council and residents to attend the upcoming Open House on the Zoning Code and Map Update on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Chief Erenius said he will investigate the dog attack issues. President Amato requested that Chief Erenius notify Jacqueline when the dog issue will be discussed at Council. Chief Erenius confirmed he would let her know.

Manager Hart announced the following events: Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1, Earth Day Extravaganza on Saturday, April 22, Taste of Montgomery County on Thursday, April 27, and a listing of events being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:07 P.M.

Solicitor Gifford read a letter of resignation from Officer Luke Miller, dated March 3, 2023.

Member McClure made a motion to approve a Separation Agreement and Release between Luke Miller and North Wales Borough and the North Wales Borough Police Department. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no

Member McClure made a motion to adjourn. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager