

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: May 23, 2023, 7:04 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

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

Also, in attendance was Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Al Tenney, 801 E. Walnut Street, thanked the organizers for the Pianist event on Sunday, May 21st, 2023. He enjoyed the music that was played. Manager Hart played a clip of the event and commented that the event was very well attended. She also thanked Jon Leight, the musical director at the former St. Lukes Church, and Borough Council Member Wendy McClure who assisted in organizing the performance.

Discussion: Boards and Commissions Guidance Document

President Amato reviewed the purpose of the Boards and Commissions Guidance Document and asked Council Members to read the document and seek clarification, if need be, before the next meeting on June 13, 2023. Member Whelan asked about the process for organization processes involving Boards and/or Commissions when members join midway through the year. Manager Hart explained Borough Code does permit reorganizations to occur under certain warranted circumstances. President Amato also suggested that members of the Boards and Commissions shall be reminded to review the Ordinances, which they are to abide by, when they are appointed to serve.

Consideration: Acceptance of Donations for 2023 Summer Kick-Off Fireworks Event

Manager Hart commented that the agenda was originally published on Friday, May 19th, 2023, with the acceptance of one donation but another donation was made on Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023, and the agenda was amended to reflect multiple donations. Manager Hart confirmed that with

these last donations, we have fully raised the funds needed for the fireworks show for the Summer Kick-off.

Member Whelan made a motion to amend the agenda to revise “Donation” to “Donations”. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Member Whelan made a motion to accept the donations for the 2023 Summer Kick-Off Fireworks Event. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Resignation of Timothy Pilcher, Parks and Recreation Board

Manager Hart read the resignation letter from Mr. Pilcher. President Amato thanked Mr. Pilcher for his work on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Member McClure made a motion to accept Timothy Pilcher’s resignation from the Parks and Recreation Board with a term expiring 12/31/2024. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$66,297.61

Manager Hart reviewed the bills on the disbursement list for May 2023. No questions or comments were made.

Member McClure made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$66,297.61. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: May 9, 2023

Member Kohler made a motion to approve the minutes from May 9, 2023. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Review of HARB Recommendation: 121 Shearer Street

Manager Hart reviewed the Record of Action recommended by HARB. The work was completed without a permit or review by HARB prior to the work being completed, although the correct materials were used. HARB is recommending a Record of Action, instead of the Certificate of Appropriateness. President Amato asked if the applicant knew that they were supposed to take these steps and Manager Hart replied that she believes the applicant was under the impression that their contractor was obtaining the necessary permits and approval. Member Whelan asked the difference between the Record of Action and the Certificate of Appropriateness. Manager Hart explained that the Certificate of Appropriateness means that you have HARB’s approval for the work being done. Member Whelan asked what it would mean for the owner if they didn’t have a Certificate of Appropriateness. Solicitor Gifford commented that Borough Council approves the Certificate as presented by HARB, if the steps are followed. Member Kohler asked what repercussions there would be for the applicant if they would incur a fine for not getting an approved permit. Manager Hart answered that the contractor, although after the fact, did obtain

the permits and submit the HARB review application, had those items not been corrected, the Borough could fine property owner for failing to do so.

Member McClure made a motion for the approval of the HARB Recommendation regarding 121 Shearer Street. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 1 no. Member McClure voted nay.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart reminded everyone that the Planning Commission will be taking more input at their next meeting on June 7, 2023. She encouraged anyone who has more input to attend the meeting. She will also be asking for their consideration and review recommendations to amend the HARB boundaries to see if it would be prudent to revise these at this time as there are several historic homes that are not located in the Historic District.

There were no Committee & Board Reports nor Zoning applications to review.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced there are three matters involving real estate that will require Council to hold an executive session and one may cause Council to reconvene for a vote.

Member Whelan commented on the North Penn Iron Knights Triathlon held on Saturday, May 20th, 2023, which included student athletes of all abilities from grades K-6 in the North Penn School District. She said it was an amazing day and her daughter got to compete in her first triathlon. There were many volunteers involved and North Wales Running Company donated shoes to scholarship students and all funds raised go to the scholarship students. Member Whelan also commented that she also was able to support one of her students at the Special Olympics today and gave information for anyone interested in getting involved. She also suggested that Council go paperless and no longer require staff to print packets for the meetings. Discussion was had regarding whether to make a motion and who would not want a paper packet. Manager Hart suggested coming to a consensus on who would want paper packets for the meetings. President Amato and Member Neiderhiser would still like a paper packet. Manager Hart agreed to print packets for those members of Council.

Member Kohler wished residents a Happy Pride Month for the month of June. She commented on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion and that she is looking forward to serving all residents of North Wales Borough.

Manager Hart reminded everyone the next Council meeting will be June 13, 2023.

Member McClure commented that the pianist concert was a great event, and she is excited for the future of the center. She was glad that Manager Hart was able to attend the concert. Manager Hart commented that everyone that attended was supportive and generous with their donations.

Member Tarlecki thanked Manager Hart regarding a property management issue that she handled. He reminded residents to remember to maintain their grass to prevent ticks and other harmful insects.

Manager Hart commented how grateful she is to the donors, sponsors, and Community Day Committee for the Summer Kick-Off event. She announced there will be 12 food trucks, The Tube Top Mama Band, face painting from the North Penn Arts Alliance, bike helmet giveaways sponsored by the TMA, Transportation Management Association, and three local breweries. North Penn Fire Company and the VMSC will be on hand to provide emergency service coverage. She also commented on the 100th anniversary of the Elmwood Park Zoo, which has a promotion where you can get a jaguar for your community or business for \$10,000.00. She commented that this would be hard for the Borough to participate in so soon after the fundraising for the fireworks and the upcoming Community Day event, but she did want to promote it in case other businesses were interested. The jaguar would stay in the community for the length of the celebration, and then once the celebration is over it would be installed permanently at the Elmwood Park Zoo. Member Whelan commented that there is a way to bike to Elmwood Park Zoo for anyone interested. Manager Hart reminded everyone that Community Day is coming up as well and that hopefully there will be good weather. President Amato asked how residents can help or volunteer for these events. Manager Hart commented that Parks and Recreation has been planning the Summer Kick-Off event and that there is a Community Day Committee that will be meeting soon after June 3rd, 2023. Member Whelan commented and asked residents to recycle and be respectful by properly discarding trash.

Manager Hart officially announced Alex Turock as the new Assistant to the Borough Manager. He is a Temple grad and is currently an ELA teacher at the Wyndcroft School in Pottstown and has a master's degree in public administration. Mr. Turock will start work on June 19th and has been attending a course on Montgomery County Planning and Zoning. He also was able to attend the 30th Year Anniversary Celebration for the Transportation Association. She also mentioned that he is a musician and is hoping his band will be able to play on Community Day.

Member McClure made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager