

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
 300 SCHOOL STREET
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: October 22nd, 2024, 7:05 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

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

Also, in attendance were Greg Gifford, Borough Solicitor, Alex Turock, Assistant Manager, Ben Raybold, Public Works Supervisor, and Braeden Bussman, Junior Council Person.

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: Isaac Olson Eagle Scout Project Completion

President Amato presented a Certificate of Recognition for Isaac Olson's work inventorying the shade trees in Ward One and distributing educational materials to properties with shade trees. Council expressed their appreciation for his work on this project.

Public Comment

Greg D'Angelo, 915 E Montgomery Ave, asked everyone to take a moment to recognize the sacrifices that law enforcement officers make to protect our communities.

Discussion: 2025 Preliminary Budget Overview

Manager Hart presented the preliminary budget in detail. She highlighted the limited sources of revenue that can be brought in and the growing expenses the Borough faces. Property assessments are showing a slight growth trend. The Borough's reserve funds did well on interest in the past year due to the laddering of CDs and distribution of money market accounts. It is difficult to predict if those rates will continue, but it is not expected that they will stay above the 5% average, therefore the budget shows a conservative estimate for interest rates.

Expenses include the salary and benefits for a fifth full-time officer which was approved last year, whom the Chief is working to hire, as well as the consulting agency who is working on the police department's accreditation. Expenses also include a full-time supervisor and two part-time public works laborers. For capital projects, the budget shows energy saving upgrades for

Borough owned facilities. Last year's quotes came in over budget for this project, but we will be seeking quotes again to complete this project. The Borough also has several grant projects open that will need to be funded while awaiting reimbursement.

Lastly, Manager Hart highlighted the Borough's payment in lieu of benefits program which currently three employees take advantage of. Council should be aware of the large gap between this payment of \$7,200 and the cost of benefits, approximately \$40,000, should an employee have a change in their circumstances and need benefits. Manager Hart will discuss this in more detail to gain recommendations from the finance committee.

Vice President Tarlecki commented that he is glad to see we are still budgeting for the extra full-time officer as that is important to the function of the department. He also expressed his appreciation for the administration's great work in managing the finances of the Borough.

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

Manager Hart summarized the letter from Jane Keyes stating her appreciation for the hard work of volunteers like Liz Ann and John Iacovetti in the growth and success of Community Day.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to Accept the \$5,000 Donation from Tex Mex Connection for recycling and green initiatives. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Resignation of Elliot Sadlon from Parks and Recreation Board

Member Fazio made a motion to Accept the Resignation of Elliot Sadlon from Parks and Recreation Board. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Resignation of Elliot Sadlon from Shade Tree Commission

Member Kohler made a motion to Accept the Resignation of Elliot Sadlon from the Shade Tree Commission. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Certificate of Appropriateness – 101 S. Main St.

Member Kohler made a motion to Approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 101 S. Main St. Member McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$232,623.03

Member McClure made a motion to pay the bills. Member Neiderhiser seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: October 8th, 2024

Member Fazio made a motion to Approve the Minutes of October 8th, 2024. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports/ Zoning Applications/Parking Lot

Manager Hart noted that the Parks and Recreation Board is hard at work preparing for this weekend's Jack-O-Lantern Crawl.

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

Mayor McDevitt expressed his appreciation for the community policing that is going on as he received a picture of an officer playing basketball with some kids which is an important part of building community. He congratulated NPVFC on raising \$21,000 at their chili cookoff. He asked residents to be aware that we are approaching the record for the driest season in local history and to take precautions to avoid brush fires. He asked residents to be careful on Halloween night. He encouraged everyone to keep the values of our community in mind as the election takes place next week.

Member Kohler echoed the Mayor's comments and reminded residents to be careful on Halloween and respectful on election day.

Manager Hart thanked Public Works, North Penn Volunteer Fire Company, and the Police Department for all of their assistance on Community Day.

Manager Hart reviewed the upcoming events in the packet including the library's trivia night on Friday night and the Jack-O-Lantern Crawl on Saturday night. She also encouraged all residents and business owners to complete the Comprehensive Plan Audit Survey.

Adjournment

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Kohler seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Attest: _____

Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager