

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: May 26, 2026, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Tarlecki at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Candace Anderson	Present
	Melanie Catanese	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Present
	Alexander Groce	Present – Arrived 7:22 P.M.
	Anji Fazio	Present
	Star Little	Present
	Susan Manning	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Borough Solicitor, Gregory Gifford, Chief of Police, Dave Erenius, Assistant Borough Manager, Danielle Ervin, and Junior Council Member, Violet Anderson

Manager Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Emily Marbot, 408 Smith Street, introduced herself as a member of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) and expressed her excitement about a new member joining the Commission. She also wanted to share the goals of HRC, which include educating the public, sharing best practices, and promoting strategies for addressing concerns. They are interested in setting up a table at the Farmers' Market where they can distribute HRC pamphlets.

Presentation: Former Council Members McClure and Whelan - Service Awards

President Tarlecki introduced former Council Members Wendy McClure and Sarah Whelan as they received their Service Awards. He recognized them as “invaluable members to our council,” with each receiving a plaque for their service. Council members and staff shared their appreciation for former Council Members Whelan and McClure, recognizing their years of service and contributions to the Borough.

Member Sherwin Collins said he enjoyed serving with both women, while Member Manning recalled meeting Mrs. Whelan during her campaign and working with her through numerous Shade Tree Commission and Parks and Recreation Board meetings. Member Anderson praised Mrs. McClure’s remarkable 20 years of service, and Member Catanese noted that she has “big shoes to fill” in succeeding Mrs. McClure in Ward One.

Member Fazio credited Mrs. Whelan as an integral part of launching the Borough's Summer Kickoff event and said McClure's two decades of service helped shape much of what is positive in North Wales. Other council members highlighted Mrs. Whelan's educational perspective and Mrs. McClure's efforts to maintain the Montgomery Avenue pocket park.

Vice President Groce thanked both women for dedicating their time to local government, while Mayor McDevitt praised them as ambassadors for their wards and generations. He noted Mrs. Whelan's focus on the Borough's future and Mrs. McClure's deep knowledge of its history and past challenges.

Manager Hart commended Mrs. Whelan's fresh ideas and Mrs. McClure's thoughtful decision-making, while Solicitor Gifford and Chief Erenius thanked both women for helping make North Wales a better community and for their support of Borough staff and services.

Lastly, Junior Member Anderson added that she thought both were "really awesome, strong female role models for people like me, the younger generation. I think the more people like you we see, the more inspired I get."

Consideration: Appointment to Parks and Recreation Board, term ending 12/31/2029

J. Erin Sweeney was considered for the open position on the Parks and Recreation Board with the term ending 12/31/2029. Ms. Sweeney explained that, as a current member of the Shade Tree Commission, it was a logical overlap with the Parks and Recreation Board. She added she was interested in being more involved with the Borough and felt she had the bandwidth to do so.

Member Collins made a motion to approve the appointment ending 12/31/2029. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Certificate of Appropriateness: 107 N. Fourth Street

Manager Hart explained that this was for replacing the roof and patching the soffit and fascia. This was an emergency roof repair due to rodent damage that was confirmed by HARB before their meeting. Subsequent recommendation of appropriateness was given at their May 20th meeting.

Member Manning made a motion to Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness – 107 N. Fourth Street. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Certificate of Appropriateness: 421 S. Main Street

Manager Hart explained that this was for replacing the roof and repairing or replacing gutters as needed.

Member Catanese made a motion to Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness – 421 South Main Street. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2026

Vice President Groce made a motion to Approve the Minutes for May 12, 2026. Member Manning seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$231,396.21

Manager Hart reviewed some of the highlights of the disbursements.

Vice President Groce made a motion to Approve the Disbursements of \$231,396.21. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / New Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

President Tarlecki gave the update on Council's visit to Forest Park Water Treatment Plant. He indicated that he'd like to have Mr. Bender present at a future Council meeting. He also stated that the NWWA standards are above board with respect to quality.

Member Catanese announced that Montgomery County Victim Services is looking to partner with the North Wales Borough to increase its resources and promote outreach. She mentioned she'd be happy to liaise with local Police as well as with Montgomery County Victim Services. It was suggested that a link to Victims Services be added to the Borough's website. Additionally, President Tarlecki asked that contact information be included in the Fall newsletter.

Manager Hart pointed out that the minutes from the Human Relations Commission were included in the packet for Council's review and asked for any questions. There were none.

Member Catanese gave an update on the Communications Committee and their findings. The committee, consisting of Members Collins, Manning, Little, and Catanese, has met three times. Based on their findings, they have identified key items all designed to make Council, the Borough, and important information more accessible to the community. She further shared their key areas of focus: 1.) Streaming of Council and Committee Meetings, 2.) Making enhancements to social media, Savvy Citizen, the semi-annual newsletter, and the Borough website; 3.) Creating a shared drive for Borough Council to maintain certain documents and records; and 4.) Events and Community Outreach.

Several items were discussed further by Council and Administration, and Public comment. Council discussed the possibility of live-streaming meetings with audio. Administration noted several considerations, including compliance with Right-to-Know requirements, record retention and discoverability obligations, and ADA accessibility requirements such as closed captioning and audio accommodations.

Council discussed the meeting streaming process utilized by Souderton Borough. President Tarlecki requested additional research regarding Souderton's approach and emphasized the need to identify the most cost-effective method of implementing live streaming.

Mr. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue, asked whether public consent would be required if meetings were streamed. Solicitor Gifford explained that it was not necessary because Pennsylvania municipalities generally do not need individual consent forms to film, stream, and post public meetings. Additionally, it is disclosed on the meeting agenda.

Council emphasized the importance of maintaining consistency across all Borough social media messaging.

Manager Hart stated she would review the Borough's existing communications contract for feasibility and provide Council with the contract and related content statistics. She noted that Savvy Citizen notifications are largely pre-scheduled at the beginning of the year, with additional emergency notifications issued as needed. She further explained that Savvy Citizen notifications differ from social media posts and that Borough events are also published on the annual event calendar.

Member Catanese stated that she has experience managing Meta platforms and suggested either creating dedicated Council social media accounts or designating a Council member to oversee social media communications. Member Hart noted that the Mayor is frequently asked to share Borough information through social media. Member Catanese requested social media performance metrics, and Member Hart agreed to provide them.

Ms. Emily Marbot, 408 Smith Street, requested clarification regarding the Borough's Facebook reposting policy. Manager Hart explained that individuals may share official Borough posts but may not create independent posts representing the Borough. Ms. Marbot also stated she was unfamiliar with Savvy Citizen. Member Hart outlined the Borough's efforts to promote the platform, including social media posts, website announcements, and informational cards distributed at events and inclusion in welcome packets provided to new residents.

Manager Hart suggested that Council members volunteer to serve as liaisons for the Boards and Committees. This would provide support and necessary guidance to our volunteers. She explained that not all Boards and Committees would need a representative, such as Civil Service and Zoning, due to the fact that it is a conflict of interest related to appeals, etc.

Member Catanese volunteered to be the liaison for the Human Relations Committee.

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

Solicitor Gifford mentioned that the Borough was successful with a recent appeal at Common Pleas Court, where the defendant pleaded guilty and agreed to pay fines for failing to remove snow.

Member Manning stated she was excited to see young people joining Boards and Commissions, as it brings good energy to the group.

Member Little thanked the NWWA and said she loved the Forest Park tour. She also thanked voters for coming out and supporting the bake sale at North Wales Elementary School.

Member Fazio commended the Communications Sub-Committee on their report.

Vice President Groce encouraged Council to take advantage of PSAB training.

President Tarlecki added that FEMA NIMS training is essential to meet requirements to qualify for federal preparedness grants.

Junior Member Anderson stated that with the pending graduations and the start of summer, she encourages youth to be outside this summer and off their phone screens.

Chief Erenius shared that the Police Department has worked with local victim services organizations such as Laurel House and A Woman's Place, who assist individuals in obtaining reimbursements and work together to advocate for the victims.

Manager Hart reminded Council of the upcoming DCED fire study symposium to be held at Gwynedd Mercy University on May 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. She emphasized that this will be informational and no voting will occur. The event is advertised on the Borough Website, social media, and Savvy Citizen, and encouraged Council and members of the public to attend.

She also reminded everyone of the July Puppet Show, which will be the second of a four-part series that will be held on July 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Arts and Cultural Center.

Manager Hart encouraged the community to show their spirit by purchasing and wearing the America250 T-shirts created by North Wales Community Project Alliance for the Fourth of July Parade and Celebration.

Adjournment

Member Manning made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager