

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: November 28, 2023, 7:00 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

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

Also, in attendance were Alex Turock, Assistant Borough Manager, Gregory Gifford, Esq., Borough Solicitor and David Erenius, Chief of Police.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Solicitor Gifford commented that Council reconvened after the November 14, 2023, executive session to vote on approving an Employment Contract for Chief David Erenius. Andrew Berenson, 439 Washington Avenue asked what the results were of the vote. Solicitor Gifford confirmed it was approved.

Greg DeAngelo, 915 E. Montgomery Avenue, commented that his previous comments regarding the Junior Council Person Program were to make sure the student is not on academic or disciplinary probation.

Consideration: Adoption of the 2024 Budget

Manager Hart asked if Council had any questions regarding the Budget. Member Fazio asked if any members of the public had asked questions about the Budget. Manager Hart confirmed that the Borough has not received any questions from the public regarding the 2024 Budget.

Member McClure made a motion to adopt the 2024 Budget. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Authorization to Advertise the 2024 Tax Ordinance

Manager Hart confirmed that to enact the Ordinance, they will need to advertise it. President Amato asked how long it would need to be advertised. Manager Hart and Assistant Manager Turock confirmed it must be advertised for no less than 7 days. President Amato asked what the next step would be. Manager Hart confirmed there would be a vote to enact the Ordinance at the next council meeting. Manager Hart also noted for the record that the majority of the tax millage increase is going towards General Fund, and a small portion is being allocated to Debt Service.

Member McClure made a motion to authorize advertising of the 2024 Tax Ordinance. Member Neiderheiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Authorization to Participate in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Junior Council Person Program

President Amato commented how excited he is to participate in this program and remarked on the many benefits of the program. Manager Hart commented on how important it is to teach young people about civics. She also thanked Assistant Manager Turock on his work on getting this program ready to put before Council. Member McClure wanted to make sure everyone knows this will be for a North Wales Borough resident, and not specifically a North Penn School District student. Member McClure also wanted to make sure all applications would be reviewed by council. Manager Hart confirmed there would be a vetting process. Mayor McDevitt commented that he was a Junior Borough Solicitor in his hometown and that he knows many people who participated in those programs who are still in public service today. President Amato asked if there were more than one applicant, would there be a way to give any additional applicants an opportunity to participate somehow, and suggested Council consider that. Member Kohler asked how long the term is. Assistant Manager Turock confirmed it is a one-year term and they can re-apply for a 2nd term. Member Whelan suggested having time to meet with the Council before the meeting to have one-on-one time with members of Council to be mentored and learn more. Manager Hart commented that these ideas are all great, as long as there is enough interest. Member Fazio asked who would be vetting the applicants. Manager Hart confirmed that Council will receive, review, interview, and vet all applicants.

Member Kohler made a motion to authorize participation in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Junior Council Person Program. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Discussion: Intergovernmental Agreement Creating a Consortium for the Purpose of Implementing the Wissahickon Water Quality Improvement Plan

Manager Hart commented that in order to apply for, receive, and share funding for grants to be used to improve the quality of the Wissahickon Watershed, that there would need to be an Intergovernmental Agreement in place amongst the municipalities involved. Manager Hart commented that the majority of the municipalities would like to move forward with a Consortium. President Amato reviewed the details of what has happened so far with the Wissahickon Water Quality Improvement Plan.

Consideration: Approval of Final Escrow Release – 215 Church Street Subdivision and Land Development - \$48,903.90

Manager Hart confirmed this is a Final Escrow Release for the 3 Lots on Church Street which are now complete, and all final inspections are in order.

Member McClure made a motion to approve final escrow release for 215 Church Street Subdivision and Land Development in the amount of \$48,903.90. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Acceptance of In-Kind Donation from Straub Tree Experts

Manager Hart commented that Straub Tree Experts made an offer to donate services to trim and remove two trees in Walnut Square Park, one of which was an invasive tree and the other which had split and was causing issues to a business owner. Mr. Straub offered in lieu of his fee for the work, the Borough would reallocate the professional services expense to purchase new benches, plantings, and/or mulch in the Spring. Member McClure commented that the park looks great and wanted to make sure the perennials were salvaged. Manager Hart confirmed that no perennials were taken out of the park and that in Spring they will reassess. Member Tarlecki thanked Mr. Straub for the in-kind donation and asked about the communication with Parks & Recreation regarding the clean-up of the park. Manager Hart confirmed that there were multiple communications. President Amato thanked Mr. Straub for his donation.

Member McClure made a motion to accept an in-kind donation from Straub Tree Experts. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$585,105.34

Manager Hart notified Council of an amendment to the total amount of disbursements in the amount \$3,000.00 to purchase a gently used tool cart for the Public Works shop and the updated total disbursements to \$588,105.34. Member McClure and Member Whelan agreed to the amendments to the disbursement amounts. Manager Hart reviewed the bills list.

Member McClure made a motion to pay the bills. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2023

Member McClure made a motion to approve the minutes from November 14, 2023. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

There are no old business, Committee or Board Reports. Manager Hart confirmed there is a Zoning Hearing coming up for 501 E. Montgomery Avenue on December 5, 2023.

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

Mayor McDevitt thanked everyone who participated in the Walnut Square Park clean-up. He also reminded everyone that today is “Giving Tuesday” and asked residents to consider donating to community organizations within the Borough. Mayor McDevitt also reminded everyone of the N.W.C.PA.’s Tree Lighting Ceremony which will be taking place on Sunday, December 3rd. Mayor McDevitt also commented that next year will be 110 years of Boy Scouting in the Borough, which is an amazing accomplishment.

Chief Erenius thanked Council for renewing his contract and is looking forward to 2024. President Amato commented that everyone appreciates his work.

Manager Hart commented that Public Works is in the process of getting the town ready for the holiday season.

Member Whelan commented that the decorations for the holidays are looking great and her children enjoy seeing them.

Member Kohler thanked Parks and Recreation for the Walnut Square Park clean-up. Member Kohler also wished all residents a happy holiday season, and that there’s a lot to celebrate over the past year and is looking forward to celebrating the holidays with everyone.

Member McClure thanked Chief Erenius for all of his efforts. Member McClure also visited a new business in town called Ewenited Stitches which is a yarn store that has classes to learn to crochet and knit, which is right across from Littles.

Member Tarlecki asked about snow preparation plans for the Borough. Manager Hart commented that Public Works is prepared for any upcoming inclement weather.

Manager Hart reviewed the current Board and Commission vacancies and encouraged anyone interested to volunteer. Manager Hart reminded Council that 2024 is a re-organization year, and there will be a meeting on January 2, 2024, for re-organization purposes only. Manager Hart encouraged that any questions regarding the re-organization to be asked at the next council meeting. Manager Hart informed Council that Public Works partnered with the school district and were able to plant several new trees near the Elementary School. Manager Hart commented that the Library is hosting Family Bingo night on December 6, a family movie screening of The Grinch on December 13, and Santa is coming to the Library on December 15.

Adjournment

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager