

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: May 13th, 2025, 7:02 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by Vice President Tarlecki.

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

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

Vice President Tarlecki led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Ian Horowitz, 348 W. Montgomery Avenue, stated his opposition to the Center Street Sidewalk Project and his belief that the Borough has not offered him just compensation for the necessary right of way and temporary construction easements.

Solicitor Filice responded that the Borough Council has made a fair offer and voted to file a declaration of taking if an agreement cannot be reached.

Vice President Tarlecki commented that the Center Street Sidewalk Project is part of fulfilling the walkability priority of the North Wales 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which was developed with significant public engagement and represents the will of the public.

Erin Thompson from North Wales Area Library summarized the upcoming events at the library, including a foam party with food trucks on June 20th and the summer reading program beginning June 23rd.

Consideration: Approval of Verizon Franchise Agreement

Manager Hart reviewed the terms of the Verizon Franchise Agreement, including a \$4,000 grant for technology and internet infrastructure at the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center. The agreement is for a five-year term due to increased uncertainty in the cable markets.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Approve the Verizon Franchise Agreement. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

Discussion: Bird Town Designation

Manager Hart explained the requirements for becoming a Bird Town. These requirements will be reviewed by Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board to see if it is something they could undertake. We will be scheduling a time for representatives to come to a Parks and Recreation meeting to inform them about the program.

Member McClure thanked Council for discussing this and considering it. She highlighted the importance of programs like this specifically in bringing back bluebirds which have returned to the area in numbers. Member McClure noted many ways this could bring great stewardship to the Borough.

Ian Horowitz, 348 W. Montgomery Avenue, stated his support for this initiative and the importance of maintaining trees and plants that support bird habitat. He stated that on his land, due to the sidewalk project mentioned earlier, he will be losing trees and plants that currently serve as bird and pollinator habitats.

Consideration: Resolution Recognizing Emergency Medical Services Week

Vice President Tarlecki read the resolution recognizing Emergency Medical Services Week.

Member Groce made a motion to Approve the Resolution Recognizing Emergency Medical Services Week. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: April 22nd, 2025

Member McClure made a motion to Approve the Minutes of April 22nd, 2025. Member Groce seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no.

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

Vice President Tarlecki summarized the Planning Commission's review of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Amendments to be brought before Council later this summer.

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

Mayor McDevitt wished Member McClure a Happy Birthday. He also wished a Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and all of those who fill the role of mothers in the Borough. This week is also National Police Week, and tonight is the candlelit vigil to honor those who have lost their lives carrying out this dangerous job. He also thanked the volunteers from the North Wales Home and School organization who hosted a tile making event for Borough Council before the meeting. They need 12,000 tiles, and they have about 8,000 yet to go. The Mayor also announced that he had the privilege of joining the County Commissioner in recognizing a group of amazing students from Montgomery County Intermediate Unit who had an amazing performance at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Middle School Math Competition. He also reminded everyone of Representative Hanbidge's Town Hall meeting coming up at Montgomery County Community College.

Lastly, he stated concerns over the funding deficit for SEPTA which will cause a significant reduction in rail and bus services to North Wales. He urged Council to consider a resolution in support of SEPTA at an upcoming meeting.

Manager Hart updated Council on the procurement of the Public Works Vehicles and Equipment which should be delivered in six to eight weeks. She also announced that the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center will host the Partnership TMA's annual luncheon. This will be a soft opening event to test out the center. An official ribbon cutting will be scheduled for June.

Manager Hart announced upcoming events including Summer Kickoff on June 14th.

Adjournment

Member McClure made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager