

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: May 9, 2023, 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	Absent
	Brittany Kohler	Present
	Wendy McClure	Absent
	Sally Neiderhiser	Absent
	Mark Tarlecki	Absent
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

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

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Elliot Sadlon, 224 South Main Street, expressed interest in a digital newsletter without requiring access to an app and without ad tracker links. Manager Hart provided an update stating that upon research and many inquiries, the digital newsletter would be cost prohibitive, however she informed Mr. Sadlon that the Communications Committee of Council decided to launch Savvy Citizen, an app which will provide all events, notices, and many other notifications, including a calendar for residents to stay informed.

Gregory D'Angelo, 915 East Montgomery Avenue, wanted to thank the members of Council, the Mayor, and other residents on behalf of the Planning Commission for attending the presentation regarding zoning updates and amendments on May 3rd. The meeting gave everyone a chance to review the changes that are being considered and was very detailed. He also thanked Alan Guzzardo for attending as well as Timothy Konetchy, the Borough's Community Planner from Montgomery County Planning Commission; both did an excellent job in explaining and demonstrating the proposed changes.

Proclamation: Daniel O'Connell Day

Mayor McDevitt read a Proclamation that he issued honoring the life of Daniel H. O'Connell, past member of the North Wales Borough Council who passed away on April 3, 2023. In appreciation of Mr. O'Connell's service to the community, Mayor McDevitt declared Mr. O'Connell's upcoming birthday, May 15, 2023, to be Daniel O'Connell Day in North Wales Borough. Donna L. Mengel, Mr. O'Connell's wife thanked everyone for the honor in her

husband's memory. In honor of her husband, Mrs. Mengel donated \$10,000, she presented a \$5,000 check to the Borough, for general funds, capital improvements or a special project at the Mayor's discretion. She also presented a \$5,000 check payable to the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. Frank Baxter, President of the fire company and Don Holt, member of the fire company accepted the donation.

President Amato commented on how much he appreciated Mr. O'Connell's service and gave his condolences to Mr. O'Connell's family. Manager Hart commented that she knew Mr. O'Connell well and that he was a wonderful man, and she was glad to have served with him on Council.

Member Collins made a motion to accept the donation to the Borough in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used at the Mayor's discretion. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Resolution Recognizing Emergency Medical Services Week

Manager Hart said that Emergency Medical Service Week is going to be recognized from May 21 to May 27, 2023. President Amato thanked Emergency Medical Services for their hard work.

Member Kohler made a motion to approve the Resolution recognizing Emergency Medical Service Week. Member Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no

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

Manager Hart reviewed that the Borough is in receipt of a total of \$8,000 donations for the Fireworks Event to be held on June 3rd at the Summer Kick-Off, and that the goal is \$10,000. She reviewed the Summer Kick-Off Events with kids' games, face painting, free helmets for children, a band, breweries, and food trucks. A fireworks show will commence at 9:00 pm. She confirmed thank you letters will be sent to the donors.

Member Whelan made a motion to accept the donations referenced in Resolution 2023-029 for the 2023 Summer Kick-Off Fireworks Event totaling \$8,000. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: April 25, 2023

Member Fazio made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2023. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart commented on the Pollutant Reduction Plan and said that the report was sent to the DEP to meet the requirements. She informed Council that there was no copy in the packet because of the size of the document, but it is on the website for review.

There were no Committee & Board Reports.

President Amato commented that he will be bringing forth a Guidance Document on Boards and Commissions and how they are supposed to operate. There will be further discussion at the next Council meeting.

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

Solicitor Gifford had no comments.

Mayor McDevitt reported that he has joined the newly formed Montgomery County Homelessness Taskforce as well as their new Advisory Council for Equity. Both entities are advisory to County leadership and do not make policy decisions. He also had the privilege of attending the North Penn YMCA Leadership Breakfast focusing on affordable housing in Montgomery County. He asked that Council think of how the Borough can address affordable housing in the Borough. Mayor McDevitt gave a shout out to the Planning Commission for the work they've been doing on the changes to the Zoning plan. Mayor McDevitt also encouraged residents to check out an event held by the Drug Addiction Resource Alliance (DARA) on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 6pm at the North Penn YMCA to learn more about overcoming the challenges of drug addictions. Mayor McDevitt commented that the recent gun violence in Texas has made him feel like no place is safe today in America. He commented that while we can discuss ways to break the cycle of violence, the best way to voice your expectations is by voting at the polls on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

Member Whelan expressed condolences to the O'Connell family and thanked them for their generous donation to the community. She also mentioned a charity called Ainsley's Angels that she participated in a race event on Saturday, May 6th. The charity advocates for inclusion in sports, to include non-bodily abled individuals to participate in races. She is a resource for anyone interested in supporting or being part of the charity. Member Whelan commented that a lot of people are out walking now in the nicer weather and reminded drivers to stop for pedestrians at the crosswalks and to give at least 4 feet clearance to cyclists who are riding in the street.

Member Kohler mentioned that she was also invited to join the Advisory Council for Equity for Montgomery County. She also thanked the North Wales Borough Police Department for responding to a call across the street from her house for a deceased cat in the street. She also thanked Donna Mengel for her generous donation in honor of her husband.

Chief Erenius reviewed the reports he submitted and mentioned that four officers completed their handcuff training, CPR and first aid training. President Amato asked if they were still holding Coffee with a Cop in the Borough. Chief Erenius responded that Upper Gwynedd recently held one for several local departments, but there has not been one in North Wales Borough.

Manager Hart reminded everyone about the Community Garden spring planting event on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Children are welcome to come and plant seeds and she reminded anyone attending, to please remember to bring your own gloves. She also reminded everyone of the Summer Kick-Off on Saturday, June 3, 2023, and she expects over 1,000 people to attend. Police, Fire, and Public Works will be helping to keep things safe. She also said the Borough has started receiving sponsors and vendors for Community Day,

which will also be another fun event scheduled for September 30, 2023. There will be a world-renowned pianist performing at the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center on Sunday, May 21st at 4:00 pm and encouraged all to attend. There is a \$10 donation fee to be collected at the door.

President Amato commented that he took his granddaughter to the Community Garden event last year and she had a fantastic time. He also commented that North Penn Volunteer Fire Company is planning their Chili Cookoff to be held on October 14, 2023.

Member Whelan made a motion to adjourn. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager