

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: October 25, 2022, 7:05 P.M., EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President Amato.

ROLL CALL:	Salvatore Amato	Present
	Sherwin Collins	Absent
	Anji Fazio	Present
	Alexander Groce	Present, participated remotely
	Wendy McClure	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Eion O'Neill	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Present,
	Sarah Whelan	Present
	Mayor Neil McDevitt	Present

Also, in attendance were Gregory Gifford, Borough Solicitor, David Erenius, Chief of Police and Alan Guzzardo, Assistant Borough Manager

President Amato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Jayne Blackledge, North Wales Area Library Director, provided an update on the Library's activities including many offered online and in-person. She added they're holding story hour outdoors and are looking forward to building a pavilion in Spring 2023. She also updated Council in regard to a lunch program that was conducted over the Summer months that provided lunches to those in need. She thanked the Borough for their financial assistance and the Keystone Grant which covered the cost of their roof replacement project. Friends of the Library are purchasing replacement signage to replace the sign on Swartley Street that was damaged by a broken tree limb. In closing, she publicly thanked the Borough for their partnership and encouraged Council members to share their comments and ideas.

Consideration: Appointment of Historic Commission Member, Term Ending 12/31/2024

Taylor Baciocco, 807 East Montgomery Avenue, stated she has lived in the Borough her entire life and would like to use her experience in the AmeriCorps to assist the Historic Commission. She added that she would like to update the website, make the walking tour book interactive and hold more events focused on the Walls of History Museum.

Council welcomed Ms. Baciocco to the Historic Commission and thanked her for serving.

Member McClure made a motion to appoint Taylor Baciocco to the Historic Commission, term ending 12/31/2024. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Discussion: 2023 Preliminary Budget Overview

Manager Hart provided an overview of the 2023 Preliminary Budget. She made a recommendation to Council suggesting no 2023 tax increase based on the current position of the Borough's finances. She informed Council and the public that staff is working on redefining the budget process and will add more budget presentations at the following Council meeting along with several narratives to educate its residents. She highlighted that the Borough will no longer be collecting rental receipts from St. Luke's Church since it's undergoing renovations soon with the plan submitted under the County and State grant programs awarded the year.

President Amato asked about the \$200.00 budgeted for fingerprinting. Manager Hart explained that the amount budgeted it was for lodging reimbursements as well.

Manager Hart highlighted that the expenses are pretty much remaining status quo, overtime is down, thanks to Chief Erenius, community policing is new which was formerly the DARE fund. Manager Hart asked about an increase in ammunition. Chief Erenius explained that it is for a two-year supply and to purchase shotguns which had been previously sold. Manager Hart added that vehicle fuel expenses and heating fuel increased due to oil and gas markets being so volatile right now.

She added that she is going to be meeting with the Finance Committee to finalize the budget draft for the next Council meeting. She said that the tax millage was increased twice in the last five years, mostly due to the hiring of an additional full-time officer, debt service, highway, and fire service increases.

President Amato asked about budgeting for grants. Manager Hart explained that they are budgeted and much of the expenses are engineering and we establish separate line items for certain grants to properly track, manage, and maintain grant projects.

Member Whelan asked why bringing back shotguns is needed. Chief Erenius explained that shotguns are better in some cases.

Solicitor Gifford stated that when he was on Council, the stipend was \$75.00. Manager Hart offered to investigate an increase. Council did not express interest in doing that.

President Amato reviewed the Budget Calendar.

Consideration: Approval of DCNR Grant Application

Manager Hart provided an overview of the concept plan for the 9th Street Park area. Member McClure asked about the meadow plantings. Assistant Manager Guzzardo added that the plantings will be consistent with DCNR's recommended plantings.

Member McClure made a motion to approve the submission of a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant application for the Ninth Street Park Rehabilitation project. Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: September 27, 2022, and October 11, 2022

President Amato announced that the minutes of September 27, 2022, have been tabled to the following meeting.

Member McClure made a motion to approve the minutes of October 11, 2022.

Member Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Consideration: Approval of Disbursements: \$139,329.24

Manager Hart reviewed the bills listing. Member McClure questioned the ATS Tree Service invoice and asked if the wood from the trees could be left behind for residents. Manager Hart explained that by allowing residents to take the wood from the parks could result in liability issues, not only against the Borough, but also the tree company performing the work.

Member McClure made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$139,329.24.

Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Old Business / Committee & Board Reports / Zoning Applications

Manager Hart reviewed the 2023 Nor-Gwyn Pool Commission Budget. Member O'Neill asked if there was still a vacancy on the Nor-Gwyn Pool Commission. Manager Hart confirmed that the vacancy still exists.

Manager Hart announced that included in the packet are minutes from the Parks and Recreation Board for their October 13 meeting and the Historic Commission for their September 20 meeting. Member McClure noted that the date for the Summer Kick-off event is incorrect. Manager Hart confirmed she would amend the minutes before they are approved, from June 3, 2022, to 2023.

Manager Hart announced the following events: Hess Park Clean Up on November 19 at 10:00 A.M., Soldier's Christmas Collection which is currently running until December 12 and the North Penn Chamber of Commerce Events listed on the Calendar for October-November.

Al Tenney, 801 East Walnut Street, asked if someone will be at the Clean Up Event to identify invasive species. Manager Hart confirmed that typically Brian Sleicher attends on behalf of Public Works, and if not, a staff member will relay the information to a Parks and Recreation member.

Manager Hart then announced that there are no pending Zoning Hearing Board Applications.

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

Solicitor Gifford announced that there will be an executive session tonight to update the Borough on a legal matter and there will be no action following the executive session.

Mayor McDevitt announced that he had the pleasure of performing his first wedding ceremony for two Borough residents on Monday October 17th in a private home here in the Borough. He added that he is honored and privileged to be able to do so. He mentioned that the “NPVFC Chili Cook Off” was an amazing event that celebrated the volunteers that serve our Borough and the amazing cooks who competed. He then announced that last week, he attended Lansdale's Council Meeting that honored Shane and Pepper Candle Company as “Business of the Month”. He asked everyone to please keep Shane, his canine companion Pepper, and his family in your thoughts. He then announced that he attended Judge Andrea Duffy's DARA (Drug Addiction Resource Alliance) event on Thursday evening at the Lansdale YMCA. He added that he heard from Tony Luke Jr. about the horror of losing his son to a heroin overdose a few years ago. The Mayor reminded us that people struggling with addiction are all of us, they are not less worthy of our respect and love. He also received training to administer Narcan to a person in the midst of an opioid overdose. He reminded residents that Monday is Halloween and to be careful while walking and driving in and around the Borough streets. He added that generally the community celebrates on the day-of so please keep an eye out for trick-or-treaters and people walking around the Borough during the evening hours on Monday. Lastly, he said Go Phillies!

Member Groce welcomed the new member of the Historic Commission and thanked Member O’Neil for setting up the call.

Member Neiderhiser expressed concern with Mischief Night. Chief Erenius added he would have extra protection available.

Member McClure thanked Manager Hart, staff and Chief Erenius for the budget.

President Amato stated how wonderful the “Chili Cook-Off” Event was.

Manager Hart thanked Kathy Schweitzer for painting the children’s faces at Community Day. She added that she is working with Kathy and the Arts Alliance on facilitating events at the North Wales Arts and Cultural Center. Kathy added that she has contacted the Academy of Local Arts to have them visit the space to offer feedback. Manager Hart added the annual organ recitals will still be held in January and there will be a line item added to the budget next year for events. She added that the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on December 4.

Member Neiderhiser made a motion to adjourn. Member Fazio seconded the motion. Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Attest: _____
Christine A. Hart
Borough Manager