

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
 300 SCHOOL STREET  
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: March 26, 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	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Absent
	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**

There was no public comment.

### **Consideration: \$5k Capital Contribution to Nor-Gwyn Baseball & Softball Assn.**

Ted Gribb and Bob Dantzer summarized the capital improvement projects ongoing at the Nor-Gwyn Baseball & Softball Assn. Complex. These improvements include safety fencing and netting, repair or replacement of field lighting, and repair or replacement of spectator seating as funds allow.

Member Collins asked how many registrations they get each year. Mr. Dantzer responded that they average around 500 registrations each year.

Member Kohler made a motion to approve a \$5k capital contribution to Nor-Gwyn Baseball & Softball Assn. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

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

Manager Hart reviewed the discussion that was had in preparation of the 2024 Budget. This contribution represents the equivalent of the tax millage that was considered at that time. Since Council opted for a contribution instead of the millage at that time, it was budgeted accordingly.

Neil Brady, VMSC, summarized the expansion and improvements of VMSC's services and coverage area. VMSC has expanded into the Indian Valley Region with full coverage of that

area. VMSC has also created a pension plan and matching coverage for those providing career services which helps retain and recruit personnel. VMSC is working to expand their role in mobile care in addition to its emergency services.

Member McClure asked if the addition of the Indian Valley Region has changed the location of ambulances to make longer runs.

Mr. Brady responded that crews are staged using an AI system called MARVELOUS which predicts the most likely area for the next call and allows crews to be staged in proximity to that call.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to make a \$10k contribution to Volunteer Medical Services Corps. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Approval to Seek ARPA Multipurpose Community Facilities Grant**

Manager Hart reviewed the process and criteria for the grant funding. She also explained that this funding would help make phase two improvements to the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center and Non-Profit Center. This phase would include network equipment and cabling, furnishing for the spaces, and installation of security systems including door access systems.

President Amato asked what the timeline is for this funding.

Assistant Manager Turock stated that the application deadline is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Application review would take place over the summer, and we would expect funding agreements in the fall.

Member McClure asked what amount we would be applying for.

Assistant Manager Turock stated that he is waiting for one more estimate but expects to be applying for approximately the minimum grant amount of \$250,000.

Member McClure asked if the new funding would delay the opening of the center.

Manager Hart answered that nothing on the list for this funding would prohibit opening the facility prior to its completion. These would be additive improvements including network equipment, security, and office and conference room equipment.

President Amato asked how digital inclusion activity is defined to make the center qualify for this funding.

Assistant Manager Turock stated that this is defined as any space that increases community access to the internet, health services, or nonprofit services. The center will be a space for the public to connect with various services thus making it qualify as a multipurpose community facility.

Member Kohler made a motion to approve seeking ARPA Multipurpose Community Facilities Funding. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$276,709.63**

Manager Hart reviewed the bills which include payments to the auditing firm for the 2023 audit, CM3's next payment installment, heating fuel which should decrease when the Arts and Cultural Center is converted to gas, the accreditation work for the police, and public works purchases of tools and shop organization.

President Amato asked if the Borough shops for its electric rates each year.

Manager Hart stated that the Borough has an agreement that will expire in 2025 and that various aspects of the current economy are considered prior to deciding on the length and terms of energy contracts.

Member Collins asked how many payments there will be to CM3.

Manager Hart stated that there is a contracted amount, but not a set number of payments. As the project progresses CM3 will invoice for the work as completed and continue to provide the Borough with all the supporting documents that are required within that period including payroll reports and steel certificates.

Member McClure made a motion to pay the bills. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

#### **Consideration: Approval of Minutes: March 12, 2024**

Member McClure made a motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

#### **Old Business / Committee & Board Reports/ Zoning Applications**

Manager Hart asked Council if they would like her to proceed in seeking more information from Mr. Weingartner who has the Weingartner Family Clock and would be interested in donating it for display in the Arts and Cultural Center. Council was amenable to seeking more information and placing the donation on a future agenda if appropriate.

Manager Hart reminded Council of the zoning hearing that will take place on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at which Solicitor Gifford will be representing the Borough as per the vote at the last Council Meeting.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced an executive session will be held after the meeting on two matters of legal and that Council will not need to reconvene for any action.

Mayor McDevitt thanked the volunteers, Borough staff, and the Police Department for a great Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday.

Member Kohler thanked everyone for the Easter Egg Hunt and said her son had a great time. Member Neiderhiser also thanked everyone for the great work on the Easter Egg Hunt and mentioned her neighbors whose children were so excited by it.

Member Fazio wished everyone a happy Easter. She also asked if Council could add EV Charging Stations to their list of items to be discussed in the future.

President Amato agreed, and Manager Hart stated that she will refresh the research that was done in the past as more municipalities are creating provisions for such improvements.

Member Tarlecki stated that Planning Commission looked at possible locations last year and could revisit it.

Member McClure asked that Council consider a Single Trash Hauler in the future.

Junior Council Person Bussman praised the Council for supporting VMSC and thanked Mr. Brady for presenting tonight and for all of the work that VMSC does.

Manager Hart summarized the Public Works report provided in the agenda packet.

Manager Hart announced upcoming events including Taste of Montgomery on April 11<sup>th</sup>, Montco Roots on April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Borough's Earth Day Extravaganza Recycling and Shredding Event on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Senator Pennycuick's Youth Fishing Derby on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and the Health and Wellness Fair on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and Parks and Recreation's Community Garden Spring Planting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Hart thanked Troop 84 for their first clean-up of Hess Park.

### **Adjournment**

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christine A. Hart  
Borough Manager