

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: November 15, 2022, 7:02 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Present
	Anji Fazio	Present
	Alexander Groce	Present
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Eion O'Neill	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present
	Sarah Whelan	Present, joined at 7:04 P.M.
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were John Filice, Borough Solicitor, David Erenius, Chief of Police, Brian Sleicher, Public Works Supervisor, and Alan Guzzardo, Assistant Borough Manager

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Hart and President Amato welcomed the Bears, Webelos, and Arrow of Life Scouts who attended the Council meeting after visiting with the North Wales Historic Commission. The Scouts toured the Walls of History Museum and had a brief lesson on local history. Manager Hart also thanked the Scouts for the local food drive and reminded residents to place their food donations outside by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 19.

Public Comment

Doug McClure, 309 W. Montgomery Avenue, expressed his concerns with residents dumping their leaves into Borough parks and streets. He then suggested that the Borough consider providing a leaf recycle collection service for residents or a place for residents to dump them for compost.

Manager Hart explained that all trash haulers are required to provide yard leaf collection services in the Fall and Spring. She added that the Borough has a leaf vacuum which Public Works uses for Borough owned properties and cleaning out stormwater inlets. Manager Hart explained that leaf collection is the responsibility of homeowners, and they can take them to the Barnside Compost Center in Schwenksville for a reasonable fee if they do not want to wait for their hauler to pick them up.

Consideration: Acceptance of \$5,000 Donation – Tex Mex Community Connection

Manager Hart announced that Jane Keyes was unable to attend the meeting tonight but asked that the funds be earmarked for green initiatives. President Amato requested that a thank you letter be sent to Jane on behalf of the Borough. Manager Hart confirmed she would.

Member McClure made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Tex Mex Community Connection, to be earmarked for green initiatives. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Act 57 of 2022, Amending Local Tax Collection Law

Member McClure made a motion to approve the implementation of Act 57 of 2022, amending the local tax collection law, directing the North Wales Borough Tax Collector to implement the Act's provisions for the tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Final Payment (\$33,231.35) – Center Street Pedestrian Connection and Gateway Project

Member Fazio made a motion to approve final payment in the amount of \$33,231.35 for the Center Street Pedestrian Connection and Gateway Project. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Certification of Qualified Volunteers List for EIT Credit

Manager Hart explained that the tax credit is available for both fire fighters and EMT personnel residing in the Borough. Council asked about the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company's service hour requirements. Manager Hart stated the requirements are provided in the Fire Company's bylaws.

Member McClure made a motion to certify the list of qualified volunteers of the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company for the Earned Income Tax credit. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: September 27, 2022 and October 25, 2022

Member McClure made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2022. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Member McClure made a motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2022. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Presentation: 2023 Preliminary Budget

Manager Hart provided a slideshow presentation of the 2023 Preliminary Budget. She explained that walkability is an important factor, and the Borough has secured multiple grant sources to

cover the installation of sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure. She thanked Chief Erenius and Mayor McDevitt for all their accomplishments within the Police Department. She then reviewed the list of capital improvement projects.

Manager Hart provided an overview of the 2023 Preliminary Budget Narrative. Member McClure asked for clarification on the Right-to-Know law process. Member Collins asked who typically is submitting the requests. Manager Hart explained the process and explained that often times, it is private companies who are conducting market research. Al Tenney, 801 E. Walnut Street, asked if the Right-to-Know requests are paper or electronic. Manager Hart explained they are mainly electronic, but sometimes paper requests are received.

Chief Erenius explained that the Power DMS system is a comprehensive database that includes all policy and training materials. He then announced that he is seeking to create a secured records area in the basement for older case files. Member McClure asked for Chief Erenius to explain the benefits of accreditation. Chief Erenius explained that accreditation improves the overall credibility of the Police Department and lowers liability risks.

Doug McClure, 309 W. Montgomery Avenue, asked for clarification on the requirements for the retention of case files. Chief Erenius explained that he has not yet researched the requirements but plans to in 2023. Mr. McClure then asked about the mountain bikes that Chief Erenius was able to acquire. Chief Erenius explained that he obtained the bikes for zero cost, and he plans to train the officers in 2023 so they will be able to use them for patrol. Chief Erenius then explained ENRADD technology. Member Whelan suggested the officers hold a riding event with the kids on National Bike Ride Day.

Public Works Supervisor Sleicher mentioned that he and his two part-time laborers are Borough residents and take great pride in their work. He added that they work within their means, and they are trying to expand their list of goals each year. Lastly, he said there are items they are working on that are not in this budget. President Amato questioned whether the budget could cover the cost of achieving their goals. Mr. Sleicher confirmed it will cover the cost.

Manager Hart then reviewed the 2023 Preliminary Budget Fund Summary and Investment Roster. Member O'Neill thanked Borough staff and asked why cable franchise fees are declining. Manager Hart explained that the cable franchise fees have decreased slightly; mainly due to not as many people utilizing cable services. Member Collins asked for clarification on the improvements to Wee Walers Park. Manager Hart explained that it's for a shade canopy for the park.

Manager Hart then reviewed the 2023 Budget Calendar for clarification and explained items that still remain open.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart announced that included in the packet are sets of draft minutes from the Planning Commission from their November 2 meeting and the Parks and Recreation Board from their November 10 meeting.

Assistant Manager Guzzardo announced that he received a Zoning Hearing Board Application (#22-08), regarding a Minor Home Occupation at 501 E. Prospect Avenue and reviewed the legal notice. He added that the hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 6.

Member Fazio announced that the Communications Committee met this evening, and they will provide an update at the following Council Meeting. President Amato thanked the Communications Committee for their efforts.

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

Mayor McDevitt thanked the Sanctuary United Methodist Church and Pastor Lorraine Foster for welcoming him for a tour and participating in their Veteran's Day Service on Sunday. He announced that last week, we celebrated another key milestone - the 230th Election Day. He added that as we're still waiting for some races to be decided, he is proud to note that in North Wales Borough, we had 67.3% of our registered voters come out and vote. He then announced that this week is American Education Week - a celebration of our Public Schools and all of the work that goes into making them a part of what makes our country great. Lastly, he announced its Transgender Awareness Week and later this week, we'll remember all our fellow Americans who have been subject to horrible violence simply for existing with a Transgender Day of Remembrance, to be held on November 20.

Member Whelan remarked how wonderful Halloween was and announced that the Park Clean-up Event is this Saturday, November 19 at 10:00 A.M.

Member O'Neill encouraged people to visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) which provides a list of items needed for emergency purposes. Manager Hart said she would share it on social media.

Member Neiderhiser asked if the Borough is still running the tree and bench commemorative program. Manager Hart confirmed the Borough is still hosting the program and just received a bench donation which will be installed in Weingartner Park.

Member Fazio asked about the home occupation requirements. Assistant Manager Guzzardo explained the requirements.

Member McClure asked about the North Wales Laundromat's vacant monument sign on Walnut Street. Manager Hart explained that the sign is non-conforming, and she will reach out to the property owner for the status.

Vice President Tarlecki thanked Borough staff and said how wonderful of a team they are.

Manager Hart announced that she attended and presented at the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Conference at Upper Gwynedd Township last Thursday, November 10th. Manager Hart then announced that the 2022-2023 Consortium Salt Bid was awarded to Riverside Construction Materials, Inc. with a bid of \$68.00 per delivered ton and \$68.00 for non-delivered. Lastly, Manager Hart announced the following events: Cross County Trail Open House on November 17th, Hess Park Clean-up on November 19th at 10:00 A.M., Tree Lighting Ceremony

on December 4th at 4:00 P.M. and the Soldier's Christmas Collection taking place until December 12th.

Member McClure made a motion to adjourn. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager