

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: March 25th, 2025, 7:01 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Absent
	Anji Fazio	Present
	Alexander Groce	Remote
	Brittany Kohler	Present
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Remote
	Sarah Whelan	Present – Arrived 7:13
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

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

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation: DCED 2024 Annual Audit Report

Chris Herr, Maillie LLP, summarized the 2024 Annual Audit Report. The audit report shows no findings. Revenues match or exceed expenses appropriately. These results show financial stability.

Consideration: \$10k Contribution to Volunteer Medical Service Corps

Chief Wheeler, VMSC Emergency Medical Services, presented an annual summary of their activities in and around the Borough. Falls are the most common call requiring a response. VMSC is working to develop fall mitigation programs to address this issue. Cardiac survival rates are double those in the Commonwealth and Chief Wheeler attributes this to early CPR and shock delivery by local law enforcement officers while VMSC is responding. VMSC now has the ability to transfuse blood in the field or during transport.

Vice President Tarlecki asked what the coverage area of VMSC is currently. Chief Wheeler responded that they cover the North Penn and Indian Valley Regions, specialized ambulance transports are provided for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and transports in Jefferson Health, and they are contracted to cover Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Al Tenney, 801 E Walnut St., asked how they store blood on the vehicles and what kind of blood do they store. Chief Wheeler responded that they store universal donor blood in specialized coolers.

Vice President Tarlecki asked what percentage of the organization is paid versus volunteer at this time. Chief Wheeler responded that 99% of the organization is paid.

Mayor McDevitt asked the difference between EMTs and Paramedics. Chief Wheeler responded that EMT basic programs are approximately 155 hours focusing on oxygen, stabilization, and advanced first aid. Paramedic programs are 1200-1500 hours of education and they provide medications, sedations, intubations, and now blood transfusions.

President Amato asked about stroke response success rates. Chief Wheeler stated that they responded to approximately 800 strokes last year and approximately 400 of them had an intervention. He attributed this to proximity to multiple great stroke care units.

Member McClure asked about helicopter operations. Chief Wheeler responded that there is very little aircraft use in the area due to ground transport typically being faster.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Contribute \$10k to Volunteer Medical Service Corps. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Proclamation: National Library Week

President Amato recognized the week of April 6-12 as National Library Week.

Suzan Leonard, President of the North Wales Area Library Board, thanked the council for this proclamation and all their continued support of the library.

Erin Thompson, Associate Director of North Wales Area Library, highlighted upcoming library events including the Taste of Montgomery on April 10th, the Egg Hunt on April 19th, and the book sale in May.

Consideration: Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board Alternate – Term Expiring 12/31/2027

Manager Hart reviewed the letter of interest from Jeff Beck.

Member McClure made a motion to Appoint Jeff Beck to the Zoning Hearing Board Alternate – term expiring 12/31/2027. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Acceptance of Economic Development & Community Development Initiatives Grant – Streambank Restoration

Manager Hart reviewed the project for the 9th Street Park Streambank Restoration and the grant provided through this program which was procured with great assistance from Senator Pennycuik in order to help the Borough meet its MS4 and PRP requirements.

Member Fazio made a motion to Accept the Economic Development & Community Development Initiatives Grant for Streambank Restoration. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval to Join PSDLAF

Manager Hart reviewed that the fund typically offers great rates on investments. Joining now will allow the administration to act quickly when current investments mature in the coming months.

President Amato commended Manager Hart on her diligence in managing funds and maintaining investments in intuitions and programs with the best rates.

Member McClure made a motion to Approve Joining PSDLAF. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$72,802.88

Manager Hart reviewed the bills including the VMSC contribution approved earlier this evening, the expenses for the audit as presented this evening, and a large order of products for pothole repair due to a great sales promotion.

Member Fazio asked if it is required that we use Maillie for audit services and if their price is comparable.

Manager Hart responded that Council can in any year put out an RFP for audit services to compare prices and services. She also stated that Maillie works with many local municipalities and completes an extremely thorough audit as represented by tonight's presentation.

President Amato asked if there was a vehicle accident. Manager Hart responded that the Chief's vehicle had a cracked windshield from a stone which required repair.

Member McClure made a motion to Approve Disbursements of \$72,802.88. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: March 11th, 2025

Member Kohler made a motion to Approve the Minutes of March 11th, 2025. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications / Parking Lot

Manager Hart reviewed a letter of support for Upper Gwynedd Township's power line trail grant application.

She also announced a zoning hearing application for a use variance at 201-205 N. Main Street to place a residential use in the Commercial Business District.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced an executive session for three matters of personnel and two legal matters.

Mayor McDevitt thanked the Scouts from Troop 84 who cleaned up at Hess Park this past weekend.

He reminded the community that both our guests today VMSC and the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company rely heavily on your financial support. The Fire Company just kicked off their annual appeal and he asks residents to donate what they can to support!

He informed Council that last night at the Safe Schools Committee meeting for the North Penn School District, Montgomery Township's Fire Chief asked the District to consider adopting Act 91 tax credits for volunteer firefighters that own homes in the District. Approximately 22 volunteers at North Penn Volunteer Fire Company would benefit and it would be a good way to attract new members to the service. Chief Traynor advises that NPVFC is supportive of the measure.

Finally – the Mayor stated that April is Autism Acceptance Month. One of his first Proclamations as Mayor was to recognize such in April 2022. It's personal for him and many people in this room as they or people they love are neuro-diverse. His birth mother died earlier this month and she was on the Autism Spectrum, she never received the support and services that are available today and struggled greatly in her life as a result.

Member Whelan thanked the mayor for his support of Autism Acceptance Month and shared the quote, "When a flower doesn't bloom you change the environment in which it grows, not the flower." She also thanked the volunteers who maintain the planters at Main and Walnut.

Member Kohler expressed her excitement for the warmer weather and asked the community to be mindful of more people outside walking, riding bikes and skateboards and obey the speed limit.

Member Neiderhiser thanked the VMSC for the presentation and all their work in the community. She also thanked the library for all they provide to the community.

Member Fazio reminded the community of the Savvy Citizen App which keeps everyone apprised of what is going on in the Borough. She also asked the community to clean up after their pets.

Member McClure asked if the front ramp is on the repair list for the Borough. Manager Hart responded that a contractor will be sought to complete this work.

Member McClure also asked about the PECO poles laying in the right-of-way throughout the Borough. Manager Hart reported that PECO keeps us updated on the delays with the project due to weather and pointed residents to PECO's website which has a great description of the project and contact information for representatives from PECO assigned to the project.

President Amato expressed his appreciation for all those employees in public service at the Borough, the Library, Schools, and Emergency Services.

Manager Hart announced that there will be a paving project this year which will pave several streets in the Borough. Streets being paved will be announced during the bidding process. Some streets are affected by grant projects and others require reconstruction, so the Engineer and Borough Administration are carefully identifying the best project given the funds available.

Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked how long the project turnaround will be. Manager Hart responded that typically these projects have a 60–90-day project timeline.

Manager Hart reviewed upcoming events including the Egg Hunt on April 12th and Earth Day Recycling Event on April 26th. She also revealed the logo design for the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center.

Adjournment

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager